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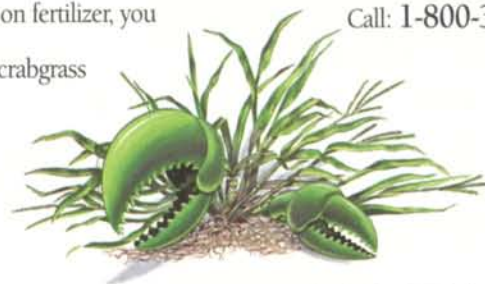
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# sportsTURF

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VOLUME NINE, NUMBER TWO

FEBRUARY 1993

## MAIN EVENTS

### 8 DRAINAGE FROM GROUND ZERO

Adequate drainage is one the keys to safe, healthy turf. On that there is little disagreement. How to achieve this goal is another matter. Four leading sports field design and construction firms detail their individual drainage strategies, revealing why they do what they do.

### 16 PATHS TO WILDFLOWER SUCCESS

Wildflowers grow naturally, but they do have certain requirements for success. Here's a look at wildflower mix development, purchasing considerations, establishment, and maintenance requirements.

### 20 STMA PROFILE: MIKE MCCAFFREY— BUILDING ON COMMUNITY COOPERATION

When it comes to keeping up the athletic fields in Carroll, IA, cooperation and community go hand-in-hand. That kind of teamwork makes good, common sense to Mike McCaffrey, supervisor of building and grounds for the Carroll community schools.

### 25 MISSION VIEJO TAKES THE WORLD CUP CHALLENGE

Known for producing world-class swimmers, divers, and water polo players, Mission Viejo, CA, will soon be home to a more "grounded" group of athletes—the United States Soccer Team. No matter how far the U.S. Soccer Team progresses in World Cup 1994, its new Mission Viejo practice facility is sure to be a winner.

## LINE-UP

6	FRONT OFFICE	29	CHEMICAL LOG
6	EVENTS	30	STMA IN ACTION
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21	PRODUCT SHOWCASE	34	SCOREBOARD

**ON THE COVER:** Wildflowers frame a green at Big Horn Golf Club in Palm Desert, CA. Photo ©1992 Larry Kassell, courtesy of Turf Seed, Inc.





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# THE FRONT OFFICE

## OPINION PAGE

### No Easy Answers



If you want something done right, like the construction of an athletic field, you *don't* necessarily have to do it yourself. However, if you're going to be responsible for a field under construction in your town, campus, or stadium, you'd be well-advised to watch the process carefully. If you have any questions at all regarding meeting specifications, building procedures or materials, you shouldn't hesitate to ask. Any reputable field builder will gladly answer your questions.

"That's easy to say," a grounds manager told me during a panel discussion at the Sports Turf Managers

Association's recent annual conference in Indianapolis, "but how are you supposed to know what's right and what isn't?"

If only it were that simple. Unfortunately, there is no single "correct" way to build a field, although proponents of various concepts and techniques would argue otherwise. A number of field construction philosophies have met with success. A number have failed. But very few of these successes and failures, at least in my limited experience, can be attributed to a single factor. Most are caused by a combination of factors. I subscribe to "domino" theory of why things, including athletic fields, go well or poorly.

Consider the following scenario: A contractor cuts corners on root zone drainage materials during spring time construction. That winter, the field receives more rain than it has in the last 20 years. The sports turf manager is new and has never faced a drainage problem.

On its own, each factor isn't necessarily a field killer. Combined, they spell disaster.

Sports fields are dynamic—they're living, constantly changing things. Their construction is important, but no more than the expertise and dedication of the people managing them, their equipment and budget, and in the cases of diminished resources, their *resourcefulness*. Plenty of turf managers have done well with poorly constructed fields. Plenty have done poorly with well-constructed fields. Rarely is there a simplistic explanation for each success or failure.

In this issue, there's an article detailing the drainage philosophies of four major sports field design and construction companies. I encourage you to read and digest it. I encourage you to contact each company with questions.

You cannot have *enough* information. Combined with your watchful eyes, it's your best insurance against the domino effect that leads to field disasters.

Matthew Trulio

# EVENTS

## CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

**24-25** The Landscape Industry Show, Long Beach Convention Center, Long Beach, CA. Contact: (916) 448-2522.

### MARCH

**1-3** Massachusetts Turf and Lawngrass Association 62nd Annual Turfgrass Conference and Industrial Show, Springfield, MA. Contact: MTLA (413) 549-5295 or Mary Owen (508) 831-1225.

**3-4** Ontario Parks Association 37th Annual Educational Seminar, Humber College, Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada. Contact: Ontario Parks Association (416) 495-3440.

**4-5** Golf Course Wastewater Symposium, Newport Beach Marriott Hotel, Newport Beach, CA. Contact: Dr. Michael Kenna (405) 743-3900, or Dr. Kimberly Erusha (908) 234-2300.

**9-10** Sports Turf Management Short Course, Riverside, CA. Contact: UC Extension (909) 787-5804 x624.

**12** 4th Annual Turf Management Seminar, Cuyamaca College, El Cajon, CA. Contact: Diana Landis (619) 670-1980 x262.

**23** Sports Turf Institute & Grounds Operations Conference, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA. Contact: Dr. Kent Kurtz (909) 869-2219.

### JULY

**8** University of Georgia Turfgrass Field Day, Georgia Station, Griffin, GA. Contact: Georgia Turfgrass Association (404) 975-4123 or Extension Conference Office (912) 681-5189.

**18-24** International Turfgrass Society's 7th International Turfgrass Research Conference, Breakers Resort, Palm Beach, FL. Contact: Dr. George Snyder (407) 996-3062 or Dr. John Cisar (305) 475-8990.

Send announcements on your events  
two months in advance to:  
editor, sportsTURF magazine,  
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## SANDOZ AND SCOTTS SIGN AGREEMENT

Sandoz Agro, Inc. and The O.M. Scott & Sons Company signed a limited time, exclusive agreement for Rizolex fungicide. As a stand-alone product or in combination as a fungicide premix, it provides brown patch and snow mold control for both cool- and warm-season turf applications.

Sandoz expects Rizolex to be registered as early as 1994, with the market launch of Scotts' products formulated with Rizolex possible in 1995. Scotts estimates that it will use the fungicide in up to six products within the company's current and future fungicide line.

## KOONTZ JOINS AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

Edward R. Koontz has been appointed manager of the golf course construction department for American Landscape, Inc., Canoga Park, CA. He has supervised the construction of golf courses internationally, including Saudi Arabia.

Koontz has worked with Robert Trent Jones II on several courses in Hawaii and Colorado, and with Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer in Guam.

His projects include the Antelope Valley Country Club in Palmdale, Del Webb's Sun City in Palm Springs, the Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, and the Newport Beach Country Club in Newport Beach.

## MARQUARDT NAMED RHONE-POULENC MANAGER

Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company has named Terry Marquardt as development manager for the Chipco/Specialty Products Group. His responsibilities will include leading the Chipco product and field development groups in the pursuit of developing new products, expanding product labels, and supporting existing product labels.

Marquardt joined the company 12 years ago as a TEMIK product specialist. He has held managerial positions in customer relations, information management, and technical development services.

## FTA OFFERS EDUCATIONAL TOOL

The Florida Turfgrass Association has created an activity booklet for children with coloring pages, cartoon characters, word puzzles, and drawing games to illustrate the importance of turfgrass to the environment.

Tiffany Turf, Suzy Sprinkle, and Handy Andy show children turfgrass's abilities, including trapping air pollutants, absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing

oxygen, filtering and filling underground water supplies, cooling the planet, preventing erosion, and providing playing fields for sports and recreation. A connect-the-dot mole cricket and broadleaf weed remind children that the turfgrass has enemies and needs care to grow properly.

FTGA is offering this booklet to schools, government offices, and retail outlets. For more information, contact the FTGA office at (800) 882-6721.

Join the wise members of your industry who have discovered that to get the best sportsturf, you must:

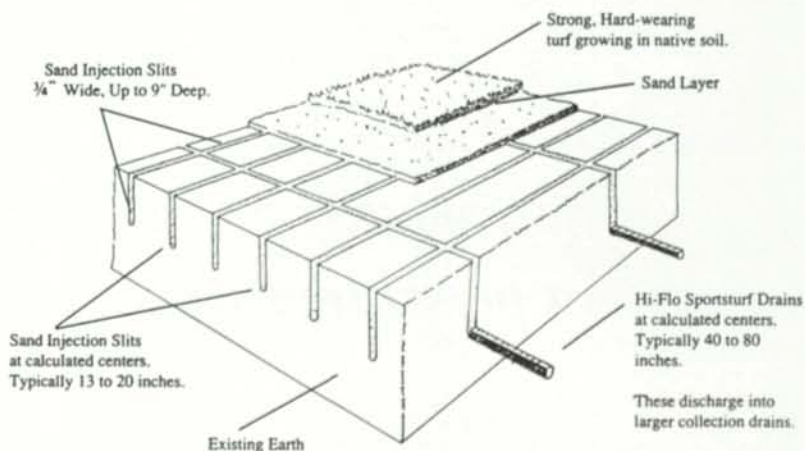
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# Drainage From Ground Zero

**T***he two network commentators can't stop talking about it, and for good reason — the field is a marsh. It starts bad and gets worse. The grounds crew does everything possible, but their efforts are futile.*

**S**ixteen hard-fought games for each of the two teams lead up to this, a mud bowl that looks more like a year-end blooper highlights film than a championship contest. The winning team is relieved when the final gun sounds. The loser is simply angry.

How many times has this scenario been played out over the years? How many times has a sloppy field seriously affected the outcome of a game, from the National Football League to high schools around the country?

While drainage certainly isn't the answer to all athletic field problems, it is the solution to many. Drainage affects not only the obvious, such as field playability, safety, and aesthetics, but the subtle, including the turf's ability to root, pest and disease susceptibility, compaction, and nutrient availability. If water is both life and death for turf, drainage is often the difference between the two

Stuck in a problem situation and short on funds, you may have to live with whatever drainage, or lack of, you inherited with your field. Regular aeration, top-

dressing, and use of soil amendments will help improve your situation. But if you're fortunate enough to be in a new field construction or rebuilding situation, understanding what's available, and how it works, will go a long way toward helping you make a choice.

Nobody argues the importance of drainage. How to achieve it, however, is matter of some disagreement. What follows are the drainage approaches, the hows and whys, of four athletic field design and construction companies.

*continued on page 12*