

Rosenblatt field. Photo by Omaha World-Herald.

and the pitcher's mound rubber and sort of waved goodbye. The heavy equipment took over and started tearing things up that night. By noon on September 5, it looked an A-bomb had hit."

The original field was constructed in 1948. "The city didn't get its money's worth," Cuevas reveals. "We'd been told there was drainage tile, but none was found. Four inches of top soil was dumped over clay hard pan. It's a tribute to the skills of Frank Mancuso that the field held up as well as it did for all those years."

"The new field has a sand/peat growing medium, and though less than six months old, has grass roots five to six inches long and still going," he continues.

Cuevas and Greg Peterson, project director of the City Planning Department, knew they'd be on an extremely tight schedule to complete the renovation. Luck was with them, Cuevas recalls.

"We laid the last roll of sod on October 25 at 7 p.m., just in time for an Omaha Royals season ticket holder field preview party. Then temperatures dropped into the 20s and we got hit with a Halloween surprise—a freak storm that delivered several inches of ice and over a foot of snow. Even a one-day delay would have left us with bare ground in the infield and foul territory behind home plate."

An underground drainage system uses 1-1/4 miles of laterals, which drain into four six-inch storm drains. According to Cuevas, the system should be able to handle 10 to 11 inches of rain per hour right now.

"The most rain Omaha has ever received is 45 inches per year," says Cuevas. "So, theoretically, we could get the whole year's rain in five hours and still play ball 45 minutes later."

An underground sprinkler system replaced the old watering system of seven hoses and 12 hours of labor to put down 1/4 inch of water. "Now we can control when and where to water by pushing some buttons," says Cuevas. "We can put down three inches of water in five hours and be assured of complete coverage."

Some new equipment was included in this stage or renovation, including a tractor, top dresser, and sprayer.

"It was hard to coordinate equipment use and achieve the results we needed." explains Cuevas. "The city recognized that. Greg Peterson didn't want to spend a nickel more on the project than necessary, but he didn't want to spend a nickel less than needed to insure an excellent job."

Always planning ahead, he expects further improvements as the field matures. While TV commentators were singing the praises of the new field, he was making hands-on assessments.

"It will take two to three years to form heavy enough roots and a tighter knit surface to takes lots of punishment," he asserts.

Working before the cameras to a national audience doesn't bother Cuevas and his crews. They'll do the same job for the hometown crowd—keeping Rosenblatt Stadium looking great—because, as Cuevas says, "You've got to do what you've got to do."

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# **CHEMICAL LOG**

# HANDLING PESTICIDES RESPONSIBLY

Pesticides are valuable to any integrated pest management program. However, responsibility goes handin-hand with the benefits of pesticide use.

As a sports turf manager or golf course superintendent, you need to protect yourself, your workers, your players, and your community from possible injury. The way to do this is to know all precautions to take when applying chemicals and require safe application procedures.

Accidents will happen, but many accidents are avoidable. Most accidents result from careless practices or lack of knowledge about safe pesticide handling. Pesticides have four routes of exposure:

\*The Mouth. Pesticides can come in contact with your mouth from your hands, food eaten with unwashed hands, cigarettes or other tobacco products, or splashes of pesticide.

\*The Skin. Your skin can be exposed when you handle and open pesticide packages, adjust sprayer nozzles, contact spray mist, touch pesticide spills or broken hoses, wear pesticide-contaminated clothing or fail to wear adequate protective clothing and equipment.

\*The Eyes. If you are not wearing eye protection, pesticides can get into your eyes from accidental splashes, pesticide blowing in the wind, or your hands if you rub your eyes without washing your hands first.

\*The Lungs. Without protective equipment, pesticides can enter your lungs from inhaling fumes, dust or fine mist, from prolonged exposure to pesticides in poorly ventilated areas, from reentering a pesticide-treated area too soon, or from using inadequate equipment.

#### **Protecting Your Body**

You can help prevent pesticide exposure by wearing the right clothing and using the correct equipment. Follow all directions and precautions that appear on product labels.

Make sure all your employees understand what they should be wearing. Require them to wear protective equipment whenever they are handling pesticides.

The following are various items of protective clothing and equipment you should consider for yourself and your employees who will be handling pesticides.

\*Body Covering. Always cover as much skin as possible with long-sleeved coveralls, shirts or pants. They should be clean, dry, and free of holes and tears. Collars and cuffs should fit snugly when you button them.

\*Gloves. Liquid-proof neoprene gloves are recommended for handling liquid pesticides. The gloves should be long enough to protect your wrists. However, they should not be lined with fabric because fabric can absorb chemicals. Keep sleeves outside of your gloves to help prevent chemical from seeping down your sleeves.

\*Hat. A wide-brimmed hat will protect your neck, eyes, mouth and face. You also can use a protective hood that attaches to special coveralls. The hat should not have a cloth or leather sweatband. Consider a plastic, liquid-proof hard hat that's cool in hot weather.

\*Boots or Shoes. Neoprene boots are recommended when you handle large quantities of pesticides because canvas, cloth or leather shoes can absorb pesticides. Sturdy shoes and socks are sufficient for some lighter applications. Wear pant legs outside to keep pesticides from seeping into your boots or shoes.

\*Apron. It's a good idea to wear a rubber apron when mixing and handling liquid pesticides. It gives you a lot of protection against spills, container leaks and broken hoses.

\*Goggles or Face Shield. Wear eye protection anytime there is any chance of getting pesticides in your eyes. Eye protection is an absolute must if you are mixing pesticides marked Warning or Danger. If you wear prescription glasses, use a face shield.

\*Respirator. A dust mask is no substitute for a proper respirator. There are several types of acceptable respirators, with cartridge and canister types being the most common. Choose the correct respirator for the types of jobs you are doing. Be sure the respirator is approved for pesticide use and that it fits the applicator. Keep the respirator clean and change filters regularly. Respirators may feel uncomfortable, but they are good insurance.

## **Pesticide Handling Precautions**

Make safety part of your regular rou-

tine. Train your employees to follow safe practices. Don't let new hires handle pesticides until you are certain they understand and will follow correct procedures.

The following are some special precautions you should consider making part of the routine procedure.

\*What you wear to handle pesticides should be used for this purpose only.

\*If your clothing becomes contaminated, change immediately. Don't wait until you've finished your job.

\*Always wear neoprene gloves when you handle and rinse contaminated clothing.

\*Wash clothing and protective equipment daily. Always wear clean clothes each day.

\*Empty all pockets of any pesticide granules outside.

\*Keep contaminated clothing in containers separate from all other laundry and always wash contaminated clothing separately.

\*Test gloves for leaks by filling them with water and gently squeezing. If you find leaks, get a new pair of gloves.

## **Taking Care of Spills**

Despite the best precautions, accidents do happen. Make sure your employees understand how to handle a pesticide emergency. Post lists of emergency procedures in easy-to-find locations. Keep a copy of procedures in all trucks.

The first thing to do in a pesticide emergency is don't panic. Call the local fire department and state pesticide authorities immediately. Seek first aid for anyone injured. Try to contain spills by using a chemical spill absorbent. Keep people away from the area.

Chemtrec (Chemical Transportation Emergency Center) has a toll-free number (800-424-9300) that you can call day or night for help in chemical emergencies involving spills, leaks, fires or explosions.

The responsibility you and your employees show helping to prevent accidents and handling any problems that do arise will have a direct effect on how you are perceived in the community. A well-prepared staff will reflect well on you and the pesticide application industry.

Technical credit: DowElanco.

# ROOKIES

# PRODUCT UPDATE

## VEHICLE ATTACHMENTS



Jacobsen's 2315 diesel and 2015 gas utility trucks have several attachments to increase their productivity. The topdresser has a 31.5-inch swath to cover greens quickly and easily. Hydraulic drive or gas engine power are available.

For spraying, Jacobsen offers two gas or PTO models. Both mechanical and jet agitation are available in one 16foot and two 20-foot booms. A spray gun can also be used.

A drum aerator is available for clean aeration without core collection. It covers a 42-inch swath with a six-by-six-inch pattern.

**JACOBSEN** 

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## TOPDRESSER

The Powaspred from SISIS is a versatile topdresser that will apply differing dressings from pure sand to loam mixtures of various densities. The Powaspred can handle topdressing with turf-controlled accuracy, hard play area topdressing, sharp sand for playing field application, and rock salt for winter maintenance on access roadways and footpaths.

The unit is extremely quiet in operation. A brush at the point of discharge powers the dressing into the base of the turf and a cut-off lever gives instant response. Hopper capacity is 14 cubic feet.

Spreading width is 48 inches. PTOdrive enables the operator to vary the discharge mechanism speed relative to the tractor forward travel speed allowing the operator to increase or decrease the application density by simple gear change on the tractor.

A wheeled version for towing is available for use with small-horsepower tractors and some all-terrain vehicles, with limited lifting capacity. A model with a spreading width of 78 inches is also available for use with tractors of 20-hp and above.

SISIS, INC.

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### MARKING PAINT

Turf Coat athletic field marking paint can be used for striping baseball diamonds, football, soccer, lacrosse, and polo fields. It can be used on virtually any natural turf surface and comes in three different price ranges.

JS SPORTS TURF

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## VALVE AND METER BOXES

Applied Engineering Products has a complete line of plastic underground valve and meter boxes for use in areas where strength and durability are required. Sizes range from a six-inch round box with a security twist lock cover, to the 13-by-20-inch jumbo boxes. All products can be locked where security is necessary, and still provide required access by authorized personnel.

APPLIED ENGINEERING PRODUCTS

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## PERMANENT LINES

Safety-Line is designed to be a permanent alternative to chalk lines on grass fields. It has a highly visible non-skid top that is safe for players or lawn equipment.

It can be used around soccer fields, volleyball courts, and as permanent baseball/softball foul lines.

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# **ROOKIES**

# PRODUCT UPDATE

## STRIPER



The Brite Striper 1500 is a gasolinepowered line marker that has three large, fully pneumatic 10-inch wheels and a seven-gallon stainless-steel tank. It can stripe 100 linear feet per minute.

The unit also has a side outlet valve on the paint tank to simplify cleaning and a Thomas diaphragm-type compressor to prevent time-consuming problems associated with oil mixing with marking paint.

PIONEER MANUFACTURING

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#### FERTILIZER

Scotts NPK Greens fertilizer has an equal ratio of nitrogen and potash plus phosphorus, and fine particle consistency to allow greater flexibility in programming for greens and high-maintenance fairways.

The product provides uniform coverage and turf safety with consistent growth rates. The particles break down quickly, minimizing the chance of mower pick-up or interference with play. Each particle offers the same nutritional balance and is not dependent on soil pH for release.

Dry-applied, the fertilizer makes plants hardier with thicker cell walls, increasing resistance to drought and disease. It also reduces bermudagrass and winter-kill.

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## BENTGRASS

Southshore creeping bentgrass produces a dense, upright turf, and exhibits a medium-fine texture that produces less grain. It displays excellent resistance

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