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PLATE 34
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STMA OFFICE

P.O. BOX 98056, LAS VEGAS, NV 89193 / 702-739-8500

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ADVERTISING AND EDITORIAL OFFICES

P.O. BOX 8420, VAN NUYS, CA 91409 / 818-781-8300



AN ADAMS PUBLISHING COMPANY
6913 VALJEAN, VAN NUYS, CA 91406
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VOLUME EIGHT, NUMBER TWO

FEBRUARY 1992

MAIN EVENTS

8 KEEPING FACILITIES IN PLAY: DRAINAGE AND SURFACE WATER REMOVAL

Keeping outdoor turf in play relates directly to drainage. Yet no amount of slope, porous rootzone, or subsurface drainage system has a perfect record when it comes to unusually heavy rainfall. That is why tarps, water removal machines, drying agents, and supplemental drainage are important in preventing rainouts.

16 EROSION CONTROL: KEEPING SEDIMENT IN ITS PLACE

Sediment is the number one pollutant of waterways and can cut the life of reservoirs in half. Water and wind erosion can be curbed significantly by using silt fences, mats, hydraulic mulch, and straw. The key is creating an erosion control plan prior to construction utilizing the right mix of erosion control devices.

20 GETTING AN ANGLE ON SLOPE MOWING

Golf courses and sports facilities with sloped turf areas of 15 degrees or more require specialized mowers. Sports turf managers need to consider center of gravity, drives, tires, and operator safety when selecting mowers for sloped sites.

30 CHRIS TILGHMAN SETS HIS OWN COURSE

Owning the course you maintain has its own set of responsibilities. Chris Tilghman and his brother Phil own Gator Hole Golf Course in North Myrtle Beach, SC. The Clemson graduate takes a somewhat different approach to course maintenance than other superintendents in his area.

LINE-UP

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24	EXPLORING EQUIPMENT		

COVER: Baseball diamond at Robert F. Clement Park in Littleton, CO is kept tournament ready with the help of surface water pumps. Photo courtesy: Foothills Park and Recreation Department.

THE COMPLETE COMMERCIAL MOWING SYSTEM FROM "A" TO "Z"

Kubota has introduced a complete new mowing system, the FZ2100 Front Mower. From "A" – Auto Assist Differential (AAD) to "Z" – Zero Diameter Turning Radius (ZDT), it increases your power and mobility to handle all your mowing needs.

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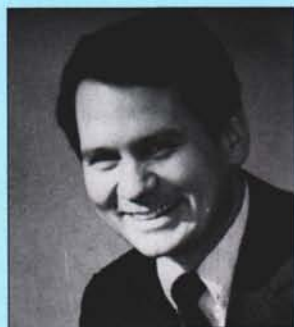


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THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

HELP FOR PARKS IS ON THE WAY



The doors are beginning to open for those responsible for maintaining parks. After speaking with the hard working volunteers at Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) chapters across the country during the past few weeks, it's clear that an important transition is underway.

Once an organization consisting largely of stadium groundskeepers, STMA leadership at the national and chapter level is swinging over to park maintenance and university grounds

personnel. This is a healthy sign that help is on the way for our public park systems.

Having tried the front door, so to speak, with various national park organizations to reach those in charge of maintaining and often building our parks, we are switching over to the back door. A quick glance at STMA chapter rosters reveals that many park landscape managers are members.

They speak highly of local sports turf institutes and the hands-on information they receive at these events. Never before have they had the opportunity to see demonstrations of baseball infield preparation, field painting, topdressing, slit trenching, and other vital aspects of their jobs. Since the institutes are usually within driving distance, superintendents can bring along their foremen and crews so they too can witness the latest in sports turf management. Information is finally getting to the person who needs it most.

Those I've spoken to have previously tried other organizations and events to help them keep abreast of the latest sports turf technology. They report most of the discussion at park meetings is devoted to the needs of park and recreation directors. They have also tried golf course superintendents meetings. These are valuable inasmuch as golf has many similarities to athletic field maintenance.

Until now, their best source has been state turf field days and conferences, especially those which have devoted a part of their event to athletic turf. Sport turf institutes are designed specifically to pass along information overlooked by other conference organizers. They provide solutions developed by those in the field for everyday problems.

Park maintenance professionals are joining local STMA chapters and attending their events. Now, we know who you are and can begin to help you. This is the back door I mentioned before and it would not be there without the leadership of local chapters. The more chapters of STMA there are, the more we can do for parks. Help is on the way.

Bruce F. Shank

EVENTS

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

26-27 Advanced Turfgrass Management Symposium: Golf Courses and Water Quality, Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ. Contact: Office of Continuing Education, Cook College, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, (908) 932-9271.

27-28 Athletic Field Maintenance Seminar, C Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ. Contact: Office of Continuing Education, Cook College, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, (908) 932-9271.

28 Third Annual Turf Management Seminar, Cuyamaca College, El Cajon, CA. Contact: Ray Meredith, (619) 670-3544.

MARCH

3-5 Massachusetts Turf Conference, Springfield Civic Center, Springfield, MA. Contact: (413) 549-5295.

24 Sports Turf Institute and Grounds Operations Conference, Cal Poly, Pomona, CA. Contact: Dept. of Horticulture, Cal Poly, (714) 869-2219.

APRIL

13-14 Southeastern Turf Conference, Tifton, GA. Contact: Glenn Burton, Coastal Plain Station, (912) 386-3353.

See STMA IN ACTION for information on Sports Turf Managers Association Events.

Send announcements on your events two months in advance to editor, sportsTURF magazine, P.O. Box 8420, Van Nuys, CA 91409 or FAX to (818) 781-8517.



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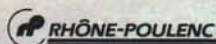
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Keeping Facilities In Play: **Drainage and Surface Water Removal**

The Achilles heel of outdoor sports facilities is their exposure to weather-related cancellations. Rainouts not only mean a loss of revenue, they cause complicated rescheduling of events. Anything the sports turf manager can do to lessen the chance of rainouts is bound to positively impact his reputation.

Keeping outdoor turf in play relates directly to drainage. It doesn't matter whether the surface is natural or synthetic, it will be limited as to the amount of water it can remove or hold before puddling occurs. When precipitation exceeds this threshold, play will be interrupted.

There will always be downpours that overload a field's drainage system. No amount of slope, porous rootzone, or subsurface drainage network has a perfect record when it comes to unusually heavy rainfall. They do, however, go a long way toward preventing unplayable conditions.

