

STMA honors three companies with inaugural Innovation Awards

AT LAST MONTH'S SPORT TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION IN AUSTIN, TX, the association bestowed upon three exhibitors its first-ever Innovation Awards, which recognizes companies that improve the sports turf

management profession. Any product, service, equipment or technology that was introduced in 2010 was eligible; a panel of non-commercial STMA members representing all segments of membership judged the entries.



ROTATING FOOTBALL GOALPOST, SportsEdge

SportsEdge, a manufacturer of sports construction products, introduced its rotating football goalposts to help solve the problems associated with multi-use soccer and football fields. This goalpost can easily be rotated 180 degrees facing away from the field of play during soccer games, and rotated back for football games. Operation is extremely simple; it takes less than a minute to rotate the goals completely, and can be done by one person. Only 25 pounds of pressure rotates the goal with the use of the 4-foot rotation handle. The goal post locks securely in place in either position. Two pad locks per goal provide tamper-proof security and safety. These rotating goals sit in a 5-foot deep sleeve and can be removed relatively easily if necessary.

Chris Cucchiara, product manager for SportsEdge, came up with the idea in response to complaints from soccer coaches about rebounds off the football crossbar, interference with corner kicks, and bad calls by officials who could not always distinguish which crossbar, football or soccer goal, the soccer ball deflected off.

"I brought the idea to Kress Query of our sister company, ABT Metals, whose experience in metals and metal fabrication goes back 45 years. Kress's design is exceptional for ease of operation as well as strength and stability," Cucchiara said.

View a video demonstration at www.sportsege.com, download the brochure you find there, or call 800-334-6057.



RPR, REGENERATING PERENNIAL RYEGRASS, Barenbrug USA

RPR turfgrass was recently re-categorized as a subspecies within perennial ryegrass, *Lolium perenne subsp. Stoloniferum*. First cited in 1836, no varieties have been recognized as a *Lolium perenne stoloniferum* since!

RPR comes out of the breeding program of Barenbrug USA. Barenbrug breeder Dr. Joseph Wipff bred RPR in Virginia. "The RPR germplasm was a jewel at our Virginia breeding location. Under very harsh conditions the RPR plants were aggressive and expanding. While I tried to make it as hard for them as I could with wear and tear with our wear machine and the help of Mother Nature with hot and cold weather," said Dr. Wipff.

Barenbrug USA launched the RPR program after more than 10 years of breeding. The regenerating perennial ryegrass has proven a great performer in wear and traffic tolerance while also being a high quality turfgrass. Its characteristics include pseudostolons that allow for the regeneration, enhanced with endophytes for resilience, and exceptional drought tolerance.

A number of sports turf managers and golf course superintendents have tried RPR and are very satisfied with it. "We have seen a lot of re-orders from Turf Managers who tried this in the spring," said Christiaan Arends, Barenbrug turf product manager. "We hear a lot of positive feedback from sports turf managers. They just love the product."

Dr. Wipff said, "I am very pleased and honored that a product I worked on for so many years has gotten this kind of recognition. When breeding turfgrass varieties, you need to be very patient and it is great when it gets recognized with an award like this." www.barusa.com



FIELD ROVER, Bush Sports Turf

Steve Bush, CSFM, said, "The Field Rover is an idea I have had for several years. I wanted a way to rapidly and accurately measure the surface and conditions of sports fields. The robot uses GPS and a series of on-board sensors to both autonomously drive the field and take surface elevation measurements at the same time. We can measure and grade in 3-d with mm accuracy and gather 60,000 measurements on a field in an 8-hour day."

"This allows us to document all surface irregularities with coordinates and a photo reference. We can verify if a field is smooth and show any damage caused by events or say concerts," Bush said. "The grade information can then be evaluated, corrected and loaded into our on board grading equipment. This technology will allow us to build the smoothest, truest, safest fields possible. We can use the crated files then to grade the field precisely year after year."

"We want to bring technology to turf. We have the sod father; we want to be the Edison of turf. It is a true honor to receive the Innovation Award in its inaugural year," he said.

"The rover was designed to fold into its shell and be transported easily on an airplane. We are going to provide this precision measuring and grading as a service. We can be contacted through our website at bushturf.com."

New MG72 Multi Groomer

Heying Company has introduced the MG72 Multi Groomer. Available in two versions: Granular-Rock and Golf-Turf. Engineered with removable and adjustable implements makes it convertible from the granular to turf version, or vice versa, in minutes, making it the most versatile maintenance machine available. The granular & rock version is used to groom baseball and softball infields, maintain rock parking lots, trails and more. The golf & turf version is used on natural and artificial turf to pulverize aeration cores, work in topdressings, de-thatch, groom golf greens, and rejuvenate artificial turf. Pull with a variety of towing machines. No tools needed to adjust. Comes standard with electric lift and wireless remote control.

www.infield-drag.com

All-new Dirt Medic infield groomer

Newstripe is pleased to announce the all-new Dirt Medic infield groomer designed specifically for use with garden tractors, light duty utility vehicles and ATV's. Built with the same heavy construction as the larger Dirt Doctor models, the Dirt Medic features a 4-foot wide grooming path, 10-inch pneumatic tires for easy transport to and from the field, and a 36-month warranty. The hand wheel conveniently adjusts both the angle and depth of the harrow teeth and reversible cutting bar from the driver's seat to quickly fill in and level infields. The finishing broom creates a smooth, finished surface.

www.newstripe.com

Reduce infield grooming time

See for yourself why the TurfTime Equipment Infield Groomer is the best buy for the money. Whether using the 60-inch wide groomer that any 15-hp vehicle can pull or the wider 78-inch tractor mounted unit, owners confirm that it levels and grooms the field in half the time of other drags. As shown it is tough enough to level new fields in minutes. For continuous daily maintenance simply adjust the hitch for minimal surface smoothing. The standard brush leaves a professional looking field.

www.TurfTimeEq.com

Updated John Deere groomer

John Deere Golf continually strives to provide turf care professionals with equipment they can rely on for best-in-class performance and increased productivity. For 2011, John Deere Golf has made updates to existing products for improved performance including the 1200A and 1200 Hydro bunker rakes. Both models feature updated fuel systems which meet new CARB and EPA requirements for 2011. The 1200A engine model also features increased engine displacement from 286 cc to 351 cc, and 9.5 horsepower. In addition to meeting industry regulations and requirements, these updated models offer improved performance and maximize machine uptime. Both updated models are available immediately.

www.deere.com

Toro introduces edger attachment for Sand Pro

New for the Toro Sand Pro 3040/5040 infield groomer, the Sport Field Edger attachment is designed to quickly and easily maintain the grass edge of the outfield on baseball and softball fields by removing overgrown turf and infield lip build-up. The Edger attachment helps to eliminate much of the hand work done in edging base lines, warning tracks and infield/outfield boundaries. It may take 8 hours to edge a field by hand but with the Edger attachment on a Sand Pro 3040/5040, it can be done in less than 2 hours.

www.toro.com

Kochek irrigation hoses

Dura Flow is Heavy Duty Irrigation Hose specially designed for durability and maximum flow. Its flexible compounds are blended to make this hose look and feel like comparable rubber hose yet it remains flexible and lightweight. GH Series Hose has a smooth black PVC inner tube. The cover is smooth opaque green PVC compound reinforced with high tensile strength yarn. Features include high working and burst pressures, abrasion resistant cover, light weight, and weather, ozone and ultraviolet resistance. Ultralite Hose is circular woven, single jacket, combined with a helical interior reinforcement, with an all polyester cover and polyurethane coating. This thin-walled rubber lined hose is the most durable lightweight irrigation hose on the market. Clear Braided is a lightweight standard wall crystal clear yarn reinforced PVC hose that is "crystal clear" to allow visual confirmation of product flow and is longitudinally reinforced to reduce elongation under pressure.

www.kochek.com

New Cyclone KB4

Buffalo Turbine introduces the New Cyclone KB4. This new generation of Buffalo Turbine blowers coincides with the 15-year anniversary of the "Original" self contained, tow behind KB blower and our 65th year of being in business. The New Cyclone KB4 replaces our successful CKB3 workhorse and is now powered by Kohler's, electronically governed, 27-hp Command Pro engine.

www.buffaloturbine.com

