



## Poor grading tough to overcome

by Eric Schroder

**F**ew elements of successful sports fields are as important as the finished grade. No matter how you prep, no matter your soil conditions, no matter your turf quality, nothing can overcome the effect of a poorly graded surface.

Whether you hire a contractor or handle this duty in-house, it's vital to get it right. Former Sports Turf Managers Association president Mike Trigg, CSFM, hires a contractor to grade his fields at the Waukegan (IL) Park District.

"The main reason is timing and staffing," Trigg says. "We are specifically staffed for field maintenance operations that run March to November. Staff is not trained nor experienced to conduct major field renovations that would require laser grading.

"I have successfully budgeted contractual services for field improvements. If feasible, I have utilized in-house equipment or labor to

assist the contractor and reduce some of the cost of the renovation. We have worked with some great contractors over the years who work with our schedules; but more importantly, are very efficient and pay attention to details of our field renovations." Trigg said.

Chris Calcaterra, CSFM, the sports facilities manager for the City of Peoria, AZ, says he used to hire out all grading to a contractor, but realized the need to bring it in-house to be more efficient and maintain the fields on a more regular basis.

"The ability to save on materials by laser grading more frequently and keeping the field standards up to a higher level made it the method of choice," Calcaterra said. "The payoff has been multiplied by the labor savings and use survey responses."

### How it works

Grading specialists from Laser Leveling, a company that sells precision grading systems, say

that doing it yourself is not difficult. Their sports turf grading systems consist of three parts, the grading system, the laser, and machine control.

According to the company's website, place the laser at the center of your sports field, whether it is the pitcher's mound, the 50-yard line, or center field. Dial in the amount of grade you desire.

Position your grading system's cutting edge in an area that you consider to be close to grade. This is simply a reference point, it does not have to be exact.

Lower the cutting edge so that it is barely resting on the ground. Adjust your blade's sensor until it reads "On Grade." You are now ready to grade.

You need 5 additional horsepower for every added foot of scraper.

Hydraulics work with any tractor but you do need remote hydraulic hookups. One person can grade 50,000 square feet in 8 hours (ballpark figure). ■

Above: Alpine Services, Gaithersburg, MD, uses this machine to laser grade their field construction sites.



## The "Dumper"

The Dumper 201 from Grillo hauls the heavy loads with ease in uneven terrain taking the stress off of the arms, back, shoulders and legs. It is powered by a 6-hp Briggs & Stratton engine or 5.5-hp Honda GCV engine with 5-speed transmission with reverse. The handles have an extra support bracket and cross brace for strength. The 4.6 cu. ft. bucket lets you haul up to 440 lbs. on flat terrain and up to 330 lbs. on slopes.

**Grillo**

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## Pump stations

Rain Bird Variable Frequency Drive Pump Stations are available in vertical turbine, submersible turbine, horizontal end-suction, vertical multi-stage, and split-case pump configurations capable of handling up to 10,000 gallons-per-minute. These options allow turf professionals to keep it simple and purchase every irrigation system component from one supplier. Available communication between Rain Bird Pump Stations and Rain Bird's central control software, SiteControl, maximize irrigation system control, saving time and money.

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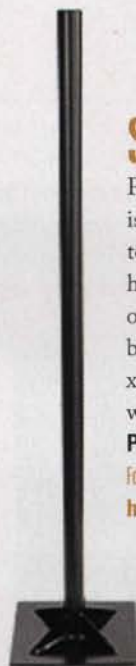
## Advantage Applicator redesigned

Aquatrols has improved its Advantage Applicator for better performance and longer life for the same low price as the original model. The new design features a brass control valve for greater durability, and a new precision spray nozzle designed to put down a large volume of water with a wide and precise droplet-distribution pattern for quick and even application. As an added value, it can quickly be transformed into a syringe nozzle by connecting the precision nozzle and high flow control valve together.

### Aquatrols

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## Steel tamp

Par Aide Products' Accuform Steel Tamp is a durable, easy-to-use maintenance tool. It's great for packing clay around home plate and pitcher's mound, and for other areas of your field. The 1/4-in. steel base comes in two sizes (10 x 10 in. and 6 x 12 in.), plus it features a 48-in. handle with welded gussets for extra durability.

### Par Aide Products

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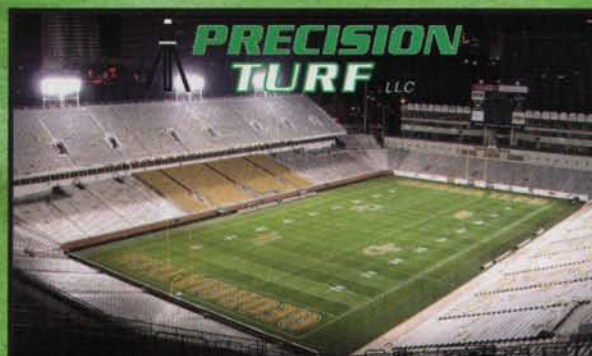


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# Dylox®

## New formulation of Dylox insecticide

Bayer Environmental Science announced that Dylox insecticide recently received federal registration for a new liquid soluble (SL) formulation. Applied at a rate of 4.6 to 6.9 fl. oz. per 1,000 sq. ft., Dylox 420 SL insecticide works by contact and ingestion. Contact activity provides quick knockdown, while ingestive activity ensures complete pest control. The active ingredient, trichlorfon, inhibits the breakdown of acetylcholine by acetyl cholinesterase, disrupting the proper functioning of the insect nervous system.

**Bayer Environmental Science**

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## Hose reel trailer

Reelcraft's new self-contained hose reel trailer makes hose handling and watering easier, quicker and more convenient, and eliminates the need for a dedicated maintenance vehicle. Designed for grounds maintenance applications requiring up to 1- in. I.D. x 100 ft. of hose, the trailer bed also offers additional space for tool trays and other accessories. The wheel base matches typical work vehicles and the wheels are mounted inside the trailer bed to prevent snagging of trees and shrubs.

**Reelcraft**

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# Artificial Intelligence

A new range of professional artificial turf care machines have been developed by Redexim Charterhouse. Known worldwide for their reliable and effective range of natural turf care equipment such as the Verti-Drain®, Redexim Charterhouse has produced a complete range of equipment to meet the challenging needs of the artificial turf market.



**Verti-Brush**

The Verti-Brush quickly and effectively levels and distributes applied or existing infill with powerful hydraulic brushes.



**Verti-Top**

The Verti-Top employs a highly effective synthetic rotary brush to remove debris and top layer infill from the turf, then sifts the debris out in a unique vibratory shaker which redistributes the clean infill back on the field.



**Verti-Groom**

To brush, loosen and decompact the hardest infill, the Verti-Groom is equipped with a variety of interchangeable tools.



**Verti-Air**

The Verti-Air utilizes a rotary brush and turbine compressed air to lift all material out of the turf, dry and filter the material, sift out the debris and return the clean, dry and decompact infill back into the turf.



**Verti-Broom**

For brushing and striping of artificial turf, nothing beats the proven Verti-Broom. The highly effective triangular arrangement of the brushes will straighten and groom each grass blade for an attractive and realistic finish.



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**STC**  
Synthetic Turf Council





## Dirt Doctor Jr., infield groomer

Newstripe's all-new Dirt Doctor Junior infield groomer has been designed specifically to be pulled by 4-wheel drive utility vehicles or compact tractors. Junior shares the same features and durability of the original Dirt Doctor but weighs in at just less than 600 lbs. This unit replaces three separate implements in one convenient unit. It can plow, pulverize, drag, compact and finish drag a 4' wide path in one pass.

### Newstripe

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## E-Z-GO unveils new golf car

E-Z-GO has introduced its new fleet golf car, the RXV, which is available in electric and gas models. The existing TXT model, introduced in 1995 and the best-selling fleet golf car in company history will remain a key component in E-Z-GO's lineup. Customers will see even quicker fleet turnaround times, lower energy, fuel and maintenance expenses, and easier upkeep, says the company.

### E-Z-GO

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## New adjustable lift

The new MoJack adjustable lift for riding mowers is constructed of solid tubular steel and designed to lift and secure any size of lawn tractor or riding mower, including zero turning radius models, to allow for undercarriage cleaning and maintenance. It easily raises and holds up to 400 lbs. securely, making blade sharpening, belt replacement and mower debris removal safer and easier. The MoJack offers triple redundant safety jacks and pins; a non-slip, self-braking winch and sturdy jack stands prevent the mower or lawn tractor from slipping or becoming unstable.

### Mo-Jack

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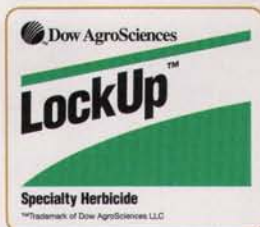
## Krylon Products brochure

Krylon Products Group offers an expanded full-color brochure featuring its extensive line of products for a complete host of athletic supply and maintenance needs, including striping paints and machines, specialty paints, and locker room maintenance supplies. The brochure outlines the key benefits of Krylon Industrial's highly pigmented striping paints, for applications from athletic fields to pavement. Featuring a universal tip, Line-Up Striping Paints are offered in water- and solvent-based formulas and are available in a number of colors.

### Krylon

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## New product for weed control

Dow AgroSciences has registered penoxsulam, a new proprietary molecule that delivers postemergence control of broadleaf weeds in turf at low use rates.

Penoxsulam can be used on both cool- and warm-season turf. Dow will market penoxsulam under the trade name LOCKUP specialty herbicide. LockUp will be available as a formulated product alone and in combination with other selective herbicides on fertilizers or straight granules.

### Dow AgroSciences

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