



John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem: Sand being applied to turf
Turfgrass Area: Stadium Field
Location: Boulder, Colorado
Grass Variety: Kentucky bluegrass blend

Answer to John Mascaro's Photo Quiz on Page 43

HILLTOPPERTM Mound Clay

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Windows of opportunity

Managing the windows of opportunity is extremely important for us. For example, we begin our overseeding schedule in late June or early July. The existing soil temperatures are warm and there's plenty of sunlight. Football practice at the sports park does not begin until August so the Grand Slam seed is fully developed by the time football starts. The seeding rate that we implement is 10 pounds of seed to 1,000 square feet of turf. In conjunction to applying the seed we also apply a starter fertilizer, such as 6-24-24 (follow the label rate for seeding purposes). We apply the perennial ryegrass seed a minimum of three times before our window of opportunity closes. The final reseeding is usually done in mid-November.

We use IPM strategies to assist with weed control. We manage crabgrass two ways: first, in the early spring we will treat our 7 acres with pre-emergent herbicide pendamethalin (Pre-M). This allows us flexibility for duration of control; in our case, 6-8 weeks. Secondly, we aerify. To effectively manage crabgrass in a sports turf, you must manage compaction because crabgrass thrives in soils that lack oxygen. This means you also have to manage the percentage of water that

the turf receives since soil that is allowed to become saturated has a good chance of becoming anaerobic. Soil that does not drain effectively will become a habitat for crabgrass.



Help needed

Having adequate labor to manage your turf is the single greatest limiting factor. In addition to the sports turf we also have hardscape and numerous planters that require attention. In order for us to be successful with our turf management program, we have introduced drip irrigation to all of the planters throughout the park. By regulating the percentage of water in selected landscape zones we have been successful in reducing our labor time in these areas. Consequently, we can now spend more time managing the sports turf.

The entire sports park is run on a Rain Bird Maxicom irrigation system. Its efficiency allows us to grow healthy plants without introducing a weed problem in the planters. Hand weeding is not an efficient labor management strategy!

As with most municipalities we must watch the bottom line. Fortunately, by being proactive with our best management practices throughout the park we are capable of producing a very competitive stand of sports for the community to play on. ■

Mike Ventura is landscape maintenance supervisor for the City of Glendora, mventura.ci.glendora.ca.us.



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» Answer: from page 17

This is a new method for topdressing that has not quite caught on nationally...April fool! Actually, the sand being deposited and spread out on this stadium field is in preparation for a 3-day AVP Pro Beach Volleyball tournament at the University of Colorado's Folsom Field during the July 4, 2008 holiday. The event featured Olympic Gold medalists Misty May-Traenor and Kerri Walsh. First, railroad ties were used to outline the five regulation sized sand volleyball courts that were strategically located directly on top of the stadium turf. Next, 25 ton semi trailer end dump trucks drove directly onto the field and deposited the sand into the court areas where

massive front end loaders (like the ones pictured on page 17) spread it out. After the event, stages, stands, plywood and railroad ties were removed and then the sand was removed with front end loaders. Next, 4 inches of the field was excavated using a Koro TopMaker, then 2 inches of USGA sand was brought back in, tilled and then laser-graded. Irrigation heads were then re-installed before the laying of big roll sod. This process finished on July 16 which was 51 days before the first home football game.

Photo submitted by Jason E. DePaape CSFM, Athletic Field Manager, University of Colorado at Boulder.

If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaró's Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaró, 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.