

John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem: Green circles on field

Turfgrass area: Municipal athletic field

Location: Portland, Maine

Grass Variety: Kentucky bluegrass

Answer to John Mascaro's Photo Quiz on Page 33



Background illustration courtesy of istockphoto.com

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— Thomas Marks
Head Grounds Keeper

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Answers from page 17

The green circle is not the problem, but it is pointing out the problem. The athletic field manager, who is responsible for 47 fields with a crew of four, was not invited to be involved in the reconstruction phase of this municipal athletic field by the contractor. The reconstruction included new irrigation, drainage and new sod. At the time, the city also had two separate crews, one in charge of the irrigation and one in charge of the turf. No one talked with each other and no one could figure out why the grass just wasn't growing well on this field. One day after some department "shake ups" and the combining of the irrigation and turf department guys, the athletic field manager was looking at a new Google Earth picture recently taken of the field and bingo, the problem became apparent. There was not enough water pressure to the irrigation system to give the heads a full pattern. The inner green circle was from the lower nozzle and the outer green circle was from the outer nozzle. As it turned out, a booster pump that was installed on the system was in another room full of piping that no one knew was there. Once they turned that on, the coverage was great and the grass began to grow well and the circles disappeared.

Thanks to Ethan Owens, Athletic Facilities, Playground & Courts Manager at the City of Portland (ME) for allowing me to use this photo. Photo taken by Matt Tobin, Pioneer Athletics. ■



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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