

## HAPPENINGS

### Disney World Sports Hires Cook

Murray Cook has been hired by Walt Disney World Sports as its new baseball stadium manager for the new Disney Sports Complex. Mr. Cook will handle management of the sports fields and operations for the World Champion Atlanta Braves.

Most recently, Mr. Cook served as stadium manager and director of stadium operations at West Palm Beach Municipal Stadium, the spring training home for the Atlanta Braves and the Montreal Expos.

The Disney Sports Complex is a 92-acre facility designed to provide professional athletic fields for baseball, soccer, football, track and field, tennis, and softball, in addition to many indoor sports.

### GCSANC Schedules Educational Showcase

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (GCSANC) has announced the dates for their educational showcase, *The Golf Course Institute*. This year's event, to be held in Santa Cruz at the popular Coconut Grove, is scheduled for Monday, November 11, and Tuesday, November 12. The program begins with golf on Monday at one of legendary golf course architect Allister McKenzie's finest, Pasatiempo Golf Club.

This year's seminar will feature two central themes: drainage and waste management. Attendees will be exposed to the principles of drainage, water movement in soils and drainage solutions in the morning session, and topics such as managing liquid and solid waste in the afternoon. The seminar will conclude with an informative panel discussion on

drainage, featuring three talented superintendents. Contact the GCSANC office at (916) 626-0931 for more information.

### Lofts Seed Opens Web Site

Lofts Seed, a contributor to the turfgrass industry since 1923, launched its home site, [www.turf.com](http://www.turf.com), in March, and it's been growing ever since. It's designed to serve a wide array of customers, from the homeowner to the professional turf manager.

At [www.turf.com](http://www.turf.com), you will find answers to commonly asked questions, timely tips, news releases (which provide information on Lofts' newest developments), product information, a dealer locator, free literature offers and an opportunity to "Ask the Expert," where you can e-mail any type of question or comment directly to the company and it will be personally answered.

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# Fall is for Soccer?

By STMA members across the U.S.

**W**hile many dedicated sports fans across the country think fall is for football, the steadily growing numbers of soccer players may tip the scales of balance.

Soccer is a "when the grass is green" sport in most sections of the U.S. In cold weather climates, soccer play begins as soon as spring turf pops through the melting snow and continues into November, when frigid temperatures and snow shut it down. In warm-weather climates, with year-round schools and competitive soccer leagues for all ages, only the worst periods of the rainy season temporarily stop play.

Sports turf managers in charge of soccer fields, even those with multiple game and practice fields on their facilities, face escalating demands for field use. Keeping playing surfaces in good condition when maintenance practices must be squeezed into such tight schedules is a feat in itself. Sports turf managers from across the country have contributed the following tips on getting that job done right.

## **Work Smart with Maintenance Practices**

Aerate fields as frequently as possible to reduce compaction. If time and funds are limited, concentrate aeration on game fields and the heavy-use areas of practice fields. Reduce crew time by leaving cores on the field and allowing mower traffic to pulverize them.

Overseed frequently. Seed that is placed for germination will take hold when there are openings in the existing turf cover and conditions are right. Often, the times when you need to get seed down are the times you're least able to get it done. Keep pre-germinated seed ready for application in key locations when quick response is required.

Set up your own sod farm. Borrow a bit of space along the edge of fencing, beside a building, or in the outer area of the property to grow sod for emergency replacement of worn areas. Use the same grass

varieties growing in the soccer fields and follow your standard maintenance procedures so the sod will match the field's existing turf.

Gradually move mowing heights up or down to accommodate field use and weather conditions, rather than making sudden height adjustments that stress the turf. Plan to mow prior to games to create the best possible playing conditions.

Use soil testing at least annually to tailor fertilization programs to exact needs. Time fertilizer applications to turf growth patterns and "typical" weather cycles and, of course, field use schedules.

If funding is less than adequate, work with booster clubs, field-user groups, or community businesses to secure access to the equipment and supplies necessary for a complete maintenance program. Fund-raising projects focused on specific goals generally get the best cooperation and support, but each community differs. Don't give up if your first attempt for funding support fails. Just move on to other alternatives. Remember to acknowledge the assistance and say thank you — publicly and personally.

## **Field Preservation Techniques**

Establish a system to guard against field use in circumstances that could pose a safety hazard for players. Discuss specifics with school administrators or facility owners or managers to set parameters and determine who has the "final say" and who is responsible for getting the message to officials and coaches. Bring all user groups together to explain the policy — and the reasons behind it — and enlist their cooperation.

When possible, set up fields with enough bordering space to shift total field placement periodically. For example, if the normal field runs in a north-south direction, allow enough space to create temporarily two parallel fields across the regular field running side by side in an east-west direction. This alternates placement of the heavy wear areas in the center of the field, at the goal mouths and



**Booster clubs, field-user groups and community businesses can often help a turf manager secure access to equipment and supplies. Photos courtesy: Steve and Suz Trusty.**

along the sidelines. With multiple field facilities, plan to keep the total number of active fields the same during these direction and placement shifts.

Players gathering along the sidelines cause excess wear. Alleviate concentrated wear by moving players' benches two or three times during each week. During multiple-game tournaments, move the benches once or twice each day. Periodically place both sets of benches on one side of the field, freeing the other side for aeration, overseeding and topdressing — and a brief rest.

Limit the use of properly placed, on-field goals to games. Coaches and players may insist that they must practice with the goals in their proper place on the field, but soon discover, through multiple-goal placement on the practice fields, that players get even more practice.

The greatest wear in the goal area usually occurs during the concentrated action of pre-game warm-up. Marshal the support of the facility's management and leaders of field-user groups in banning pre-game warm-up in the goal area. Then post signs on the goals prior to the game stating that fact. Be prepared to reinforce the restriction when it is first instituted. Once the reduced wear becomes apparent, you'll have more willing cooperation and less need to remind coaches and players of the policy.

With a three referee system, the two linesmen continually travel back and forth across the same general area during the entire game. That wear intensifies with multiple games during tournaments. Added compaction occurs during wet conditions. Since the sports turf manager can't move the linesmen, the alternative is to move the field. In some cases, space is great enough to shift the entire field several feet in one direction, moving that area of wear periodically to allow maintenance and a resting period for

the previously worn area. It also may be possible to vary the sideline measurements in stages from the widest to the narrowest regulation dimensions allowed for the specific levels of play held on a field. This accomplishes the same purpose as the "field shift."

**Tips for Cold Climates**

Control of perennial broadleaf weeds is most effective in the fall. Time control applications to coincide with the weeds' natural cycle of concentrating nutrients in the roots in preparation for winter.

Plan the last core aeration of the season for approximately one month prior to the onset of winter weather. Core aeration too late in the season exposes the turf surrounding the core holes to excessive desiccation.

Drill seed if possible for late season overseeding. Temperatures within the soil will be higher than those at the soil surface, stimulating more rapid germination. Seeds also will be more protected from dry conditions and gusty fall winds.

A late season application of slow-release fertilizer provides some immediate nutrients if weather conditions remain warm later than usual and an early

season feeding if crews are unable to get on the fields the following spring.

Apply a light topdressing to all fields after play has ended for the season. It provides a bit of extra protection from winter desiccation for turf crowns.

If turf is thin at the end of the playing season and no spring pre-emergent application is planned, make a dormant application of seed. The freeze and thaw cycles of winter will allow the seed to work its way to the soil surface where it will be ready to germinate as soon as the soil warms to appropriate levels in the spring.

**Tips for Warm Climates**

"Fall" soccer in warm climates may begin in early August and run into February. Temperatures in some regions may keep bermudagrass fields going strong. In other areas, overseeding with perennial ryegrass provides an actively growing turf within the added cushioning of the dormant bermudagrass. Timing the phase-in of the ryegrass is critical. Keep detailed records of timing, temperatures, rainfall, irrigation schedules, fertilization and any other conditions that affect turf growth. The more complete the history of success — and failure — the

more likely a successful transition program can be developed.

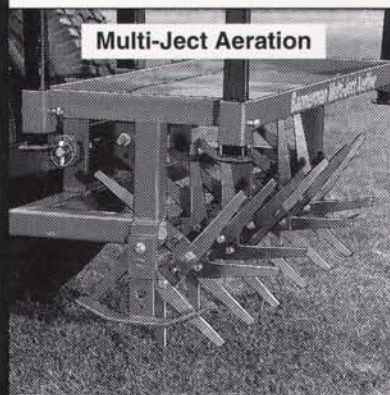
Weather patterns can change day to day during the active play period. Adjust irrigation programs daily to fit soil conditions, turf growth and weather conditions.

Plan a period of downtime for each field each year. Spread one field's normal practice and game use among several other fields whenever possible to avoid undue stress on the fields in use. Take advantage of the downtime for damage repair and such maintenance practices as dethatching; core or deep aeration; topdressing; seeding, sodding or sprigging; fertilization; and weed, insect or disease control.

**Share Your Secrets**

Finally, pass it on. If you come across or invent a maintenance practice or management technique that saves you time, money or effort or that improves field conditions, let other sports turf managers know about it. Though it may seem like a "little thing" to you, overall quality improvement usually comes through a combination of small steps forward. □

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# Pesticide:

# Safety Q & A

**W**hat are the three main commandments of dealing with pesticides? Safety! Safety! Safety! Safety towards oneself; safety towards others; safety towards the environment. Failure to follow published and common-sense safety practices eventually leads to harm, which in turn often leads to lawsuits.

The safest way to handle pesticides is not to use them at all, relying instead (whenever possible) on IPM or cultural solutions to pest problems. Unfortunately, sports turf undergoes so much stress that pesticides are almost unavoidable.

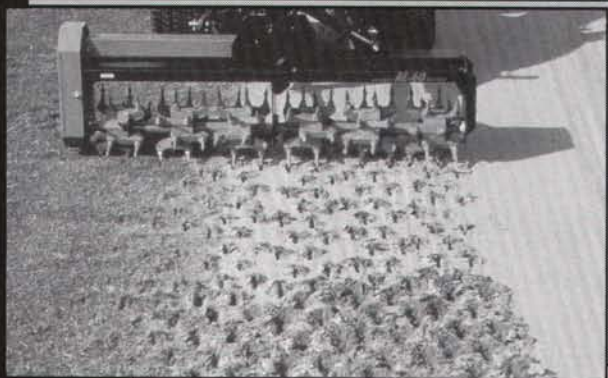
If you deal with pesticides either as an applicator or as a manager, test your knowledge of fundamental safety practices by taking the following quiz. It comes from the "Mixing, Loading and Application" section of the national pesticide applicator training core manual — *Applying Pesticides Correctly* — a book that is available for \$5, plus \$3 shipping, from the Environmental Programs Office, University of Nebraska, 101 Natural Resources Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583-0818; or free on the Internet at the following site: <http://ianrwww.unl.edu/ianr/pat/pat.htm>. If you cannot supply reasonably close answers to the ques-



**Applicators should always follow label guidelines for protective clothing, while remembering that some applications may require more personal protective equipment than the items specified.**

tions below, consult the manual or another authority for more detailed information. In other words, you best do some studying. Your life and livelihood, as well as those of others, depend upon your expertise.

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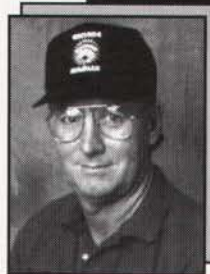
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**Test Your Knowledge of Mixing, Loading & Application**

- Q-1.** What two precautions should you take to avoid getting pesticides into your water source at a mix-load site?
- Q-2.** What four types of personal protection, beyond what you need during application, should you consider wearing while mixing or loading pesticides?
- Q-3.** What should you do with an empty pesticide container?
- Q-4.** What types of empty pesticide containers can be rinsed?
- Q-5.** What two methods of rinsing can you use?
- Q-6.** What are three ways to help you decide whether you can safely mix two pesticides together for application?
- Q-7.** Name at least four types of pesticide application activities that might require more personal protective equipment than that specified on the pesticide labeling.
- Q-8.** What safety procedures should you follow each time you apply a pesticide?
- Q-9.** When you are finished with a mixing, loading, or application task, what should you do right away?
- Q-10.** What should you do with rinsate that you create when you clean your pesticide equipment?
- Q-11.** When you are finished with pesticide handling tasks, what steps should you take for personal cleanup?
- Q-12.** Why should you keep records of pesticide applications?
- Q-13.** What are closed mixing and loading systems?
- Q-14.** What are enclosed application systems?
- Q-15.** When should you consider installing a pesticide containment system?
- Q-16.** What are the advantages of pesticide containment systems?

**Answers**

**A-1.** Two precautions to avoid contaminating water at a mix-load site are:

I. Keep the water pipe or hose well above the level of the pesticide mixture, and use a device to prevent back-siphoning, if necessary.

II. Avoid mixing or loading pesticides in areas where a spill, leak, or overflow could allow pesticides to get into water systems.

**A-2.** Four types of extra personal protection for mixing or loading are:

I. Front protection — a bib-top apron made of butyl, nitrile, or foil-laminate material; the style of apron that includes built-in gloves and sleeves is especially protective.

II. Face protection — a face shield to keep splashes and wafting dusts off your face and out of your nose and mouth. Or, if you need to wear a respirator, goggles or shielded safety glasses, which will fit better with a respirator than a face shield.

III. Protection from dusts — a dust/mist respirator with NIOSH/MSHA approval;

also wear eye protection, such as shielded safety glasses, goggles, or a face shield.

IV. Protection from vapors — eye protection and a vapor-removing respirator with NIOSH/MSHA approval.

**A-3.** When pesticide containers are empty:

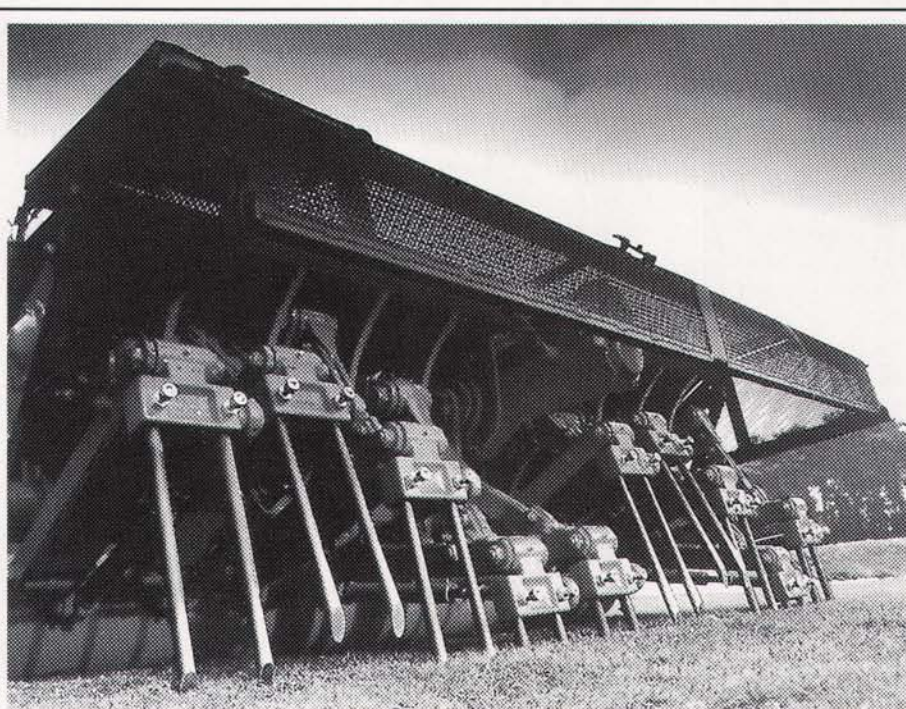
I. If containers are rinsable, rinse them as soon as they are empty. Remember, all liquid containers are required to be rinsed (the pesticide

that clings to the inside of the container can be dangerous).

II. Return all empty pesticide containers to the pesticide storage area or the container holding area when you finish your task. Do not leave them unattended at the mixing, loading, or application site.

III. Crush, break, or puncture empty containers that cannot be refilled,

*continued on page 26*



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**Pesticide**

*continued from page 25*

reconditioned, recycled, or returned to the manufacturer. (This will make the containers unusable and may also save storage space.)

IV. Dispose of containers in accordance with labeling directions and with any laws or regulations that apply.

**A-4.** Rinsable pesticide containers are:

- I. Glass, metal, and plastic containers.
- II. Plastic-lined paper or cardboard containers.
- III. Unlined paper or cardboard containers that can withstand the rinsing process.

**A-5.** Two methods of rinsing are triple rinsing and pressure rinsing.

•To triple rinse a container:

- 1. Empty the container into the tank. Let it drain an extra 30 seconds.
- 2. Fill the empty container 10-20 percent full of water.
- 3. Replace the closure and rotate the container for about 30 seconds. Invert the container so the rinse reaches all the inside surfaces.

4. Drain the rinse water from the container into the tank. Let the container drain for 30 seconds.

5. Repeat steps 2 through 4 two more times for a total of three rinses.

•Some pesticide equipment includes a mechanism to pressure rinse containers by (A) inserting a pressure rinse nozzle into the container, (B) rotating the nozzle and rinsing for at least 30 seconds, and (C) draining the container thoroughly into the mix tank.

**A-6.** Three ways to determine if pesticides can be mixed are:

I. Check the pesticide labeling. It may list the pesticides (and other chemicals) known to be compatible with the formulation.

II. Get a compatibility chart, which is available from several sources.

III. Test a small amount of the mixture before mixing large quantities of the pesticides together.

**A-7.** Application activities requiring extra personal protection include:

- I. Hand-carrying application equipment.
- II. Entering the path of the released pesticide.

III. Walking into a just-treated area.  
IV. Using high-exposure application methods where the pesticide may engulf you.

V. Applying pesticides in enclosed spaces.

VI. Adjusting pesticide application equipment.

VII. Immersing hands and forearms in pesticides.

VIII. Applying into or across air currents.

IX. Applying concentrated pesticides.

**A-8.** Safety procedures during applications include:

- I. Delivering the pesticide to the target site.
- II. Checking the delivery rate.
- III. Checking for appearance.
- IV. Avoiding nontarget organisms.
- V. Avoiding nontarget surfaces.
- VI. Operating equipment safely. (Whenever you pause to take a break, to move to another site or to make any adjustments or repairs, turn off the equipment, and depressurize any pressurized tanks. Turn off the main pressure valve on the tank and release any pressure remaining at the nozzles. Also, check hoses, valves, nozzles,

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hoppers, and other equipment parts occasionally while you are applying chemicals. If you notice a problem, stop immediately and fix it.)

**A-9.** Immediately after mixing, loading or application:

I. Wash your pesticide equipment and then wash yourself.

II. Return equipment to its designated place.

III. Safely store or dispose of all pesticide materials and other chemicals that you have used.

IV. Be sure that your work site presents no hazards to people or to the environment. (Never leave the site unattended until everything has been cleaned up and put away. Carefully wash any vehicles that may be used for transporting unprotected workers or for family use. Do not allow rinsates to flow into water systems. Do not leave puddles that children, unprotected persons or animals could get into.)

V. Record what you have applied and the conditions at the application site.

**A-10.** After you create rinsate from cleaning equipment:

Collect the rinsate. Reuse it, if possible,

or dispose of it as excess pesticide.

**A-11.** During a personal cleanup after pesticide handling tasks:

Wash the outside of your gloves before taking them off. Then carefully peel back your personal protective equipment to avoid getting pesticides on your skin. Remove any other clothing that has pesticide on it. If you cannot take a shower right away, use a mild liquid detergent and warm water to wash your face, hands, forearms, and any other area that may have pesticides on it. As soon as you can — no later than the end of the work day — wash your whole body and hair thoroughly with a mild liquid detergent and plenty of warm water.

**A-12.** Reasons for keeping pesticide records are:

I. Records can establish proof of proper use.

II. Good records can save you money by improving your pest-control practices and your efficiency.

III. Records can help you reduce pesticide mistakes or misuse.

IV. Good records can help you reduce carryover by showing exactly how much was needed last time.

**A-13.** Closed mixing and loading systems are:

Systems designed to prevent pesticides from contacting handlers or other persons during mixing and loading. (There are two primary types: one uses mechanical devices to deliver the pesticide from the container to the equipment; the other type uses soluble packaging.)

**A-14.** Enclosed application systems are:

Enclosures, such as a cab, that surround occupants and prevent them from contacting pesticides outside of the enclosure.

**A-15.** You should consider installing a pesticide containment system:

If you often mix and load pesticides in one place, or if you often clean equipment at one location.

**A-16.** Advantages of pesticide containment systems include:

They can save time and money. They make spill cleanup easier, and they reduce pesticide waste by allowing reuse of rinse water and spill cleanup water. They also help prevent the harm that spills and runoff can cause to the environment or to people. □

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4. Operating budget for baseball diamond.
5. Irrigation: None \_\_\_\_\_ Manual \_\_\_\_\_ Automatic \_\_\_\_\_
6. Total number of maintenance staff for field.
7. Does baseball field have lighting for night games?
8. Number of events on baseball diamond per year.
9. Types and number of events on diamond other than baseball?
10. How many months during the year is the field used?
11. Why you think this field is one of the best?
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continued on page 30



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