

## John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

### Can you identify this sports turf problem?

**Problem:**

Hot mound

**Turfgrass Area:**

Baseball field

**Location:** Withheld by request

**Grass Variety:** Ryegrass/bluegrass mix

**Answer to John Mascaro's Photo Quiz on page 37**

*John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International*



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# John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

**Answer:**  
from page 28



This hot mound was not caused by an ultra-hot major league prospect; it was an attempt to dry the mound clay. Apparently after a heavy rainfall event the mound was found to be too wet to play ball. Instead of calling the game, some sort of flammable fuel was applied to the perimeter of the pitching mound and then it was ignited. The heat created by the fire was an attempt to quickly dry the mound's mix. This method is not a good idea because the heat produced by the fire is very short-lived and the heat also caused severe damage to the surrounding turf. The hazards of attempting this quick drying technique are pretty evident as well. Sports turf managers have many other drying methods at their disposal, including products like calcined clay, calcined diatomaceous earth, and polymer-coated materials. The burning mound method of drying is deeply discouraged. There are times in this business that you must accept the fact that you have been rained out. ■

*Photograph submitted by an anonymous reader.*

If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Ste # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 or email to [john@turf-tec.com](mailto:john@turf-tec.com). If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of SportsTurf magazine and the Sports Turf Managers Association.



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