Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem: Brown line across field
Turfgrass area: Football field
Location: Southern United States
Grass Variety: 419 bermudagrass

Answer to John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz on Page 33
The brown line across this football field is a result of employee error. This large school district is very spread out and requires many of its employees to be a sort of a one-man show. Most operators are supplied with a heavy-duty truck with a pull behind trailer and whatever type of equipment that they will be using that day. They drive to each site, unload the equipment, use the equipment on the property, reload and then drive to the next site. A fairly new employee was applying weed control with a sprayer to this athletic field and using a soap foamer to mark the application pass. During the application process, the foamer ran out of soap. Since this school was one of several that he had to treat before his day was over and he was running a little behind schedule, he decided that going back to his vehicle for more soap would take too long. So the operator decided just to “eye it” with the application to the remainder of the field. As you can tell, it appears that he should have taken the time to go back for more foamer. Luckily the burn was mostly superficial and grew out within about 2 weeks.

Photo submitted anonymously.

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.