A Few Plugs For A Zoysiagrass That Doesn’t Even Need Any.

Sunrise Brand seeded Zoysiagrass from Jacklin Seed and International Seeds. It’s everything you want from a Zoysiagrass. Without the plugs.

Less Water.
Sunrise Brand seeded Zoysiagrass is exceptionally drought tolerant – requiring little or no watering in many areas.

More Wear and Tear.
In wear tests, Sunrise Brand seeded Zoysia far outlasts other warm-season varieties.

Less Maintenance.
Sunrise Brand seeded Zoysia needs infrequent mowing and little or no fertilizer to maintain its thick green appearance.

Seeded, Not Sprigged.
Sunrise Brand Zoysia is seeded. So you can have beautiful turf in weeks, instead of years from plugging.

JACKLIN Seed Company

INTERNATIONAL SEEDS, INC.
Two Championship Teams
75,000 Screaming Fans
80,000 Square Feet of Turf...

and a no-nonsense Head Groundskeeper who only specifies Hunter gear-driven rotors:

"Whether we're prepping the field for the Super Bowl or for regular season Dolphin and Marlin games, we need the best. That's why we use Hunter I-40s and I-25s. Their stainless steel risers never give up, and the arc and radius are so easy to adjust, we can fine tune each zone. Best of all, Hunter rubber covers keep the field safe for Steve, Stan and all the guys."

I-20 Rotor  
I-25 Rotor  
I-40 Rotor  
HBV Valve

The Irrigation Innovators
MAIN EVENTS

10 The Beam Clay College Baseball Diamond of the Year 1994-1995: Trinity University's E.M. Stevens Field
Mike Schweitzer, director of grounds for San Antonio's Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, took a field he calls "old as dirt" and transformed it into the College Baseball Diamond of the Year. Bob Tracinski profiles Schweitzer, who reworked the field as part of a major renovation of the student recreation center and athletic department facilities at Trinity University.

14 How Safe Are Your Fields? — What a Safety Audit Can Do For You
Perhaps the single most important aspect of field maintenance today is safety. Athletic facilities must be properly maintained to protect users from injury and to protect field owners and operators from frivolous lawsuits. Floyd Perry and Steve Guise offer some basic guidelines for maintaining safe conditions on athletic fields.

18 Irrigation Considerations for Athletic Fields
Many sports facilities that had previously featured artificial turf are switching to natural grass, and other facilities that already have grass surfaces are looking for ways to improve the quality of the field. Proper irrigation is a key element in maintaining a high-quality athletic surface. Irrigation Editor Robert Reaves looks at some of the most important considerations in designing and implementing efficient irrigation systems for athletic facilities.

22 Turf of the Month: Common Bermudagrass
Though frequently overshadowed by its hybrid siblings, common Bermuda remains a popular choice for sports turf managers on a limited budget. This easily established turfgrass is often used on high school fields, municipal fields and college practice fields. Producers and users offer their insights on the use and care of this drought-tolerant turfgrass.

26 SUNY-Cobleskill Students Build Irrigation System for Soccer Field
Students at the State University of New York's Cobleskill campus designed and installed an automated irrigation system for the soccer field at the school. Alan Ginsburg goes behind the scenes at SUNY-Cobleskill to find out how they did it.

LINE-UP

On the Cover:
Proper irrigation helps keep the turf in top condition at Comiskey Park in Chicago. Photo courtesy: Hunter Industries.
D uring my term as president, I, along with the board of the directors, have seen the steady improvement of our science, our profession and our association. I have enjoyed the opportunity to share this news with you through this column.

President Theodore Roosevelt once stated, "Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within its sphere." You invest a lot of time and energy into your profession and your field — the degree of success your organization has depends on that investment. The same holds true for associations. Your dues dollars represent an investment, just as in a business. The association can perform functions and services, but to be successful, it requires time and energy from its members.

A recent survey indicated that 85 percent of economic failures were firms not connected with associations. The professional who rebels against paying association dues is the first to criticize the value of that association. However, that person is always in the front of the line to reap the industry benefits that come his/her way as a result of an association’s efforts through its dues-paying members. These benefits are not from a payment — they are the result of hard work and efforts by a number of individuals who devote their time and energy to get tasks done.

Sports turf management as a profession will grow as long as working professionals want it to. We have seen steady change in the STMA. It can only get better. However, success of this association and our profession cannot occur without your support. If you are not involved in a professional association, make it a priority to seek one out and become an active member. Your future success depends on it.

STMA CHAPTER NEWS

Colorado Chapter: The Colorado Chapter will hold a Summer Seminar/Workshop at Coors Field in Denver, CO, on June 29. More details will be announced soon. For more information on the seminar, the Colorado Chapter or other upcoming activities contact Ross Kurcab, Denver Broncos, at (303) 649-9000 or Mark Leasure, Colorado Springs Sky Sox, at (719) 597-1449.

Southern California Chapter: The Southern California Chapter will hold a Turf and Landscape Seminar from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 27 at Sea World in San Diego. Multiple demonstrations are planned for the morning sessions covering such topics as big roll sod, pruning, bedding plants, aeration and mowing comparisons. After the last afternoon session, attendees will be given a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility. Following the tour, participants are invited to stay and enjoy Sea World. For more information on the seminar, contact Sea World personnel Mark Peacock at (619) 226-3900, ext. 2209, or Jeff Hall at (619) 226-3900, ext. 2207. For information on the Southern California Chapter and other upcoming activities contact Chris Bunnell at (619) 432-2421.

Midwest Chapter: The Midwest Chapter is planning an Athletic Field Layout and Lining Seminar for May 11 at the Elk Grove Park District in Elk Grove Village, IL. The meeting will feature field marking product and equipment demonstrations and include the opportunity to ask questions of the dealer representatives. More details will be announced soon. Midwest Chapter board meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month. Chapter members are invited to attend. For information on the seminar, the chapter, board meetings or other upcoming activities, call the Chapter Hotline at (708) 439-4727.

Attention Sports Turf Managers!!!

The STMA needs your help. The Education Committee is in the process of evaluating programs that may be offered in the future. Please take a few minutes to fill out the STMA Survey on page 30. This survey will help the Education Committee in determining your interest and need for seminars and/or schools to benefit the membership of the Sports Turf Managers Association. You can return the survey by mail to Trusty and Associates, 12 Rolling Hills, Council Bluffs, IA 51503; or fax your response to (712) 366-9119. Thank you.

Education Committee
Mike Trigg, Chairman
Mary Owen
Steve Trusty
April Showers

April has been called the cruelest month, perhaps because the weather is so unpredictable. Even if you're not Willard Scott (and aren't you glad you're not?), you can make certain predictions about the weather in April with reasonable accuracy. For example, everyone knows that Southern California will be sunny and warm, unless a wayward storm system bashes the Pacific Coast again. Anybody who has lived in or near Chicago or Minneapolis knows that Frosty the Snowman will probably get at least one more chance to play before the duffers can dust off their golf clubs. If Mother Nature were a radio DJ, her April playlist would be more likely to include James Taylor's "Shower the People" than John Denver's "Sunshine on My Shoulders" in some parts of the country.

However, the preponderance of April showers does not diminish the need for sports turf managers to be acutely aware of the need for proper irrigation of athletic fields, the primary topic of two articles in this month's issue. Our new irrigation editor, Robert Reaves, discusses some of the most important factors concerning proper irrigation of sports fields, including chemigation, fertigation and proper maintenance of irrigation systems. Meanwhile, Alan Ginsburg profiles SUNY-Cobleskill Plant Science Professor George Crosby and the students in his irrigation course who designed and built a new automated irrigation system for the school's soccer field.

While irrigation may be the primary focus of this month's issue, don't overlook the other informative features. Most sports turf managers are aware that safety is an important issue in the industry, but many have not outlined specific safety procedures for their facility. Floyd Perry and Steve Guise can help you get the ball rolling with the guidelines detailed in their article this month.

Finally, E.M. Stevens Field at Trinity University in San Antonio is a true rags-to-riches story of effective sports turf management. Director of Grounds Mike Schweitzer offers some valuable tips for all turf managers in Bob Tracinski's profile of the College Baseball Diamond of the Year. Sports turf managers should keep in mind that it's never too early to start thinking about next year, particularly if you manage a potential Diamond of the Year candidate. If you haven't begun one already, start a log of your maintenance procedures and start taking pictures of your facility for documentation now. Perhaps your facility will be profiled in sportsTURF as Baseball Diamond of the Year for 1995-1996!

Mike Augsdorfer

Mike Augsdorfer

EVENTS

APRIL


27 Landscape and Lawn Seminar sponsored by the Southern California Chapter STMA. Sea World, San Diego. Contact: Chris Bunnell, (619) 432-2421.

MAY

1-3 Forty-ninth Annual Southeast Turfgrass Conference. Rural Development Center, Tifton, GA. Contact: Jeanne Werner, (912) 386-3416.

2-3 Two half-day workshops, "Microscopic Identification of Turfgrass Diseases." Cook College, Rutgers University. Contact: (908) 932-9271.


6 Second Annual Tees for Trees Golf Tournament sponsored by the Coachella Valley Chapter of the CLCA. Rancho Mirage Country Club, Rancho Mirage, CA. Contact: Jim Head, (619) 776-4250 or Garrett Jones, (619) 775-4343.

continued on page 21

Send announcements of your events two months in advance to: Editor, sportsTURF Magazine, 68-860 Perez Road, Suite J, Cathedral City, CA 92234. Fax (619) 770-8019.
Want to make a diamond sparkle?

Build a Workman® to work for you.

By combining the attachments and tools you need to do jobs better and faster, powered by our versatile 2 or 4 wheel drive vehicle.

Like this Workman® vehicle with 3 pt. hitch groomer. Or use the optional 540 PTO and mow the outfield. Add mid PTO and operate split bed attachments; compressor, pressure washer, 4200 watt integrated generator and more.

What are your maintenance needs? Build a Workman® vehicle to work for you.
The 1994-1995
Beam Clay College
Diamond of the Year:
Trinity University's E.M. Stevens Field

By Bob Tracinski

E.M. Stevens Field was "as old as dirt" prior to its 1991 reconstruction, according to Mike Schweitzer, assistant director of physical plant/director of grounds for San Antonio's Trinity University. The field reworking was part of a major renovation of the student-recreation center and athletic-department facilities.

Schweitzer says, "Support from the administration and the athletic department was great. Even though the field reconstruction was the last thing on the total project, they didn't cut corners.

"After analysis of the existing materials, it was decided to retain the soil of the skinned portion of the original field and to modify it to attain an improved surface. Soil was excavated around all skinned portions of the infield, including basepaths, the mound and home plate area, and was replaced by a ten-inch layer of a native sandy loam from fields south of San Antonio. The same material was utilized to replace all existing soil in the outfield. After the final grade was achieved, 18 tons of calcined clay were added and tilled into the top six inches of the skinned area to create the desired playing surface."

Once the new soil was placed and graded, the field was sprigged with Tifway 419 Bermudagrass in May 1991 using a tractor-type sprigging machine. The final topdressing was made just prior to the start of the fall baseball season using 175 tons of washed green sand to finalize the grade, and final cuts were made around the infield. The Bermudagrass was overseeded with perennial ryegrass about October 21. "Because the field gradually slopes from left field toward the first base line, all surface runoff moves toward the first base corner of the infield. In an effort to minimize runoff, the field was intersected with a graveded and geotextiled French drain. The warning track along the entire right side of the field, from home plate to the right field foul pole, is equipped with surface drainage inlets to handle additional surface runoff."

"Trinity University is fortunate to have licensed irrigation technician Ted Morales on staff. He did the layout for the irrigation system, supervised installation and handles the maintenance of the automatic system. It incorporates Rain Bird R-50 and R-70 heads. The controllers and valves are by Weathermatic."

"The field was equipped with new fencing, seating, dugouts and metal halide lighting, and by November 1991 was essentially a new ballpark. Additional funds were wisely expended to rebuild the front portion of the mound with Beam clay. This upfront investment has cut the time and expense of rebuilding the mound every day. Only light reworking is needed."

Schweitzer wasn't attracted to sports turf care as a youngster. In fact, he hadn't decided on a major when he entered Texas Tech University. A friend suggested park administration, a combination of horticulture and landscape architecture. Schweitzer found he liked the courses and his job at a retail nursery, and he soon developed a real love for this field of study.

In 1984, he took a position as one of two superintendents of grounds for Texas Tech. After seven years in that position, he applied for the opening at Trinity University and came on board during the renovation of the NCAA Division III baseball field and surrounding facilities.

Schweitzer says, "I feel like I've died and gone to heaven. This is the best place in the world to work. Over the last three to four years, under the direction of Athletic Director Bob King, the various athletic programs have steadily grown in participation and popularity. We're a land-locked school with an enrollment of approximately 2,400, a large percentage of whom participate in sports at either the team or club level."

For the past three years Schweitzer has served as a volunteer assistant baseball coach, working practices around his duties as director of grounds, so his love for the field is twofold. Schweitzer oversees the grounds of the entire campus, including the outdoor sports facilities: the E.M. Stevens Baseball Field, the varsity football field, a softball field, soccer field and an intramural field that serves all sports.