Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem: Missing turf
Turfgrass Area: Baseball stadium
Location: Tampa, FL
Grass Variety: 419 bermudagrass

Answer to John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz on Page 35
John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

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SportsTurf 17
The missing sod is not a result of an undying fan trying to steal a piece of the legendary George M. Steinbrenner Field, the spring training home of the New York Yankees and home to the Florida State League Tampa Yankees. The missing sod is actually not a problem, but a management practice performed in the off season at this stadium. The field is grassed with 419 bermudagrass and from time to time off types of grass seem to appear in spots. Applying glyphosate to the areas is often a way to keep these off type areas from spreading; however it often has a limited success rate because of the aggressive root system of bermudagrass.

The Sports Turf Manager at this facility opts for first spraying the area with glyphosate then removing the contaminated areas completely with a sod cutter. Next he installs new true to type sod in the place of the contaminated turf areas. This way he insures he has a mono-stand of one type of grass for the entire season.

Thank you to Richie Anderson, head groundskeeper at George M. Steinbrenner Field in Tampa for allowing me to take this photograph on the Florida Turfgrass Association Tour in 2002.

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. 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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