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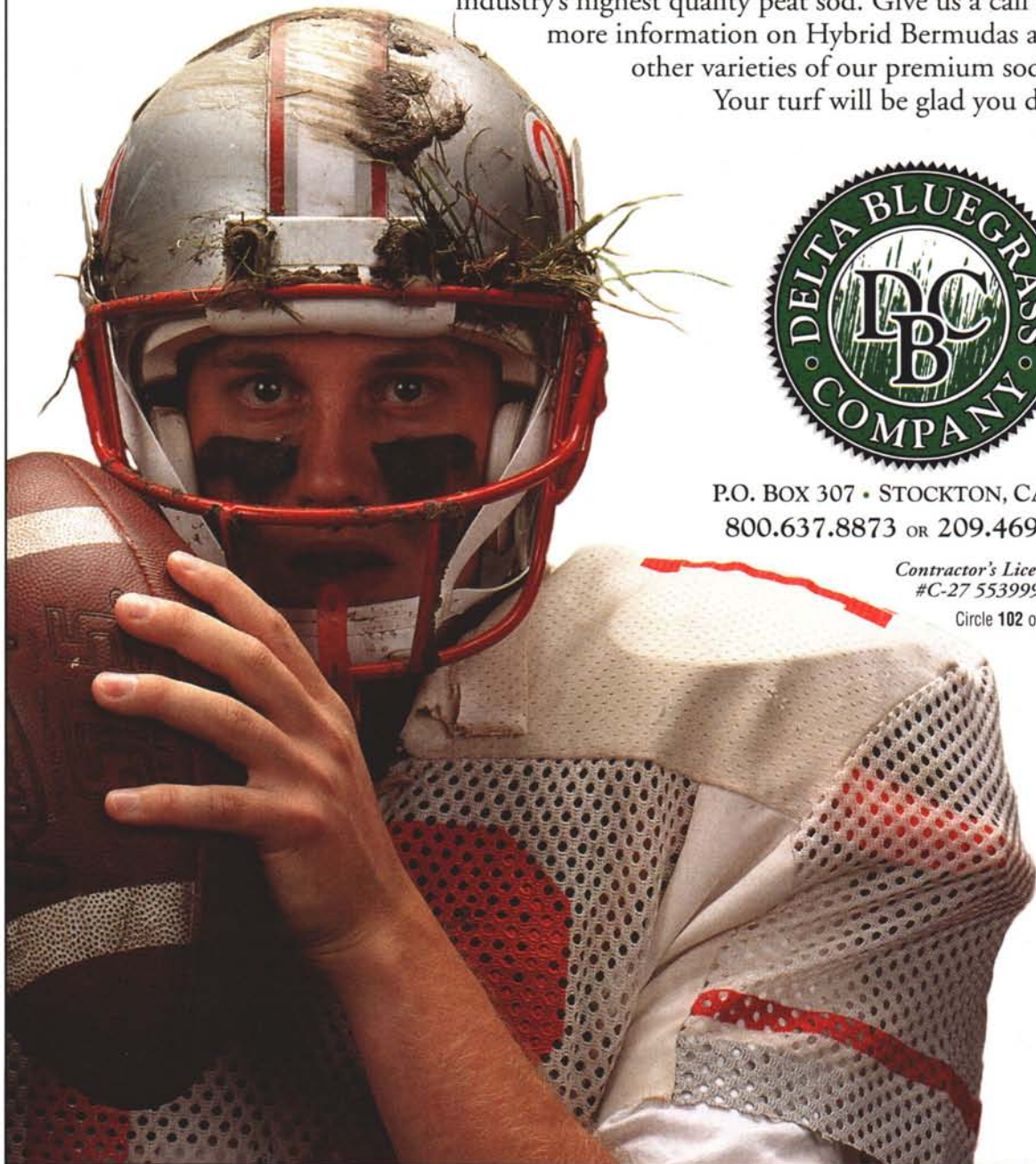
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Floyd Perry, *sportsTURF*'s 1997 Manager of the Year, offers some ideas to save you extra steps and extra hours. His tips won't always help you beat but they may give you a fighting chance to keep up with two forces you have no control over, Mother Nature and Father Time.

14 *Analyzing Your Records: What Worked? What Didn't?*

Dr. Gil Landry shows how to keep and analyze records to enhance your professionalism. Adapt his methods and you'll find it easier to evaluate and adjust your maintenance program, to minimize your failures and build on your successes!

24 *1997 Product Source Book*

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From left to right, Lionel Guzman, John Tornavacca and John Puncel take a day off from their own sports turf programs to help a neighbor, the Cal State Fullerton University baseball diamond, once called "the field of screams" until volunteers came to its rescue. Photo by: Jim Williams.



73,656 seats at the stadium, but only one is padded.

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Princess May Close the Gap

In the coming years, the establishment cost of hybrid bermudagrass sports fields may start to drop, if Princess makes a successful debut.

Princess, a product of the Seed West Inc. (SWI) Warm Season Turfgrass Research Program, is described as the "world's first dense, fine textured hybrid bermudagrass variety to be available in seeded form." SWI hopes to release limited quantities of it in year or so, and if it fares well, Princess will close some of the gap in quality between the seeded and the vegetatively established bermudas.

Compare the numbers. Among the better quality seeded bermudas currently available, leaf width is about 2.5 mm and leaf length is about 29 mm; for Princess, width is 1.8 mm and length 24 mm; for the vegetatively established Tifway, width is 1.65 mm and length 19 mm. In terms of density, Princess has about 4 leaves per cm (on the first five nodes of the stem measured from the apical leaf), which is almost as good as Tifway's 4.4 leaves and considerably better than the 3 leaves of other seeded bermudas.

For overall quality and color, the gap also closes. From trial plots grown at Peninsula County Golf Club in Frankston, Australia, Superintendent David Nickson scored the overall turfgrass quality of the better vegetative bermudas at around 7 and their color at 6, while the better seeded varieties now available earned scores of less than 3 in both categories. He rated Princess in between, with scores of 5.5 for overall quality and 4.5 for color.

In terms of management, Princess has the following characteristics:

- 3/8 to 3/4 inch minimum mowing height (reel recommended);
- 3 to 7 days mowing frequency;
- 4 to 6 pounds of nitrogen per year;
- 2 pounds of seed to establish 1,000 square feet;
- 14 to 21 days for complete germination;
- 4 to 6 weeks establishment time (under ideal conditions);
- excellent drought tolerance (needs good drainage);
- very good to excellent wear resistance and recuperative ability.

If Princess ends up finding a happy home on sports fields, golf courses and other turf sites, look for more advancements in the future.

Don't Overlook Foot Protection!



Too many turf workers overlook foot protection — even though proper safety shoes can prevent crippling injuries at very little expense! If you've been gambling with your toes because you've heard myths about safety shoes, here are some facts to start you off on the right foot.

Myth 1: Safety shoes are heavy, clumsy and uncomfortable.

Fact: Most safety shoes, with toe caps to protect the most fragile parts of your feet, weigh only a few more ounces than nonprotective shoes. True, some safety features, such as metatarsal (upper foot) guards, will limit a shoe's flexibility, but most protective shoes offer an effective combination of safety features and comfort for the job. Plus, sole design and materials help prevent slips and falls — a major cause of injuries.

Myth 2: The steel caps trap heat and/or conduct cold, making the shoes too hot or cold for outdoor work.

Fact: Good safety shoes are lined to prevent direct contact with the toe cap. Many safety shoes are insulated to keep the cold out, while others are designed to "breathe" so moisture is not trapped and feet remain cool in warm conditions. Also, new nonmetallic toe caps have been developed that are nonconductive to temperature extremes.

Myth 3: Safety shoes are expensive.

Fact: Safety shoes are not expensive. Popular brands average \$50 to \$100 — about like a pair of popular-brand sneakers — and are a lot less than medical bills and lost time from work. Many shoes can be purchased directly from the manufacturer, making them even less expensive.

The above comes from the Occupational Health & Safety Administration. If you have a tip to share, send it to sportsTURF, 68860 Perez Rd., Cathedral City, CA 92234.

STMA MESSAGE



Happy Holidays to You

By Mike Schiller

Stop. Take a deep breath. Do you hear children laughing? Do you smell evergreen needles, hot chocolate and cinnamon-spiced apple cider? Doesn't that spiral of smoke weaving its lazy path into the sky mean a warm fire is glowing in the fireplace with a cozy spot waiting just for you?

No, you say? Things still are so hectic all you can see is the next playoff game or a field in need of renovation. Okay, get that major project underway. Seeing what needs to be accomplished and finding a way to make it happen is, after all, a big part of sports turf management.

But, before the old year spins away — way too fast for me anyway — and the New Year arrives, rearrange your busy schedule. Slow down enough to spend some holiday time relaxing with the people who are most important in your life.

As you look ahead to the new year, I'm sure you'll see it's a great time to be a sports turf manager. Advancing technology is providing newer and better equipment and supplies to help you improve the quality of your athletic facilities.

Sports activity is growing at all age levels and internationally. In the U.S., we have young children taking the field in organized soccer leagues while senior baseball and softball leagues

are thriving. Internationally, baseball, softball and football fields are taking shape along with the already extremely popular soccer fields.

Good, playable sports fields are becoming increasingly important both to provide a safe surface for less experienced players and to support increasing demands for on-the-field playing time. How you do your job impacts a lot of lives.

So, do resolve to do your best as a sports turf manager every day of the new year; to fine-tune your skills and always leave a field a little better than you found it. Integrate new ideas so you really can work smarter, not harder. Become a mentor to your staff members, helping them gain the skills and knowledge that will make their jobs easier and more rewarding. Get involved on a professional level. Join the Sports Turf Managers Association. Recharge your professional batteries at STMA's 9th Annual Conference & Exhibition, "Meeting the Challenges," in Orlando, Florida, on January 14-18, 1998. Participate in your regional STMA chapter. Explore the STMA Certification Program. Remember, the more you put into something, the more you get out of it.

And *do* resolve to do a better job during this New Year of letting those special people in your life know they are special to you.

Which leads me to a message to *you*. On behalf of the STMA Board, STMA committee members, Headquarters staff (and especially me), I wish each of you health, wealth and happiness this holiday season and throughout the new year. May this be The Holiday you've dreamed of, filled with fellowship, love and contentment.

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Competing with Mother Nature and Father Time

By Floyd Perry

Daily, as sports field managers and progressive groundskeepers, we are beaten by two players that we have very little control over, that we don't have under contract: Mother Nature and Father Time. No matter how good a grip we have over our working conditions, those two folks jump up and bite us daily. Whether it's an ice storm on our frozen Bermuda field during January (winter kill) or an extra-inning, rain-delay doubleheader on June 30 (over-time and over budget), we seem to lose

even if we did our quality planning.

There's no way I'm going to solve these two problems, but I am going to encourage a few ideas to save extra steps and extra hours.

Sometimes we go about doing our job the same way everyday — nothing new, nothing lost. But heading into the 21st century, let's create some new thinking. Let's create some innovative ways to become more efficient with our staff, equipment and supplies. Let's do some things that no one ever tried before to compete with Mother Nature

and slow down Father Time.

As sports field managers and grounds personnel, we understand we are not going to beat those two folks all the time; we just want a fighting chance to keep up with them.

Be innovative and creative in your job. Efficiency is one of your tickets to success in the next 100 years.

Floyd Perry, sportsTurf's 1997 Manager of the Year, owns Grounds Maintenance Services, Orlando, Fla.

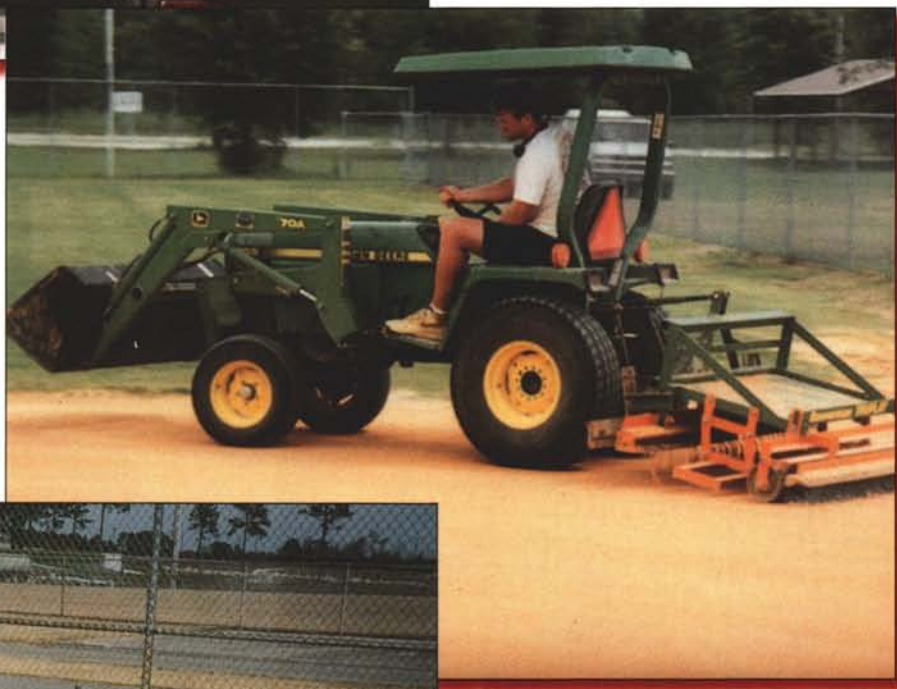


Create dual opportunities with your equipment to eliminate time and manpower — like an out-front seeder/spreader with a rear spiker. Photos courtesy: Floyd Perry.



Be innovative with homemade equipment wagons that save steps, labor and duplication of responsibilities. "Neat and efficient" means to transport tools and still have the bed open.

Create or use groomers that do two, three or four tasks at the same time. Four-in-one groomers are a trend on multi-purpose diamonds.



Eliminate certain traditions and create easier means of doing a trivial task — like removing water from turf and clay with a movable sump pump.



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- Arizona Diamondbacks
- University of Texas Longhorns
- San Diego Chargers
- University of Southern California Trojans
- California Angels
- Arizona State University Sun Devils
- San Francisco 49'ers
- San Diego State University Aztecs
- San Francisco Giants
- San Diego Padres
- Los Angeles Dodgers
- Oakland Raiders
- Arizona Cardinals

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