

Background illustration courtesy of istockphoto.com



# JOHN MASCARO'S PHOTO QUIZ

John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

*Can you identify this sports turf problem?*

**Problem:** Piles of soil on foul line

**Turfgrass area:** Baseball complex warning track

**Location:** League City, Texas

**Grass Variety:** TifSport turf and 6" deep crushed decomposed granite material

**Answer to John Mascaro's Photo Quiz on Page 33**

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# JOHN MASCARO'S PHOTO QUIZ

## Answers from page 17

The piles of soil on this foul line were caused by a trail of fire ant beds coming across the warning track. The question of why they only built their access tunnels on the white line is still up in the air. After posting this question on my Facebook page, we had many guesses ranging from soil pH to the fact that the white paint reflects sunlight and therefore below the ground would be cooler. Sports turf extension specialist Pam Sherratt from Ohio State consulted their resident entomologist, Dr. Dave Shetlar, and he offered the solution that ants like to move in cracks and crevices, which probably more readily occurs in painted lines. He said they are seeking a new home.

We also had guesses that the paint retains more moisture under the line and the fact that ants like to stay below ground until there is adequate moisture in the ground which makes it easier to dig. We also had some strange guesses alluding to the possibility that the ants were after beer in the paint or a guess that the ants were simply army ants and following the line while marching. I doubt we will ever figure out the real reason, however it sure has been fun trying!

*Photo submitted by Mike Estlinbaum, Director of Maintenance at the Big League Dreams Sports Park in League City, TX.*

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 call (850) 580-4026 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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