John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz

Can you identify this sports turf problem?

**Problem:** Geese on field
**Turfgrass area:** Private boarding high school
**Location:** Dedham, Massachusetts
**Grass Variety:** 50% bluegrass/50% ryegrass

Answer to John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz on Page 23

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As most of you know, Canadian geese can cause significant damage to turfgrass and other surfaces due to their foraging and also their droppings cause additional problems on impermeable surfaces. In addition, geese in large numbers or even small flocks that frequently visit the same area can overgraze and leave dead spots. As with many others who have struggled for goose control, this school has tried many different things, including fake coyotes, radio controlled cars (fun but frustrating), repellent sprays, lasers (these are no longer used due to FAA restrictions), chasing with utility vehicles and golf carts, dogs, as well as a lifelike fox decoy. If you look closely at the photo, you will notice the fox decoy at the center of this flock. Apparently, the geese are showing no respect to the decoy. In fact, the Sports Turf Manager reported that as he moved the decoy around to different areas, the geese would actually go to the same area like he was protecting them!

Photo submitted by Peter Thibeault, CSFM, Sports Turf Manager at Noble and Greenough School, Dedham, MA.

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.