

FROM THE PUBLISHER



Cut your water usage by 20 percent. Don't water on even-numbered days. Water only between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 p.m. No new turfgrass areas will be planted for the duration of the crisis. These and more are the mandates coming down from the water districts around the country.

How are we supposed to react to these statements? Is it possible to comply and still maintain the quality of our golf courses, sports fields, parks and recreational areas, and large turf areas?

I believe we can. However, if we get the same mandates next year, and water districts want us to again cut our water use by 20 percent, that will make it much tougher. If in two years they mandate another 20 percent cut, it will be virtually impossible to maintain the quality of our facilities.

This is what we are faced with... and we are going to have to learn to live with it. How we handle the situation now will determine how we live with it in the future.

If we cut back on our usage of water by 20 percent, and other facilities are ordered to cut back, we have a problem. The following year, when all facilities are got by without cuts the first year. This is precisely what is now taking place in many areas of the country.

A better analogy might be something like this: A family with two children lives next door to a working couple with no children. Each household is asked to cut its water usage by 20 percent.

The couple with the family can cut back easily, because they have been using enormous amounts of water for washing clothes, letting the water run when washing the dishes, taking showers, brushing their teeth or washing their cars, etc. The working couple have not been using their water nearly as much because they are not home during the day, so it is harder for them to cut their usage by 20 percent. However, both households meet their goals.

The following year, both households are again asked to cut their water usage by 20 percent. Since the family of four have been wasting much of their water, they still have room to conserve. But the working couple, who never used that much water in the first place and then cut back by 20 percent will find it an impossible task to cut another 20 percent. Yet this is what some water districts will be requesting. To say they are not realistic is an understatement.

I believe we will have to document at every step of the way how much water we used last year, how much we are conserving this year, etc. It won't be long before we need this documentation.

Recently, various organizations within the green industry met in Chicago, hopefully to begin what I would like to call the Green Industry Council, or Green Industry Forum. Whatever it is called, by meeting on a regular basis, the different associations in the green industry will begin to interface more with each other.

The Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA), the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the American Sod Producers Association (ASPA), the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the Irrigation Association (IA), the National Arborist Association (NAA), Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS), and the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) were in attendance.

What came out of this meeting was a resolution approved by those in attendance, that the Irrigation Association (IA) be spokesman for the industry on water issues. The IA is already in the process of developing a speaker's bureau, as well as brochures and video presentations. The goal is to help inform the water purveyors as well as the municipalities and large users of water on what the irrigation industry is doing to conserve water. There are a lot of people who have misconceptions as to how much water is actually used. We must begin to talk to our water districts and show them that we not only are concerned, but we are actually doing something about conserving water. We have to inter-face with them before they go off half cocked and mandate water restrictions that we won't be able to live with.

If your association was not one of those in attendance in Chicago, let them know. They should be there the next time such a meeting is called.

THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

LET PHOTOGRAPHY DOCUMENT YOUR SKILL



As spring golf, baseball, and soccer get underway, do yourself a favor. Get your hands on an easy-to-use camera and stock up on film. Starting now, and for the rest of the year, keep it loaded and by your side at all times. Take it with you wherever you go, just like you carry your radio and note pad.

The photographs you take will make you a better manager of both turf and personnel. They will help you illustrate clearly to your staff and supervisors what needs to be done . . . and they will visually document your progress. The expression, one picture is worth a thousand words, is based in fact.

When you see damage by insects, diseases, cart traffic, drainage and irrigation problems, vandalism and extra events, get the camera out and record it on film. Jot down short notes for each photo. When you get the prints or slides back from the developer, show them to your key advisors to get their recommendations. Fellow superintendents, extension turf specialists, distributor tech reps, and members of your staff may have valuable solutions. Now you have visual proof of these problems, as well as a choice of solutions.

Pick the solution that best fits your facility and make the necessary changes. But as you do, take more photos to track the results. You will build a valuable reference for the future, one you can use time and time again to compare products and methods.

These photographs, combined with your written records, can serve as an exceptional training tool for your staff. When weather forces the crew inside, take advantage of this time to explain the chief problems at your facility and the best way to correct them. Because you can show actual, on-site examples, the lessons you give apply directly to their work.

The fact that you have gone the extra mile to find the best solutions to problems at your facility, and used this information to train your staff, protects you and your employer from one of the largest concerns of the industry today—liability.

Golf course superintendents and sports turf managers who apply pesticides know the importance of a written maintenance schedule and a work log. This documentation is extremely important when an inspector arrives at your facility. Why not add a photographic record to prove further that you select, mix and apply chemicals in a safe and responsible manner? Display these photos in work areas to constantly remind your staff of the importance of proper handling of pesticides.

Liability is also a major concern today of superintendents of parks and schools. If a lawyer for an injured player can establish negligence in regard to maintenance, the financial damage can be substantial. Furthermore, liability insurance rates have been climbing steadily. Photographs, combined with written maintenance records, go a long way in showing insurance companies that negligence is not a factor at your facility. And they may reduce premiums.

As you can see, photographs not only help you document your work, they help you find important solutions, train your staff, protect your facility from fines and damages, and give you the evidence you may need to justify purchases of important equipment, products or services.

If that isn't enough to make you pick up a camera, there is one more reason to become a photographer: recognition. Take, for example, the Baseball Diamond of the Year Award winners which we start to feature in this issue. The judges did not visit each facility to determine whether its diamond was better than all the others in its category. They had to rely strictly on photography and a written entry. All three winners documented their progress with words and photographs.

Today's cameras are easy to use, fit in your pocket, and are very affordable. They are a tool you should put to use immediately.

Bruce F. Shank

EVENTS

CALENDAR

APRIL

1-6

American Society of Golf Course Architects Annual Meeting, Pinehurst, Pinehurst, NC. Contact: Paul Fullmer, executive secretary, 221 N. La Salle St., Suite 3900, Chicago, IL 60601, (312) 372-7090.

1-3

National School Boards Association Annual Exposition, Anaheim, CA. Contact: NSBA, 1680 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 838-NSBA.

7-11

National Intramural, Recreational Sports Association National Conference. Sheraton Denver Tech Center, Denver, CO. Contact: NIRSA, Gill Coliseum, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331, (503) 754-2088.

30-1

Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association 27th Annual Meeting, Agate Beach Golf Course, Newport, OR. Contact: Dick Malpass, OGCSA, 10804 NW 11th Ave., Vancouver, WA 98685, (206) 573-6969.

MAY

17

North Carolina State University Turf and Landscape Field Day, NCSU Turf Field Center, Raleigh, NC. Contact: Dr. Art Bruneau, Dept. of Crop Science, NCSU, Raleigh, NC 27695, (919) 737-2326.

JUNE

21

Midwest Sports Turf Institute, Harper College, Palatine, IL. Contact: Sports Turf Managers Association, 400 N. Mountain Ave., Suite 301, Upland, CA 91786. (714) 981-9199.

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THE EXTRA POINT

STMA NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT



A few weeks ago a school district in California advertised an open position for supervisor of athletic fields. The job involved the care of several fields, including a football field, a baseball field, and some general-purpose play fields. The requirements for the job were a passing grade on a public service examination

for custodians and a valid California driver's license.

There was no mention of experience or knowledge of turfgrass maintenance. This was not a small or poor school district. There is no reason to believe that this district was any less informed about sports field management than most others. School administrators tend to ignore the fields and field managers until they see the little baton twirlers up to their tutus in mud during the half-time show, or when the district gets sued for neglect.

School officials aren't the only administrators in the dark about what it takes to successfully manage sports fields. They aren't even the most notorious. There are some highly visible public and private facilities with spectacular failures due to inexperienced field management.

There are a lot of very good, competent sports field managers, many of whom just grew into the job. Sometimes a kid was hired off the street to mow the grass, and over 15 or 20 years of work on the field he became extremely knowledgeable. The field always looked pretty and there weren't any complaints. That is still probably the best method to produce good sports field managers. Unfortunately, there is no longer adequate time to grow sports turf managers.

The number of sports field facilities, such as schools, parks, and sports complexes, has tremendously increased in the past few years, and there has been an explosion in the use demand. All of this has occurred in spite of administrators blindly stumbling along, continuing to hire kids off the street, not realizing there is more to sports turf management than mowing grass and assuming that the kid would learn what he needed to know.

Back in 1984, when Dr. Kent Kurtz helped get STMA off the ground as executive director, one of the goals was to upgrade and professionalize the sports turf manager. He and STMA have accomplished a great deal in getting visibility for the sports turf manager. Dr. Kurtz has retired from his role as executive director of STMA, but he gave us a purpose and pointed the direction. Let's keep his work going.

Help STMA reach the decision makers. Help STMA make them aware that it is in their best interest to have qualified people in charge of sports fields—that it takes skill, knowledge, and art to manage a sports field. If we are to gain the respect due our profession, everyone in STMA has to contribute.

S.T. Cockerham

KURTZ RETIRES AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kent Kurtz recently announced his retirement from the post of executive director of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA). Kurtz, professor of horticulture at Cal-Poly, Pomona, told the STMA board of directors that the organization had grown to the point where the time required was much more than he was able to provide. In his term as executive director, Kurtz presided over STMA's growth from 60 members in 1984 to nearly 900 members in 1989.

Mark Hodnick, superintendent of grounds at Cal-Poly, Pomona, was elected by the board to serve as executive director. Hodnick, a close personal friend and former student of Kurtz, is immediate past president of STMA and former treasurer of the organization.

Kurtz will still be closely tied to STMA in the newly created position of education coordinator for national and regional conferences. In appreciation of his contributions to STMA, the board voted to award Kurtz a Life Membership.

NEW OFFICE ASSISTANT

Gini Scharfman is the new voice of STMA when you call up headquarters in Upland, CA. The experienced administrative and accounting assistant, who recently moved to the Los Angeles area from Houston, TX, has already made great strides in organizing headquarters operations, states Executive Director Mark Hodnick.

Scharfman is a sports fan by default, having grown up with four active brothers. She also has six grown children who participate in various sports. Her husband's uncle, Herbie Scharfman, was the official photographer for the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field. In other words, instead of getting mad on Sunday afternoon when her husband watches football or baseball, she joins him.

"STMA members will find Gini a very dedicated individual," says Hodnick. "We're lucky to have her on our staff."

CATCH THE ACTION

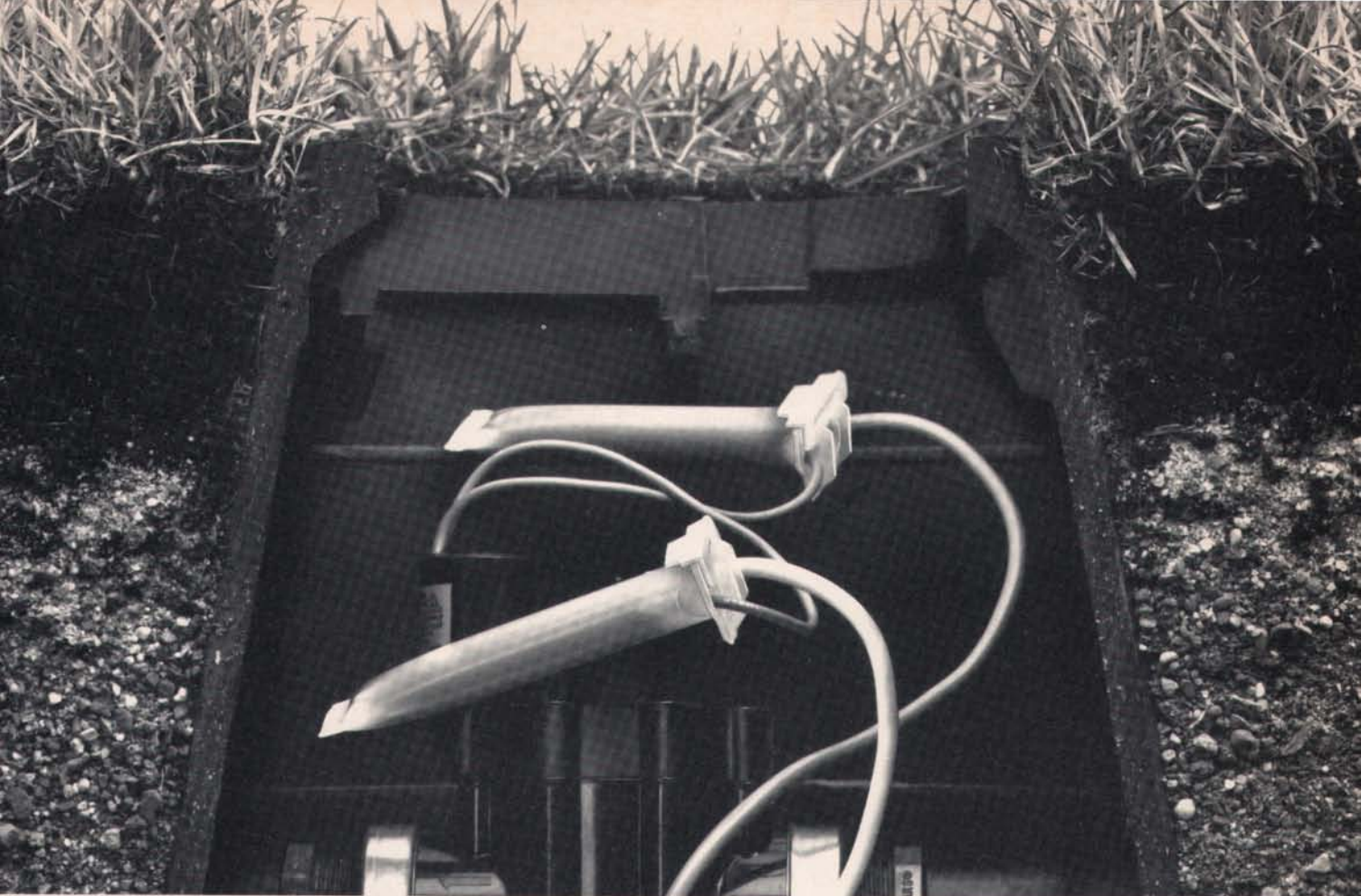
Mark your calendar.

March 21 — Western Sports Turf Institute
California Polytechnic Institute and University, Pomona, CA.

June 21 — Midwest Sports Turf Institute
Harper College, Palatine, IL.



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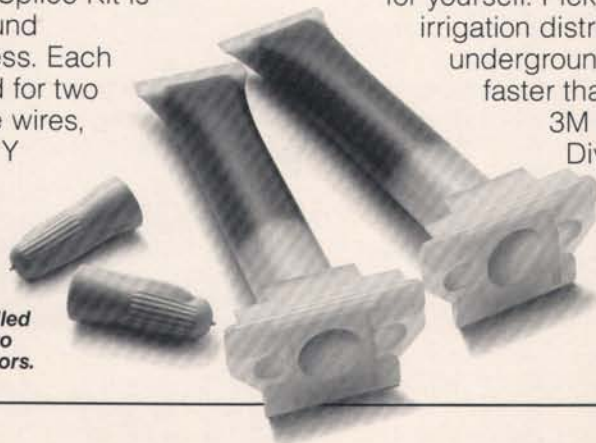
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REBOUND

LETTERS FROM READERS

THE SEARCH FOR TOMORROW: A CRISIS LOOMS AHEAD

The lack of well-trained young men and women entering the field of horticulture is causing major concern at our nation's major agriculturally-related colleges and universities. Enrollments in agricultural areas, particularly ornamental horticulture, agronomy, and plant science, have dwindled significantly since the boom days of the 1970s.

Administrators at some institutions are considering major cutbacks in programs and faculty layoffs, while job prospects out in the field have never been better.

In California, there are probably five jobs available for each graduate. As a result, many positions either go unfilled or the employer must train employees himself. . . . and the situation is getting worse.

It is obvious that we are not doing a good job of selling our industry to American youth, and we are not recruiting the quality or quantity of students we need.

As an industry we all need to work harder to attract young people into the field, in order to fill the positions vacated by retirements and normal attrition. Significant industry growth is also creating new positions every day. The need for technically-trained individuals and people skilled in both management and communication is critical.

If each one of us would take upon himself the challenge of talking with and convincing one young person to enter the field, much of this crisis we face could be alleviated in a few short years.

Several factors may be responsible for the crisis in our education system:

1) Many students are opting for a two-year program of study, receiving a certificate of completion instead of a four-year degree. The incentive to pursue a four-year curriculum has not been overly encouraged.

2) The industry is desperate for individuals to fill job vacancies. Rather than insist upon four-year graduates, employers have taken all available candidates.

3) High school counselors are too busy with academics or discipline problems to be aware of the needs of our industry.

4) Parents are not encouraging their youngsters to pursue education plans in horticulture or similar fields because they envision or identify such vocations with the common gardener. In other words, we have an image problem.

5) Entry-level positions in our industry have typically been low-paid, low-incentive, and involve long hours.

It's not too late, but time is running out for some schools to salvage educational programs that are currently available. The attraction to the high-tech industries (computer science, business administration, and engineering) has been far greater from both image and monetary standpoints. Competitive positions are available with major companies beginning at \$30,000-plus and offering many perks.

We need your help immediately to prevent further erosion of our industry. Encourage a young person to pursue a four-year curriculum in horticultural or turf management available at his state university.

Many existing two-year programs include courses that are transferable to the four-year institutions. Sell these people on the service they will render to society by assuming a position in our industry. Be a big brother or sister. Tell them, show them, and guide them.

There is no greater joy or satisfaction than to watch a young person grow and develop within our industry. Whether they enter sports turf, golf turf, landscape management, contracting, nursery management, or similar professions, we need all of them. . . . now.

**Dr. Kent Kurtz, Professor
Dept. of Horticulture
Cal Poly - Pomona**

SUPER BOWL INQUIRY

I read with a great deal of interest the article concerning the preparation of the field at Joe Robbie Stadium for Super Bowl XXIII. This interest obviously was further heightened for me because one of the participants and eventual Super Bowl winner was the San Francisco Forty Niners.

It occurred to me after reading the article and watching the game on TV that one could draw certain inferences, reach some conclusions and have room for questions still to be answered.

One could easily infer from the contents of the article that the previous manager, Dean Kuykendahl, was largely responsible for some of the problems that existed prior to the playing of the game. I think that is patently unfair that there is not a comment on the part of Mr. Kuykendahl to give his side of the story. I empathize with him intensely because I also suffered the same type of agony during the 1981-82 playoffs at Candlestick Park.

I think it might be easily inferred that the P.A.T. system is one which is difficult to

understand. I do not believe that this is the case at all. Carrying that inference a bit further, when one looks at the two newest natural fields in the National Football League, Chicago's and Miami's, one could easily reach a conclusion that there is something wrong with the P.A.T. system. Again, I do not believe this is true.

It is true that the field was indeed dressed out in all her acrylic finery, but the clothes around her middle came off quicker than a stripper's at a stag party.

The use of pre-germinated seed, verti-slicing, topdressing — all of these are standard practices when maintaining an athletic field. But I am wondering, for example, if by verti-slicing the integrity of the existing bermuda was damaged and the subsequent topdressing gave the field an open-face sandwich result whose filling quickly disappeared.

With the availability of aerifiers that can pull a core at a depth of five to six inches, why core shatter? In essence, if we core shatter, aren't we really transferring an existing interface to a deeper interface within the soil profile? If 1,000 square feet of thickly cut sod was brought in, how do you stretch that into the 50 x 90 ft. area that is referred to in the article?

The intent of my letter is not to criticize, but to inquire so that all of us can learn from this particular experience. As I stated earlier, I empathize with the people at Joe Robbie Stadium. I know what it is like to have a field that is less than in its best playing condition. I have learned from my experiences and hopefully will continue to learn from the experiences of others, if they are willing to share them.

I am truly hopeful that *sportsTURF* will in the near future be able to publish an article dealing with some of my questions and perhaps the questions of others so that we might all continue to learn and grow.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I hope we don't allow ourselves to be painted into a corner from which there is no retreat. When asked an opinion of a field, I think it might be best to say that you have given it your best effort; it's your best hope that the field will measure up to play that day. Because when dealing with something as fragile as a field of grass, there simply ain't no lock.

**Barney Barron
Candlestick Park
San Francisco**

Thanks for your comments, Barney. As you say, we are all learning. I'm convinced that everyone involved at Joe Robbie

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DEMOLITION BEGINS FOR NEW WHITE SOX PARK

Before the first old building came down across the street from Comisky Park in Chicago this February to make room for the new White Sox Park, groundskeeper Roger Bossard knew exactly how he would build the new stadium's field. In fact, he had just completed building two fields to the same specifications at the team's spring training facility in Sarasota, FL.

The 45,000-seat, open-air stadium in Chicago won't be ready until April 1991. Yet Bossard has already ordered the sod, which will contain seven different cultivars of Kentucky bluegrass, from Evergreen Sod Nursery in Peotone, IL.

"The sod will be planted this May in a sand field," says Bossard. "It will be 14 months old when we finally install it on the sand-based field." He made similar arrangements in advance with Pursley Sod Farm in Florida for the Tifway 419 bermudagrass sod grown in sand for the Sarasota complex.

Bossard is working with HOK Sports Facilities Group in Kansas City, MO, on both projects. His specifications are based upon more than 20 years of personal experience in sports turf and input from a network of advisors, including his father, uncle and grandfather who were groundskeepers before him. He has advised various professional teams, universities, parks and schools over the years, and believes he has developed specifications that are effective and reasonable.

His concept is a foot-deep bed of sand on top of four inches of "bird's-eye gravel" surrounding perforated drainpipe spaced on 15-foot centers. Into the top three inches of sand he mixes fine-textured Turface soil

conditioner and sphagnum peat moss. The combination offers excellent drainage as well as adequate retention of soil moisture and nutrients.

Sportsfield Inc. of Blue Island, IL, built the fields for Bossard in Sarasota. President Jim Walsh and his crew worked from September to December, 1988, in Sarasota on the installation.

"Visitors can't believe the fields in Sarasota are only two months old," boasts Bossard. "We've got nine-inch-deep roots already because it has been so warm this winter." The training complex was overseeded with 30 pounds per 1,000 square feet of Ph.D. perennial ryegrass in December.

PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION EXTENDED

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station of the Pennsylvania State University and the Seed Production and Introduction Corporation have announced the extension of their exclusive, worldwide license to produce, market, and distribute Pennfine perennial ryegrass.

The ryegrass is protected under the United States Plant Variety Protection Act until January 28, 1994. It is produced and marketed as a certified class of seed only by Northrup King Co., Agway, Inc., and Stanford Seed Co.

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The awards were presented at the STMA's awards dinner in Vero Beach, FL, January 14, 1989.

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Rebound

continued from page 16

Stadium gave it his or her best effort and learned from the experience.

I want to apologize to Dean for not explaining how hard he worked and how much he cared. Before he took the job at Joe Robbie he called for any advice I had. We talked many times during the past two years since the stadium opened, most recently after he had read the article. He obviously still cares a great deal about sports turf and hopefully will be back in a stadium in the future. He is doing quite well in landscape maintenance right now.

Obviously, the story was written before the Super Bowl. News stories written in other magazines and newspapers since the Super Bowl have been largely incorrect.

After talking to the key turf managers involved with Super Bowl XXIII, I think the best route to take is to let the dust settle for a couple of months before explaining what took place. Then those involved will present the facts and offer their advise on how similar problems can be avoided in the future.

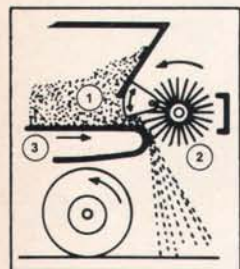
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NATIONAL TURF SHOWS INDICATE STRONG YEAR AHEAD



Steve Wightman of San Diego/Jack Murphy Stadium demonstrates logo painting during STMA Annual Conference at Dodgertown.

Judging from the number of showgoers and the activity at exhibits during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Conference and Show in Anaheim, CA, and the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Annual Meeting in Vero Beach, FL, 1989 is going to be a strong year for golf and sports turf management.

The GCSAA Show set an attendance record with more than 16,000 people registering for either seminars or show passes. Booths filled four separate halls at the Anaheim Convention Center. Numerous golf course architects at the show commented that they are swamped with design and redesign work in both the U.S. and foreign countries. Superintendents actively sought information on new products at more than 400 booths.

The crowd wasn't as large at the immaculately groomed Dodgertown in Vero Beach for the STMA Conference, but exhibitors were impressed with the sports turf managers present at the two-day event. "More than \$3 billion are budgeted for park, school and golf course development in Florida over the next five years," boasted Ed Birch, supervisor of maintenance for Broward County School System. "If other states have near that amount planned, the sports turf market is in for a boom like we've never seen before."

In addition to head groundskeepers from numerous Florida spring training camps, there were stadium field supervisors from across the country in attendance at the event.

The 1990 GCSAA Show is scheduled for Orlando, FL, next February and the Second Annual STMA Show is set for Houston, TX in late January.

NUMEX SAHARA SLATED FOR AUTUMN RELEASE

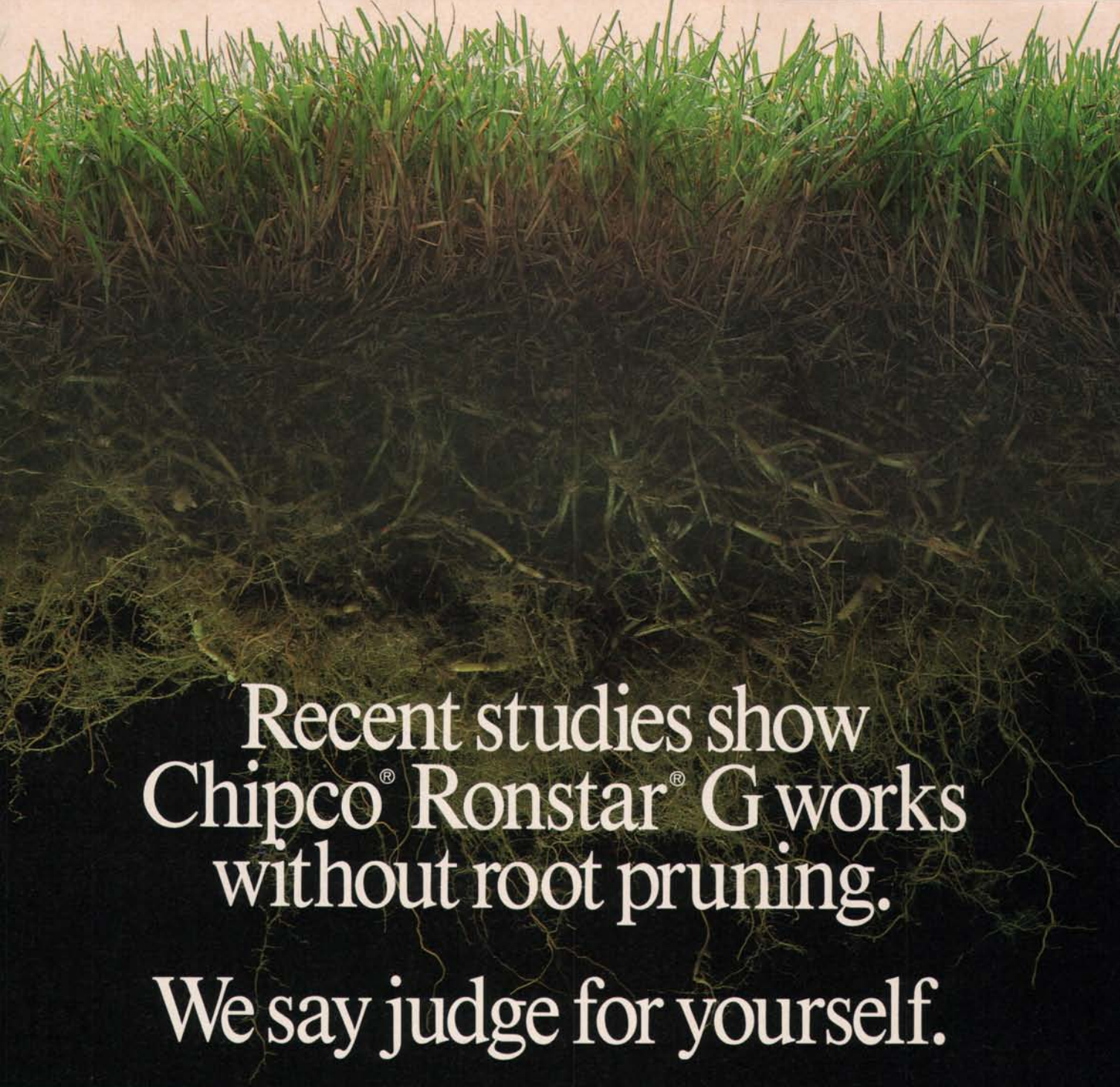
NuMex Sahara and Guymon, two newly released turf-quality, seed-propagated bermudagrasses, are scheduled to be released to the golf and sports turf markets in limited quantities this fall.

Developed by Dr. Arden Baltensperger, NuMex Sahara is similar to common bermudagrass. But it has shown increased density, shorter stem-internode length, less stunt-mite damage, and better summer color.

A spokesman for Farmers Marketing Corporation, Phoenix, AZ, the company with the rights to NuMex, said the new variety "should outperform common as a general purpose turfgrass throughout much of the southern part of the United States."

The variety was first released in 1984 and has been included in the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program since 1986. Some quantities of certified NuMex seed will be available in August or September.

Guymon, developed at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, is said to be cold-tolerant, but coarser than NuMex or common.



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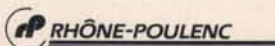
RONSTAR® G won't leach out or move laterally through the soil. And it's labeled for use on a wide variety of ornamentals. So you can apply it to ornamental plantings at the same time you do your turf. You'll get up to 120 days of weed-free control.

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“It’s impressive to see one of the new multi-field training centers that have become the trend in baseball,” confides Dale Long, field representative for the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues (NAPBL), “but it’s even more exciting to witness one of the older spring training centers in the country coming back to life.” Long, who has been involved in professional baseball for 45 years, evaluates 88 minor league facilities east of the Mississippi River each year.

In 1986, when he walked out onto the field at Jack Russell Stadium in Clearwater, FL, he was immediately struck by the improvement. The once-tired 30-year-old field was responding beautifully to the attention of a new groundskeeper, Long was told by Dave Rowan, general manager for the Clearwater Phillies, the Philadelphia Phillies’ Class A Florida State League team.

Long could see the joy on Ron Timpanaro’s face when Rowan introduced him to the new field supervisor. Timpanaro was bubbling with enthusiasm and was full of questions. When Long filed his report to NAPBL on Jack Russell Stadium that year he wrote, “Under the direction of Dave Rowan this park has been whipped into shape and looks great! The playing surface is much improved over last season when I saw it. New groundskeeper, Ron Timpanaro, has done a good job.”

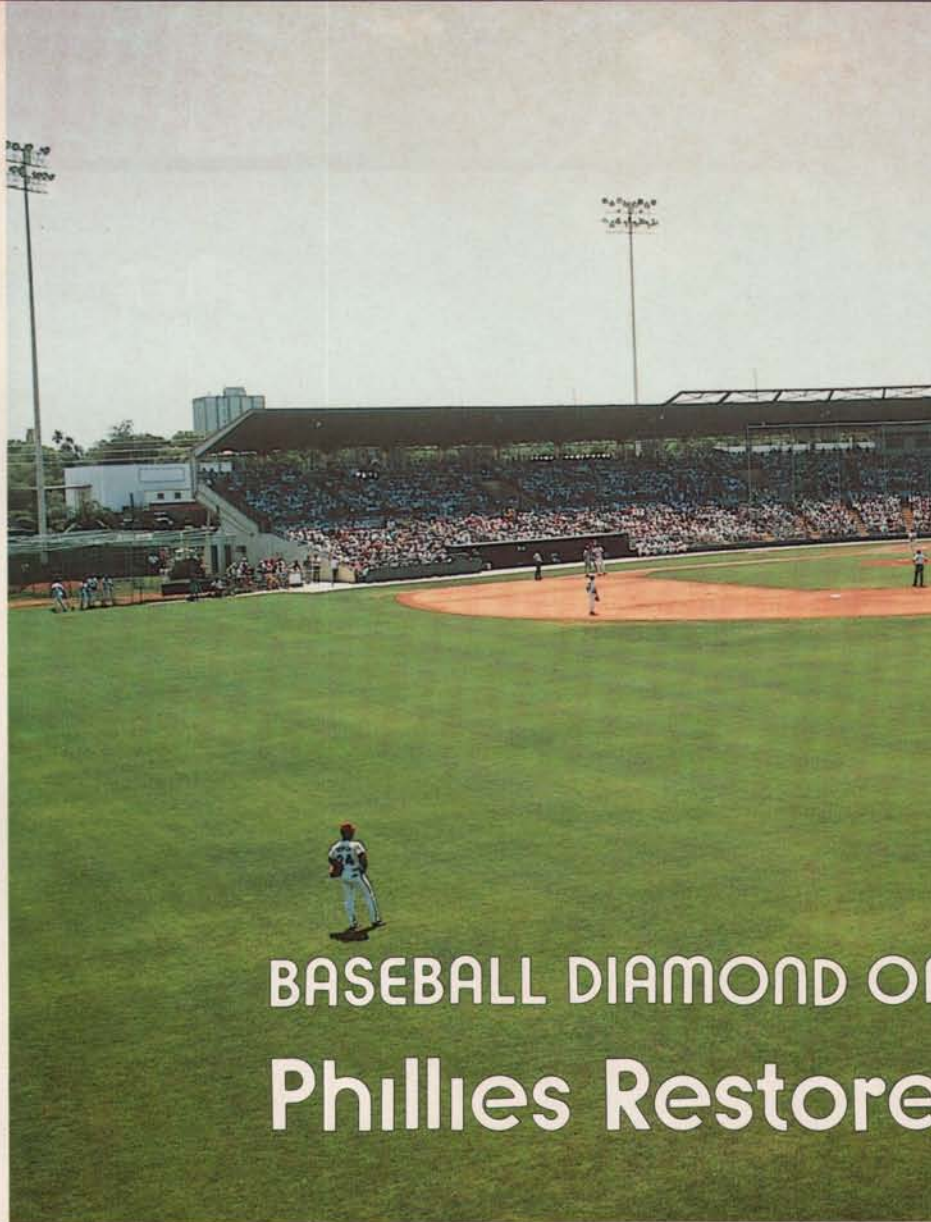
Each year for the past four years Long’s reports about the stadium have been more glowing. Not only has Jack Russell Stadium taken on new life, Timpanaro has as well.

Rowan and the Phillies gave Timpanaro the opportunity to pursue a new career after 15 years as a ceramic tile contractor. In 1985, when the Clearwater Phillies leased the facility from the city and took over maintenance, he was looking for a change. Cut-throat bidding in the construction business had become more important than craftsmanship. When he read in the paper that the Class A team was coming to town, he applied for a job as a ticket taker for night games at the stadium. He expressed an interest in field work to Rowan and was allowed to apply his detail-oriented experience to groundskeeping.

“My only previous experience with turf was working for a landscaper in New Jersey as a kid,” recalls Timpanaro. “When Dave let me work on the grounds crew, I knew that this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my career. Craftsmanship meant something again. I was determined to make Jack Russell Stadium the best field in baseball.”

Rowan, who had once been a groundskeeper for the Phillies organization, taught Timpanaro the basics of baseball field management. But Rowan had his hands full improving the concessions, stands, and stadium in addition to the details of advertising, ticket sales, public relations and player development.

Timpanaro relieved Rowan of many of the details of field management. Within months, he was named field supervisor. Three short years later Timpanaro was



BASEBALL DIAMOND OF Phillies Restore

awarded the 1989 Beam Clay Baseball Diamond of the Year Award in the professional category.

“The more I learned, the more I realized I had to learn,” admits Timpanaro. He called Elmer Williams, the groundskeeper for the Toronto Blue Jays in nearby Dunedin, and Tom Burns, the field superintendent at the Texas Rangers’ new spring training complex in Port Charlotte. Both men taught him the fine points of conditioning the turf and the infield dirt.

He started with the basics, restoring the edge and dimensions of the diamond, pitcher’s mound, base lines, home plate, on-deck circles, bullpens and warning tracks. He implemented a new fertilization program and mowed the field daily. Plant beds surrounding the stadium were brightened with annuals and remulched, overgrown plants were replaced, and all fence-lines and sidewalks were trimmed.

The stadium quickly became more attractive to fans and more professional for the players. Word started to spread that Jack Russell was a nice place to take the

family for an evening of baseball, whether it was the Philadelphia Phillies and the New York Mets or the Clearwater Phillies and the Charlotte Rangers.

However, it quickly became clear to Timpanaro that the stadium lacked much of the equipment necessary to follow Williams’ and Burns’ recommendations. “All we had at first was a small tractor, a three-gang reel mower, walk-behind rotary mowers, a Bush-hog and a nail drag,” he remembers. The outfield had an old manual irrigation system with galvanized pipe. There was no irrigation for the sidelines or the infield.

Major renovation was required to restore the field to professional standards. For years, the infield grass had been stripped after spring training to convert the field to softball for the Clearwater Bombers. So much clay had been brought in for softball as time passed that the infield was almost four feet higher than the outfield and the clay had migrated 15 feet into the outfield. In the fall the city placed bermudagrass sod on top of the growing plateau of clay for the Phillies’ spring training.