

# FROM THE PUBLISHER



**R**ALLY 'ROUND THE FLAG... That call has been heard many times over the years. I'm sure that as each call went out it awakened a body of people. Well, the call is going out again, this time to a very select group—you, the professionals who maintain our golf courses, stadiums, recreational areas, campus grounds, etc. The call is for awareness of those who maintain our country's sports and golf complexes. You need to be recognized for the professionals you are. I hope the call is answered. I believe the companies and municipalities that you toil for don't fully understand the challenges you are faced with each and every day. They don't realize the vast areas of knowledge that are required for one to be able to supervise a crew of people to maintain these complexes. How can they appreciate the skills you possess if they don't know about them?

In my mind a professional must have a knowledge of trees. Which tree will do well in a northern exposure and which will thrive in a southern exposure? This professional should know what insects and diseases attack the trees and how the problem should be treated. Many complexes have shrubs and flowers for color around their buildings. The professional should have a working knowledge of these groundcovers, shrubs and flowers, how to identify insect and diseases and how to treat them.

A professional should know about hardscapes, softscapes and waterscapes. He needs to know about grading and drainage. Surely he must be knowledgeable about irrigation and the many components that make up his system. He must know how to troubleshoot when something goes wrong.

Most importantly he must have a good knowledge of turfgrasses. Should he use sod, sprigs or seed? What grass or mixture of grasses will do well in his climatic area? What turf will hold up better for his purposes. He must be able to diagnose the insect and disease problems and be able to treat them. He will probably employ preventive care, because the damage is done. He needs to know about fertilizers and what combination of formulas to use at what time of the year.

He surely has to know how to manage people. He makes decisions on capital expenditures at universities. They are developed in the field and polished with experience. Electricians must have knowledge of electricity and wiring. Plumbers must know about pipe fitting and hydraulics. They, too, are craftsmen, but their skills are limited to their own craft. The professional grounds manager is truly a Jack of all trades—and Master of all as well.

With all of the knowledge we must have to maintain our properties, we are constantly defending ourselves in front of our Green's Committees or city managers or whoever else we report to, because someone feels our grounds are not always in the best condition. They complain that we have a budget, 'So why don't our grounds look good?' Although one can try to explain that you're dealing with nature, and sometimes Mother Nature doesn't cooperate, you end up being the scapegoat.

We can't control Mother Nature, but we can use our skills and knowledge to make the best out of any condition. Still, we have to let management know that we are doing the job on getting this message out. That could be one reason we don't have the high respect we deserve.

If we are not doing our best, if we do not continue to learn, we are helping to project a poor image. You deserve better than that. The skills you have polished took years to attain. I hate to see you put down because management doesn't understand what you are up against. **SportsTURF** magazine is an integral part of the learning process. We try to give you insight into what others are doing. We report on the newest technology and we report the industry happenings. This journal is for you, by you and of you. So use it. Let **sportsTURF** be your flag, and... **RALLY 'ROUND THE FLAG, BOYS!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a background of horizontal lines.



# THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

## PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



**T**he future of sports turf is really in the hands of a few people compared to the enormity of the industry. By a few, I mean the 18,000 readers of this magazine.

That's a pretty bold statement to make. The industry is huge: some 15,000 park districts, another 15,000 public school districts, roughly 8,000 resorts, thousands of colleges and universities, 13,000 golf courses and hundreds of stadia in the country. The managers of sports turf at all these different facilities have operated with limited support for years. They have been

limited largely by an inability to communicate with each other.

As we said in the last issue, it's not that the technology doesn't exist to achieve safe, quality turf under heavy use. There just wasn't a vehicle to get the word of this technology out to those who need it. That is why the readers of **SPORTS-TURF** can and will make the difference in the future.

Obviously, the magazine alone won't make the difference. Many sports turf managers were successful before the magazine was launched. But, not enough. As a whole, the condition of sports turf in the U.S. is far worse than it should be. A comparison of the condition of most sports turf in this country to that in England proves it. As an industry, we have a long way to go to catch up with the United Kingdom.

This is a huge challenge—one too great for many to accept or our fields wouldn't be in the condition they are. Only a few have accepted the challenge in the past or will accept it in the future. But, from those who encouraged us to start the magazine and those who continue to spur us on, we believe that many more sports turf managers are willing to accept the challenge—enough to make the difference.

That is why you are so extremely important to this industry. Only you can really improve the state of sports turf in this country.

The characteristics that make great turf managers are energy, determination and goal orientation. Each person featured this month has those qualities. When I spoke with them they didn't complain about salary, benefits or management. They spoke only of the challenge of their job and how rewarding it was to achieve difficult goals.

Ken Novak at Rancho Park could just hide in the huge Los Angeles Park System—it's so big. He chose to go the extra mile and gain the support of his management to make a municipal golf course more challenging to golfers and profitable to the city. Fred Allen at Seabright Lawn Tennis Club went back to school to better understand his bentgrass tennis courts. Dick Hahne at Daytona Speedway creatively linked the need for dust control on the motocross course with quality turf to a very quality-conscious management.

These people provide inspiration for other sports turf managers. Now that you know about them and are hopefully inspired by them, maybe you will go the extra mile and accept the challenge of better sports turf.

*Bruce Shank*

# EVENTS

CALENDAR

MAY

**21**

North Carolina Turf and Landscape Field Day, NCSU Turf Field Center, Raleigh, NC. Contact J.M. DiPaola, Box 7620, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7620, (919) 737-2657.

JUNE

**8-11**

National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, Marriott Resort, Marco Island, FL. Contact Michael Cleary, NACDA, (216) 892-4000.

**18**

Athletic Field Demonstration Day, Wakefield Recreation Center, Fairfax County Parks, Annandale, VA. Contact J. R. Hall, extension agronomist, Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, Blacksburg, VA 24061

**19**

Fourth Annual Turf Field Day, Turf Seed, Inc., Research Center, Hubbard, OR. Contact Tom Stanley, Turf-Seed, Inc, P.O. Box 250, Hubbard, OR 97032.

**26**

Midwest Sports Turf Institute, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL. Presented by the Sports Turf Managers' Association. Contact Susan Benson, Business and Technical Institute, College of DuPage (312) 858-2800, ext. 2196.

JULY

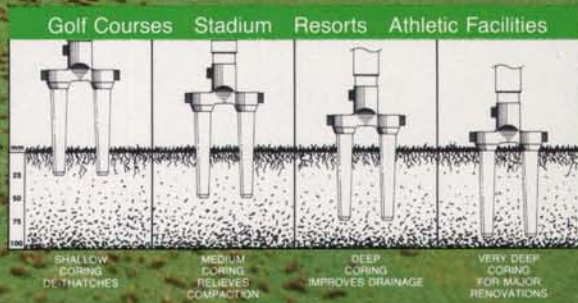
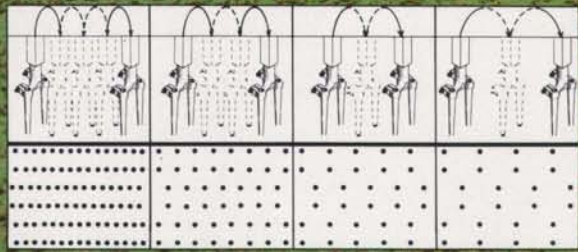
**11**

Troubleshooting Ornamental Horticulture Problems, University of California Riverside. Contact Ted Stamen, University of California, 21150 Box Springs Rd., Riverside, CA 92507. (714) 683-6491.

**20-22**

Mississippi Turfgrass Association summer meeting, Biloxi, MS. Contact Jim Perry, P.O. Box 5426, Mississippi State, MS 39762.





# CoreMaster. Your new aeration answer.

## Move forward (not backwards!) with CoreMaster.

Great news for golf course superintendents in charge of greens, tees and fairways, and turf managers for athletic fields (football, baseball, soccer), and sport turf grass. It's CoreMaster 12, the world's finest hollow core aeration system, backed by five years of technology, engineering and experience by the professionals at GreenCare International.

For the first time ever, CoreMaster enables your turf grass staff to improve aeration methods, speed compaction relief and thatch control with a built-in variable depth and pattern control system, and the strongest power source.

CoreMaster is the most innovative and advanced hollow core aeration system on the market today. Hard working, fast and versatile on all natural turf grass surfaces, CoreMaster aerates easily and efficiently. The result stimulates natural turf growth, insuring a healthier, safer, and more beautiful grass surface.

Put these CoreMaster advantages to work on your field and enjoy the benefits of features like these:

- fastest capacity ever and safest

- patented mechanical simplicity—fewer moving parts
- low maintenance and great reliability—built to last!
- touch control for coring depths and patterns with several tine sizes
- new state of the art "quadra-tine" system, never before available
- highest efficiencies by rapid change, a totally flexible system
- additional attachments, verticutting, seeding, core pick up systems and more

Be the first, find out

more about CoreMaster, the best answer today to meet your turf grass aeration needs.

The World's Most Advanced Turf Aeration System



I want to go forward today:

Mail to: **GREENCARE INTERNATIONAL**

18691 Plumosa Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 Phone: (714) 968-8085

- Please have a GreenCare distributor contact me about Coremaster
- I'd like to arrange a test here at my location.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Course/Club/Sportsfield \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_





Seabright Lawn Tennis Club offers its membership a variety of tennis court surfaces, including all-weather, clay and bentgrass.

# TENNIS: The Sport of Choice

**T**ennis has the widest choice of surfaces of any sport played outdoors. While this choice continues to grow, so does the number of tennis aficionados who want to test their game on a variety of surfaces. Once they grasp the basic strokes and strategy on hard surfaces, they start hungering for a few sets on clay, hard-true or the ultimate—grass.

Graduates of public courts to date have been limited to a relatively small number of tennis clubs and resorts. Reputedly high maintenance costs have discouraged many recreational facilities from building hard-

true or grass courts. The latest concept in tennis courts surfaces is a sand-filled artificial surface which originated in Australia. One version called Omnicourt is touted to play like grass without the maintenance needed by natural turf. Proponents of grass courts have labelled the sand-filled courts "mod sod" in a less than complimentary fashion.

The truth of the matter is tennis fanatics want to try all types of courts whatever they cost to maintain. They will support facilities with a variety of court surfaces. Then it becomes the sports turf manager's job to main-

tain them. A review of the various types of surfaces and their maintenance might be wise.

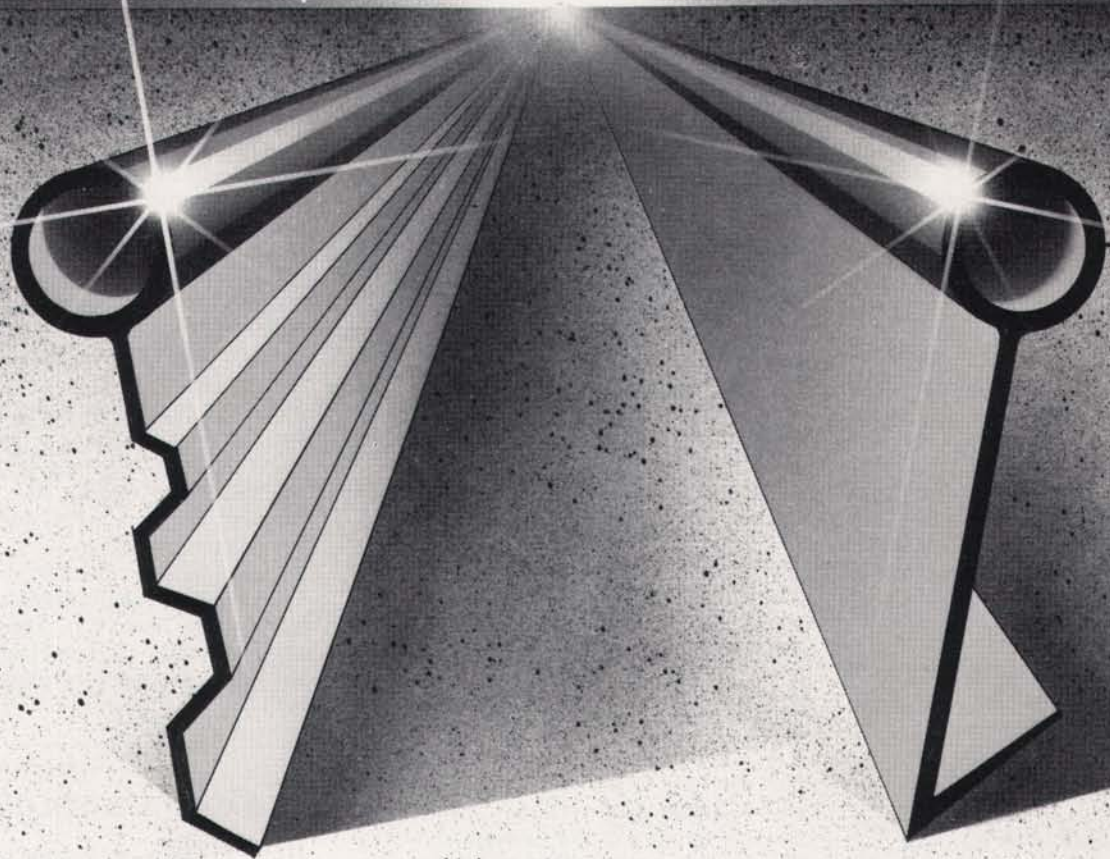
The ultimate threat to any tennis court is poor drainage. Subsurface water can defeat even all-weather courts by making the base of the court unstable or by heaving and cracking during freezing weather. A perimeter drain separating the court from surrounding run-off is important in preventing subsurface drainage damage.

Sealing a hard surface court not only reduces damage from water and sunlight,

*continued on page 16*



# Having a choice gives you an added edge.



For work on commercial, industrial, and residential projects, Oly-Ola provides architects and professional landscapers more than one quality lawn edging that suits the needs of almost any job requirement. We're talking about a choice of perfected, quality, poly edgings that are unequalled in strength, wall thickness and overall qualities. With Oly-Ola Lawn Edgings, professionals have a choice.

First, there's EDG-KING™, the top-of-the-line, superior edging that is proven to be unmatched. Unlike any other edging, EDG-KING has thick wall construction to give it tremendous strength and prevent breakdown due to sun and cold. EDG-KING eliminates labor problems, such as kinking when creating tight curves or straight lines. EDG-KING has four frost heave grooves that gives it four times the gripping strength of "single-lip" edging, or twice the gripping strength of "double-lip" edging. And, once it's installed, it stays in the ground.

Secondly, Oly-Ola provides professionals with an added choice of a remarkable traditional shape edging... BLACK EDG-KNIGHT®. Here's the best of the traditional shape edgings that exceeds almost all expectations. BLACK EDG-KNIGHT is far better than any "single-lip" or "double-lip" product on the market. It's stronger than other traditional

shape edgings, has extra wall thickness for great strength, is a full five inches deep, has a full one inch round top, and a one inch "v-lip" on the bottom for excellent gripping power. In addition it is priced competitively. Perhaps even less in cost than other traditional shape brands.

For the designer or landscaper that wants still another choice, Oly-Ola offers a safer alternative to metal edging... SUPER-EDG™, a very economical, non-corrosive, solid vinyl edging with a top edge that is almost invisible.

The whole idea is to give professionals a choice of quality edgings they want to work with from one proven dependable source. A choice that includes product availability and competitive pricing through our nationwide distributor network, with drop shipment of EDG-KING, BLACK EDG-KNIGHT and SUPER-EDG Lawn Edgings to any point in the world.

Having a choice does give you an added edge. For more information, samples or specifications write or call (in Illinois) 312-833-3033, (outside Illinois) 1-800-EDGINGS.

*Oly-Ola Sales, Inc.*  
54 East St. Charles Road Villa Park, IL 60181

**DISTRIBUTORS WANTED**

Circle 122 on Postage Free Card



but can provide a smoother surface and a "truer" bounce. A good sealant applied periodically is well worth the expense considering the longer life and improved appearance of hard surface courts. Sealants retard the oxidation of the binder in asphalt by shielding the surface from infrared and ultraviolet radiation. Oxidation of the binder is what makes asphalt brittle and likely to crack.

Laykold hard surface courts use a special asphalt binder and acrylic coatings to reduce the damage caused by radiation and weather. The company also makes tracks and offers a rubberized asphalt tennis court surface and a non-acrylic coating. Sportec International in Kenmore, NY, builds both Laykold and Omnicourt tennis courts.

Maintaining enough moisture is a concern with clay or hard-true courts. The material is very similar to baseball basepath mix and needs to be wet down periodically for firmness and dust control. The court needs a dry skin but a sufficiently damp base. The topmix and the base mix affect maintenance. Fred Allen, superintendent at Seabright Lawn Tennis Club in Rumson, NJ, says his six cinder-based hard-true courts are the best on the East Coast because they retain moisture so well. "We also have nine stone-based hard-true courts that require considerably more care," says Allen. "The difference is in the base."

---

***Even though grass courts require more year-round care, 95 percent of the members at Seabright Lawn Tennis Club prefer them over clay.***

---

One reason people like clay or hard-true is the surface absorbs some of the impact and the ball does not bounce as far. "You can't stand on the baseline and pound away at your opponent," says Allen. "Actually the court may be slower but the tennis player has to be faster to get to the ball. Tennis players drag their toes and play the net in the same general areas," says Allen. "That's where the maintenance comes in.

"Dust is our biggest problem with clay or hard-true courts. The courts are dragged, rolled and brushed daily and wet down at night and at noon. During the summer the stone-based courts need to be watered every hour. We also keep an eye on the courts for any extra care like brushing off line tapes and net adjustments.

"Even though grass courts require more year-round care, 95 percent of our mem-

bers prefer them over clay," Allen claims. The club is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, yet work on the grass courts continues during the off season. Bentgrass courts were the rule when the club was first opened to play 110 years ago. The 30 grass courts are maintained "just like a golf green," says Allen. That's why Allen attended the winter turf management course at Rutgers University for two years to gain an associate's degree in turf management.



**Fred Allen, superintendent of Seabright Lawn Tennis Club.**

"After Labor Day we aerify with a Dedoes drum aerifier and vertigroove with a Rogers 512. The vertigroover uses a 1/8-inch blade to cut into the topsoil in rows three inches apart. This gets the seed in contact with the soil. Then 14 tons of topdressing (80 percent sand and 20 percent loam) are applied with a Gandy drop spreader to the three acres of bentgrass. We then apply fertilizer (1 lb. nitrogen/1,000 sq. ft) followed by a 50:50 blend of Colonial and Seaside bentgrasses spread at a rate of one half pound per 1,000 sq. ft. Late in the fall we apply fungicide to guard against snow mold."

The preventative disease program continues in April to guard against leaf spot and dollar spot. Before the weather gets hot and humid Allen starts applying fungicides to prevent pythium. He likes to alternate fungicides to reduce the chance of disease resistance.

In late April Allen aerifies again, runs the verticutter over the plugs to break them up, blows off the thatch and topdresses a second time. Another fertilizer application of one pound of nitrogen is made and Tupersan is applied to halt germination of any weed seed on the courts. Milorganite is applied in mid-season.

The courts, cut throughout the winter at 3/8-inch, are now raised to 5/16-inch, their playing height throughout the season. Only fifteen of the 30 grass courts are in play on any particular day. This allows Allen and his assistant Joe Hammond to remove the tennis nets and standards and mow every other day.

Lines are also marked every other day. Nails with marking washers are sunk below the surface on corners so they do not

interfere with mowers. For "lining out" string is strung from these nails and a mixture of 50 percent chalk and 50 percent water is applied with a marking wheel. The lines are touched up as needed while the courts are in play.

This winter the club converted its old manual irrigation system to an automatic Toro hydraulic system. Allen plans to set the controller to irrigate before 5 a.m. and use an afternoon syringe cycle during July and August. Before players are allowed onto the courts the dew is removed by dragging hoses over them.

In addition to 30 grass courts and 15 clay/hard-true courts, Seabright Lawn Tennis Club has one "all-weather" Laykold court and four platform tennis courts. This variety of tennis in the wealthy New Jersey Shore city of Rumson has attracted a strong membership for more than a century. Today the wait to become a member is four years.

The Parks and Recreation Department of Knoxville, TN, opted for Omnicourt over resurfacing its asphalt courts this past year. Recreation Administrator Cotton Jackson found he had to resurface the asphalt courts at Tyson Park every three years due to cracking. The park is the site of three major tennis tournaments, one with more than 600 players. Jackson described his cracking courts with tennis professional Louis Royal. Royal had heard from other professionals about the sand-filled courts and told Jackson he should check them out before resurfacing.

---

***Once tennis players grasp the basics on hard surfaces, they start hungering for a few sets on clay, hard-true or the ultimate—grass.***

---

Jack Wilson, president of Surfmark, the Omniturf distributor for the area, met with Jackson to explain the construction process. The asphalt base of the courts has a subtle end-to-end slope (1 inch drop per 10 inches of surface). A porous polypropylene grass-like fiber carpet is placed over the base. All lines are inlaid into the carpet so the need for painting is eliminated. Then a sand dressing is applied over the top of the carpet. The amount of sand can be varied to control the surface speed of the tennis ball upon impact. Knoxville uses a fairly high level of sand for a medium-to-slow speed.

The manufacturer calls the first five to six weeks of use the "break-in period" during which the court should be watered and

continued on page 25





# MOTOROLA.

## Your Source For RADIO Control Of..

- IRRIGATION
- LIGHTS
- GATES
- PUMPS
- PARK VANDALISM

## ... Is Now A Reality.

You can control all of the above plus many other functions through a Central Computer from one or as many locations as you choose.

### Via RADIO or Wire-Line.

**MOTOROLA**  
**ELECTRONIC COMMAND & CONTROL SYSTEMS**

4930 EAST YALE AVENUE  
FRESNO, CA 93727 • (209) 454-0551

For detailed information contact us today.



Motorola and (M) are registered trademarks of Motorola, Inc.

Wherever Motorola sells, our product is backed by service. In the U.S., we have 900 authorized or company-owned centers. In addition, our products are serviced throughout the world by a wide network of company or authorized independent distributor service organizations.



**MOTOROLA**  
ELECTRONIC COMMAND & CONTROL SYSTEMS





## PHOENIX STADIUM PROJECT PICKS FOUR FINALISTS

A sports stadium complex in downtown Phoenix, AZ, is one step nearer to reality after a nine-member evaluation panel picked a site and four proposals to study for feasibility. The price tag for the four proposals ranges from \$150 million to \$575 million.

Geoffrey Gonsher, sports complex coordinator for Phoenix, said, "We're excited about the interest that has been shown, but we have a long way to go. During the second stage each of the proposals will undergo thorough analysis and interpretation to determine how they would benefit the citizens of Phoenix."

Gonsher said the evaluation panel will look with greatest favor upon proposals requiring the least amount of public investment. Most of the proposals currently ask for some financial assistance with the majority stipulating the city acquire the land for the stadium site. The panel will submit its recommendations this spring to the mayor's sports advisory committee. Then, the City Council is expected to select one of the four developers to enter into exclusive negotiations with the city.

Three of the proposals call for a single domed arena. One developer presented plans for three separate stadia. Two of the proposals would surround the stadium with

offices, hotels and retail developments. The most costly is a fully-enclosed stadium surrounded by condominiums with picture window views of the playing fields.

The Capital Mall Development Group proposes to construct an open-air 65,000-seat football stadium (\$80 million), a domed 42,000-seat baseball stadium (\$60 million) and a 17,000-seat arena for basketball and hockey (\$30 million). The city would be responsible for land acquisition and infrastructure costs.

The Phoenix Octadome Development Company is offering to build a combined sports and condominium development that would seat 92,000 for football, 71,000 for baseball, 105,000 for hockey and basketball and 110,000 for boxing and concerts. The \$575 million project would be financed through sales of 6,000 condominiums, nearly half of which would have a view inside the stadium.

The Phoenix Stadium Group Ltd. wants to construct a multi-purpose hard-topped domed stadium seating 70,000 for football, 50,000 for baseball and 30,000 for basketball. The projected cost of \$266.6 million includes surrounding offices, retail shopping, a hotel, athletic club and residential units.

The Phoenix Sports and Entertainment Complex would like to construct a \$150 million retractable dome stadium that could seat 73,000 for football, 47,500 for baseball and

19,000 to 25,000 for basketball, hockey and concerts. Offices, a trade mart, hotel and retail facilities would be built adjacent to the stadium.

## SANDOZ BUYS VELSICOL'S AGRICHEMICAL BUSINESS

Sandoz, Ltd., the \$4 billion, 100-year-old Swiss-based chemical firm, has acquired Velsicol Chemical Company's agrichemical business from Farley/Northwest Industries, Chicago, IL.

A new company named VS Crop Protection Corp. has been formed according to Dale Miller, its president and chief executive officer. It will be headquartered in Chicago and will employ about 300 people there and 850 worldwide. Miller, 39, was formerly vice president of Velsicol's agricultural business group.

"The new company will stress new product development, growth and stability," states Miller. "It will pursue specific market niches and strengthen its ties with customers."

"We see our company not as an agrichemical producer," Miller asserts, "but as a market-driven, close-to-the-customer solver of weed control problems." The company's best-known product is Banvel, one of the three components in Trimec broadleaf herbicide. It has four new herbicides in vari-

# "NEW" P.V.C. HAMMER ARRESTOR

## Water Hammer Arrestors (pigmented)

The P.V.C. arrestor has been designed to protect the fittings and joints from the destructive hydraulic shock caused by quick closing solenoid valves—valves often found in commercial or home lawn sprinkling systems or larger commercial irrigation systems.

**Applications include:** Potable Water, Sea Water, Acids, Petroleum Products, and other chemicals or where corrosive conditions may be present.

### Manufacturer's specifications:

Schedule 40 Material is used for sizes 1/2" to 1 1/2"

Schedule 80 Material is used to sizes over 2" in diameter.

P.V.C. material conforms to ASTM specification D1785-64T. Manufactured to pipe size, no special adaptors required.

Normal operating pressures: 35 to 500 PS.I.G.

### Size

1/2"  
3/4"  
1"  
1 1/4"  
1 1/2"  
2"  
2 1/2"  
3"  
4"  
6"



## PRECISION PLUMBING PRODUCTS, inc.

Airport Business Center • 7021 N.E. 79th Court  
Portland, Oregon 97218 • (503) 256-4010 or 4011  
Telex: 151055



ous stages of registration, one being a pre-emergence herbicide for turf weeds.

"This new company seems especially noteworthy as a bold step forward at a time when agriculture is in a severe depression and when many of our competitors are cutting back," said Miller.

## **AGRONOMY UPDATES PRESENTED IN CHICAGO**

More than 2,000 agronomists gathered in Chicago recently to share their research findings during the annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy. Roy Goss, extension agronomist at Washington State University was there and reports some updated items on turf management.

During the meeting J.F. Barber from the University of Nebraska and Robert Carrow from the University of Georgia reported that core cultivation outperforms slicing in adjusting soil response and improving oxygen diffusion in the soil. The two scientists also indicated plants react quickly in a negative way to soil compaction but are slow to recover from it.

Drs. Bruce Brannum and Paul Reike from Michigan State University told the group that aerification and vertical mowing immediately after application of three different pre-emergence herbicides did not reduce their abil-

ity to control crabgrass. The three herbicides were benefin, bensulide and DCPA. This indicates that core cultivation can be safely carried out without significantly reducing annual bluegrass control as well as crabgrass control says Goss.

J.L. Brede of Oklahoma State reported Kentucky bluegrass can be treated before planting in combination with perennial ryegrasses so both turfgrasses in a seed mixture will germinate at the same time. Treating the seed took three days off standard germination time and also increased

survival of the Kentucky bluegrass seedlings by more than 25 percent. Brede treated the seed with three different chemicals for his research, including sodium chloride, potassium nitrate and polyethylene glycol.

A report from Ohio State University agronomists showed Embark suppressed *Poa annua* seedheads applied at .06 to .19 lbs. per acre. Preventing seedhead formation increased the carbohydrate reserves in the roots of the annual ryegrass. The reserves may help annual bluegrass survive heat and moisture stress.

## **CAL POLY SPORTS TURF INSTITUTE ATTRACTS 500**



Nearly 500 sports turf managers were able to see equipment demonstrations and hear the leaders in the field speak on pressing problems of budgets, compaction, drainage and maintenance during the third annual Sports Turf Institute held recently at California Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA.

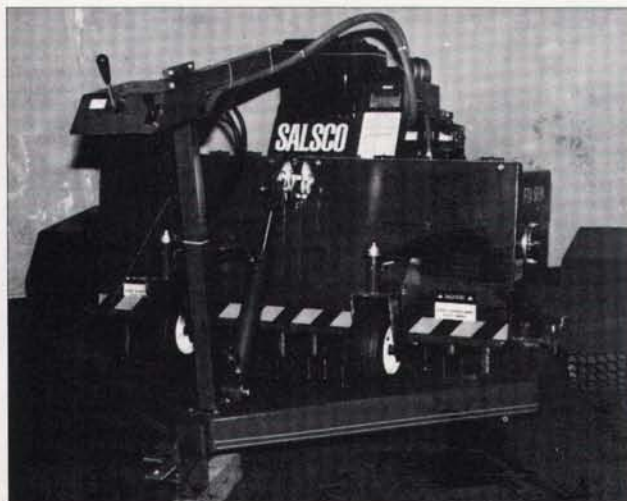
## **NEW FOR '86 FROM**

# **SALSCO, INC.**

## **vertical core cultivation for FAIRWAYS, SPORTS FIELDS**

**... Check out these features ...**

Model — FTA-60-24	Up to 40 holes per sq. ft.
Power — 12 hp Kohler	Depth — 3-1/2"
Tine Size — 1/4"-3/8"-1/2"-5/8"-3/4"	Spacing—you regulate speed and spacing



This is a commercial piece of equipment, constructed of 4" Steel square tubing and 3/4" Steel plate. We have taken our Model 30-12 Greens Aerater and made it twice as wide and twice as strong. Our FTA-60-24 can be towed by almost any vehicle. It is completely self-contained.

**For a distributor in your area call . . .**

## **SALSCO, INC.**

105 School House Rd.,  
Cheshire, CT 06410

**Phone (203) 271-1682**

**Telex 643708**



# Fighting the Muni Blues

## Rancho Park Overcomes Bureaucracy



Maintenance crews can't stop to wait for golfers to putt or tee off. A careful public relations program is applied to involve golfers in the condition of the course.

---

***The opponent is the stereotype of a municipal golf course so bogged down by bureaucracy, unmotivated employees and dwindling budget that the fairways are turning to dust.***

---

**K**en Novak is a fighter. He's part of a team of fighters in the Pacific Region of the Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. The opponent is the stereotype of a municipal golf course so bogged down by bureaucracy, unmotivated employees and dwindling budget that the fairways are turning to dust.

Novak is the superintendent of Rancho Park Golf Complex in Los Angeles, site of the Los Angeles Open many times. It happens to be adjacent to the elite Hillcrest Country Club and across the street from 20th Century Fox headquarters. Real estate in the area sells by the foot not by the acre so the 132 acres occupied by one 18-hole course and one nine-hole pitch and putt are priceless.

Rancho Park was constructed in the late '30s as a private course. During World War II, the course fell on hard times like many golf courses in the country. In 1948, the Los Angeles Park System took the course over. Park staff did all the necessary redesign work to update the course; there was no big name golf course architect involved. Mature trees tower over the old clay greens which are 80 percent *Poa annua* and 20 percent bentgrass. Fairways are entirely kikuyugrass.

The first sign Rancho Park doesn't fit the stereotype is the amount of construction going on all over the course. Three greens are under construction with three new alternate greens taking their place. Tees are being expanded, a contour mowing program for