Can you identify this sports turf problem?

**Problem:** Large brown circular area
**Turfgrass Area:** Civic center mall
**Location:** Scottsdale, Arizona
**Grass Variety:** Bermudagrass overseeded with perennial rye

Answer to John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz on Page 49
This large brown circular area appeared in the winter rye grass at the end of December at the Scottsdale Civic Center Mall lawn. The area had been previously overseeded with Bulls-eye perennial rye grass 3 months before this photograph was taken. So what caused the perfect circle in the turf? Is it a turf disease? An irrigation problem? Some kind of pest problem or something mechanical? Or could it have even been a UFO landing site (this is in Arizona)?

Well, the answer is “Christmas Tree Blight.” The story is that after the area was overseeded in October a few weeks later the city placed a large artificial Christmas tree on the turf. The Sports Turf Manager objected to placing the tree directly on the turf and asked if it could be assembled on the cement area instead. Having the tree placed in this turf area blocked all the sunlight, causing this perfectly dead circle of winter rye to appear.

Photo submitted by Wayne Charles Cady, Sports Turf Manager, City of Scottsdale, Scottsdale, AZ.

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.