Can you identify this sports turf problem?

**Problem:** Brown spots on turf  
**Turfgrass area:** Baseball Field  
**Location:** Fargo, North Dakota  
**Grass Variety:** Bluegrass

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wrote Dunham Wright, Facilities Supervisor, Northeast Louisiana Univ., Monroe, LA

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John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

Answer to John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz on Page 33
Answers from page 17

**THESE BROWN SPOTS** started showing up on this athletic field about a week after these fields were fertilized and they received quite a bit of rain. The region was also experiencing nice, warm 90 degree temperatures that caused a very good flush of turfgrass growth. This Bluegrass sports complex is usually mowed at a height of about 2 inches but the combination of rainfall, fertilizer and warm weather between Friday and the following Monday produced a turf height that was close to 3 inches. When the fields were mowed, they produced an excessive amount of grass clippings. The crew decided that using a turf sweeper would quickly and cleanly remove the excessive turfgrass clippings. As the sports turf technician drove the sweeper, they would shut off the sweeping brush before turning around and then turn it on while sitting still for a moment. Since the air temperature was close to 90 degrees, this action of engaging the sweeper caused these brown areas. The burn was just superficial leaf injury and was mowed off with the next mowing causing no real harm to the fields.

*Photo submitted Rene A. Smith, Athletic Field Coordinator for the Fargo Park District, in Fargo, ND.*