

**“I said,
I want rain!”**

At Rain Master, we understand the frustration of dealing with the elements. You may have snow in May, heat waves at Christmas, and even normal weather from time to time. If only it was as easy as a simple call to Mother Nature.

But Rain Master puts you in control. Whatever the conditions, our irrigation systems let you adjust to your particular needs. From the extensive capabilities of Evolution, to the simplicity of Ultra-Dial, Rain Master has the right system for you at a cost you'll feel good about.

You may not be able to influence nature's ways, but with the help of Rain Master you can control the end result.

Circle 101 on Postage Free Card

 **RAIN MASTER®**

Where control is our only business.

4645-2B INDUSTRIAL STREET • SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063
TELEPHONE (805) 527-4498



EVERGREEN[®]

TURF COVERING SYSTEMS

Guaranteed Picture Perfect Results



Unretouched photo of Lionhead Golf and Country Club, April 10, 1992.
Same results recorded on athletic fields.

***Evergreen . . . the affordable multi-purpose
turf cover . . . look at the results . . .***

Evergreen does it all.

- **AFFORDABLE** . . . pennies per foot per year.
Quality to satisfy all budgets.
- **DURABLE** . . . our resilient covers last longer than 7 years.
- **PROTECTION** . . . superior ice control and winter protection.
Evergreen Ice Shield is also available.
- **MAINTENANCE** . . . quick and easy installation and removal.
- **NEW CONSTRUCTION** . . . the cover acts as a growing enhancement
system and the results are proven beyond compare.
- **SATISFACTION** . . . join the thousands of the unbelievably satisfied Evergreen owners.



"UNBELIEVABLE"
Barry Britton

SEP 20 1992

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES

For further information and a free video on Evergreen or the location of your nearest distributor, please contact:

HINSPIRGERS POLY INDUSTRIES LTD.
645 Needham Lane, Mississauga, Ontario L5A 1T9
Toll Free 1-800-388-7871

Circle 102 on Postage Free Card



COVERMASTER, INC.
100 Westmore Dr., 11-D Rexdale, Ont. M9V 5C3
Toll Free 1-800-387-5808

sportsTURF

PROGRAM



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

STMA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT **DR. GIL LANDRY, JR.**
PAST PRESIDENT **GEORGE ROKOSH**
PRESIDENT-ELECT **GREG PETRY**
COMMERCIAL VICE PRESIDENT **LARRY PEROTTI**
SECRETARY **DR. DAVID MINNER**
TREASURER **KEN MROCK**
STMA BOARD MEMBERS **STEPHEN GUISE, JOSEPH
ARDOLINO, DR. HENRY INDYK, JESSE CUEVAS, ROBERT
MILANO, STEPHEN COCKERHAM, STEVE WIGHTMAN**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **BRET KELSEY**

STMA OFFICE

401 N. MICHIGAN AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60611/312-644-6610

MAGAZINE STAFF

PRESIDENT **MARK ADAMS**
PUBLISHER **BRUCE F. SHANK**
EDITOR **MATTHEW TRULIO**
SENIOR TECHNICAL EDITOR **HOLLY GIBSON**
ASSISTANT EDITOR **THERESA DELIA**
VICE PRESIDENT SALES/OPERATIONS **COLLEEN LONG**
ADVERTISING SALES **BRUCE D. LORIA**
ART DIRECTOR **SUSANNE K. NOBLE**
ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR **JIM GOW**
PRODUCTION **PAM RITCHIE**
DIRECTOR/CIRCULATION **DENISE ALLEN**
CONTROLLER **MARSHA J. WASSER**
FULFILLMENT **IRINE PRASTIO, MARY KAY LUCZYNSKI**
ADVERTISING COORDINATOR **IRENE LANG**
ADVISORY BOARD **ED BIRCH, TOM COOK, WILLIAM
DANIEL, VIC GIBEAULT, DON HOGAN, HENRY INDYK,
WILLIAM KNOOP, JOHN LIBURDI, DAVID MINNER, KEN
MROCK, MIKE SCHILLER.**

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
(818)781-8300, FAX (818)781-8517

sportsTURF Magazine (ISSN 1061-687X) is published monthly except
in December by Gold Trade Publications, Inc. Material in this publica-
tion may not be reproduced or photocopied in any form without the writ-
ten permission of the publisher.

Copyright © 1992. Member of the
Business Publications Audit of Circulation, Inc.



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

ONE YEAR \$33 TWO YEARS \$50
FOREIGN (ONE YEAR) \$55 SINGLE COPY \$5

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID at Van Nuys, CA and at addition-
al mailing offices.

Postmaster: Please send change of address to sportsTURF, P.O.
Box 8420, Van Nuys, CA 91409.

VOLUME EIGHT, NUMBER NINE

SEPTEMBER 1992

MAIN EVENTS

8 GOING UNDER COVERS

Widely accepted among sports turf managers and golf course
superintendents, field covers are vital additions to turf care arsenals.
Here's a look at several major cover benefits and tips for choosing
the right one for the job.

14 EROSION CONTROL: TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Keeping sediment in its place during sports field and golf course con-
struction is more than environmentally responsible—in many places
across the nation, it's the law. Although there is no single soil
stabilization recipe, getting to know the basic tools and their
applications is essential for creating site-specific erosion control plans.

18 LIMITED WATER SEED PRIMING

Various methods of seed priming can slash germination time in half. Of
these techniques, says Dr. Doug Brede, "limited water priming" is the
easiest to perform. An overview.

24 STMA PROFILE: KEN MROCK—SETTING TABLES FOR BEARS

They're not problems, they're *challenges*, not headaches but
opportunities—the can-do attitude of Ken Mrock, chief
groundskeeper for the Chicago Bears, has helped propel the
team to the playoffs for six of the last seven seasons.

LINE-UP

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 6 FRONT OFFICE | 22 STMA IN ACTION |
| 6 EVENTS | 32 ROOKIES |
| 13 EXPLORING
EQUIPMENT | 34 SCOREBOARD |
| 21 CHEMICAL LOG | |

ON THE COVER: (from left) Chicago Bears Coach Mike Ditka,
George Toma, and Bear Chief Groundskeeper Ken Mrock.
Photo courtesy Ken Mrock.

The Irrigation Association's 1992 International Irrigation Exposition & Technical Conference

November 1-4, 1992
New Orleans, LA



It's the showcase for the industry's latest products and services...From the most complete information on water conservation methods to the newest strategies in management...The Irrigation Association's International Exposition and Technical Conference is the only place to be if you're involved in irrigation.

“The IA show is excellent for anyone involved in irrigation. The people who stop at your booth have the power to buy, so you aren't wasting your time.”

Eagle Plastics, Inc., Hastings, NE

“The IA show is for exhibiting to a more International market.”

Cadman Power Equipment, Ontario

NAME _____
COMPANY _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
COUNTRY _____
TEL/TELEX/FAX _____

ALSO SEND EXHIBITOR INFORMATION.



For more information contact:

The Irrigation Association:
1911 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1009
Arlington, VA 22209-1630
Tel: (703) 524-1200
Fax: (703) 524-9544

For special convention travel rates contact:

Global Travel/Carlson Travel Network
1-800-447-2455

THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

A CALL TO CAMERAS



Over the years, we've profiled dozens of outstanding turf managers—people like Murray Cook and Steve Wightman, people who “bleed green” for turf excellence. We work hard to capture not only the turf management techniques and philosophies these people use to succeed consistently, but *who* they are. We feel an obligation to tell their stories well.

Photographs are a big part of that “telling.” Without them, profiles—and most articles—are

incomplete. It makes little sense for us to chronicle how someone manages an outstanding field without showing you photos of the field itself. These shots are usually taken and provided by the turf managers and superintendents themselves. And a number of them are pretty talented photographers!

But you don't have to be an expert photographer to take decent pictures—you don't have to spend a lot of money on equipment. You need only bring whatever camera you own to work and use it. If you don't own a camera, there are plenty of inexpensive models out there that do everything but put themselves back in the case. Photo gear has progressed to the point where amateurs can take “expert” shots without a life's worth of study, practice, and capital.

Even if you're not tapped for a magazine profile (and we could fill every issue until the year 2000 with nothing but profiles and still be a long way from spotlighting everyone deserving), it makes good sense to take pictures of your field in top condition, especially if you took over a field in decline and brought it back to life. A good set of “before and after” shots could come in handy during salary negotiations, or even job interviews.

Photographing your field is more than a possible career advancement tool. It's about pride in a job well done—about capturing a moment when everything clicked.

The efforts and sacrifice top-notch turf managers make to keep their fields in shape are astounding. Words alone cannot do them justice. If it's worth doing right, it's worth preserving on film.

Matthew Trulio

EVENTS

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

28 Athletic Field Seminar Doubleday Field, Cooperstown, NY. Contact: New York State Turfgrass Association (800) 873-TURF or (518) 783-1229.

29 California Regional Sports Turf Institute, Santa Anita Race Track, Arcadia, CA. Contact: Steve Guise (818) 574-6378.

OCTOBER

2-4 11th Annual Mickey Mantle Celebrity Golf Classic, Shangri-La Resort and Conference Center, Afton, OK. Contact: Shangri-La Resort (800) 331-4060

7-8 32nd Annual Southern California Turfgrass Expo, Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, CA. Contact: Southern California Turfgrass Expo (714) 951-8547.

21-24 46th Northwest Turfgrass Conference and Exhibition, Sunriver Lodge and Resort, Sunriver, OR. Contact: NTA Office (206) 754-0825.

NOVEMBER

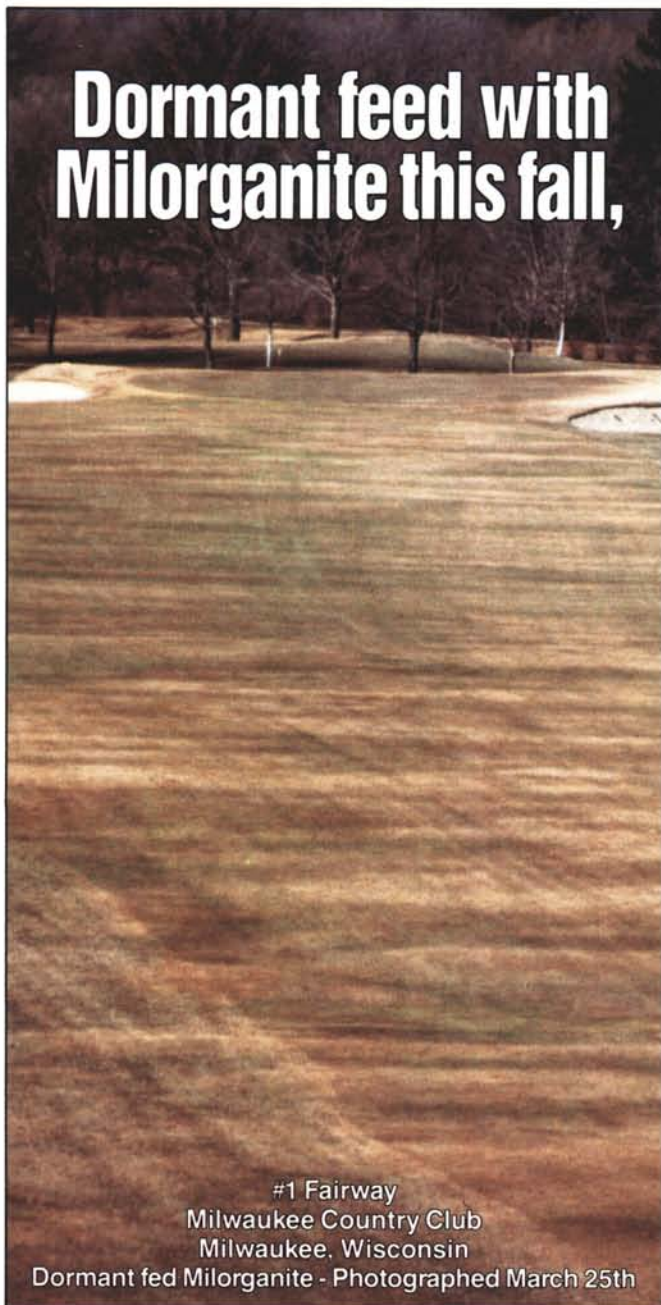
8-10 Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association Meeting, King & Prince Hotel, St. Simons Island, GA. Contact: Karen White, GGCSA (404) 769-4076.

8-11 22nd Annual Education Conference and Show of the National Institute on Park and Ground Management, Richmond, VA. Contact: NIPGM (414) 733-2301.

12-14 Arbor Expo '92, Clarion Plaza Hotel, Orlando, FL. Contact: Jeff Tappeiner (818) 781-8300.

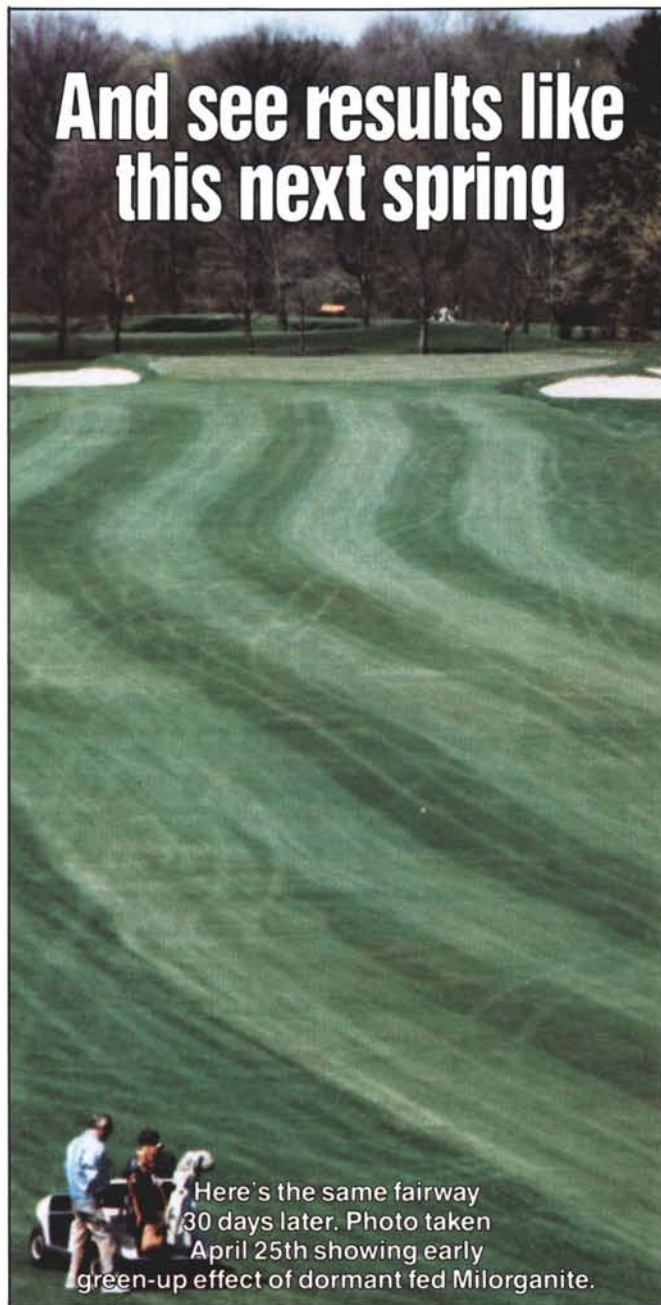
Send announcements on your events two months in advance to editor, sportsTURF magazine, P.O. Box 8420, Van Nuys, CA 91409 or FAX to (818) 781-8517.

Dormant feed with Milorganite this fall,



#1 Fairway
Milwaukee Country Club
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Dormant fed Milorganite - Photographed March 25th

And see results like this next spring



Here's the same fairway
30 days later. Photo taken
April 25th showing early
green-up effect of dormant fed Milorganite.

Why Dormant Feed Milorganite?

Reduce Operating Costs

You'll save time and money. Apply Milorganite in late fall for efficient labor and nutrient use. More time is available for you and your staff in late fall, and spring time crunches will be avoided when you dormant feed Milorganite.

The W.I.N. Factor

Dormant applied Milorganite does not burn, leach, or lose its nutritive value due to a 90% Water Insoluble Nitrogen (W.I.N.) factor.

Rich In Chelated Iron

Your turf will look great. Milorganite provides 4% min. iron and a full package of nutrients. That means an early

spring green-up without excessive growth, with the iron content carrying the rich color well into the heat of summer.

FREE LITERATURE

Mail in the coupon below for further information or call 414-225-3333.

- Milorganite's Iron — Technical Bulletin
 Please send other Milorganite Information

6ST-S

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

() _____

PHONE # _____

Mail to: Milorganite • P.O. Box 3049 • Milwaukee, WI 53201-3049



America's Number One
Naturally Organic Fertilizer



Going Under Covers

By Peter Hinsperger

Three covers blanket the entire football field at Mile High Stadium in Denver. Photos courtesy Hinsperger Poly Industries, Ltd., Evergreen covers supplied by Covermaster, Inc.

Since the early 1980s, *pressure* has been the name of the game for golf course and athletic field superintendents. Play on most golf courses and athletic fields has increased dramatically. Weather patterns have changed. Northern regions are getting much less protective snow cover. Many southern regions are getting more intense cold periods with killing frosts. Government restrictions have increased on the use and types of chemicals, as well as reduced water use. Construction and maintenance costs are rising.

With these and other problems facing the turf industry, those involved must utilize every tool available to deliver the best product possible at a cost that will not attack profit margins.

Covers are one such tool. Various fabrics for protecting turf were initially experimented with in the 1960s. Many



Outfield cover application at Pilot Field in Buffalo, NY.