



Chandler Arizona Parks Department Chandler, Arizona



Chandler Arizona selected Primavera bermudagrass for all fifteen of the new soccer fields they seeded in 1994 and 1995. In addition, they are using Primavera on all the city parks and grounds.

According to Kris Kircher, maintenance coordinator, they have used common bermudagrass before but had problems with allergic reactions among the players. Then they tried Mid-iron bermudagrass but it was very susceptible to pearl scale. The third variety they tested was Primavera. Kris was really impressed with its quick germination and establishment. It stayed greener longer in the fall and greened-up earlier in the spring than any of the other seeded types they tested. Primavera also was resistant to pearl scale, so their problems were solved.

Kris, and his crew of four, were able to convert old cattle corrals to excellent quality soccer fields. The San Tan Soccer Association plays on the fields nine months out of the year, and with the use by other groups, there are soccer games almost every day of the week throughout the entire season. The quality of the playing surface is excellent throughout the year. The number of injuries and loss of players have been greatly reduced with the dense turf they are able to produce with Primavera. It has been stated by numerous authorities that Chandler has the best soccer fields in the Phoenix area.

The work done by Kris and his crew is impressive, especially when one realizes that it was done on a minimum budget.

“Primavera is a high quality, lower cost alternative to the standard turf varieties sold only in sod or stolon forms.” *Kris Kircher, Maintenance Coordinator*

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Jeff Kershaw
Supervisor of Athletic Fields and Stadiums

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PROGRAM



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VOLUME THIRTEEN, NUMBER ONE

JANUARY 1997

MAIN EVENTS

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For Olympic Stadium's field last summer, perfection did not come cheaply. It took a crew of miracle workers and every bit of George Toma's "and then some" ethic to make it happen.

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The Colorado Chapter of the STMA has prepared an array of special treats for those attending STMA's Annual Conference this year. Here's a blow-by-blow listing of what to expect.

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Coach, facilities manager, lecturer, author — Floyd Perry has contributed to his profession in just about every way possible. His contributions usually help those who need it the most: programs that are short of manpower and low of budget.

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Sports turf manager Jim Puhalla outlines a maintenance program that encompasses the many interconnected characteristics of a turfgrass culture. Following his program, you can go a long way toward taking pests out of Integrated Pest Management.

28 Razorbacks Take Command on Enhanced "Natural" Turf

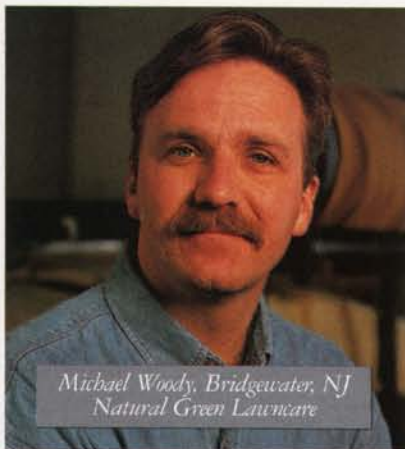
The new turf field at Arkansas Razorback Stadium has been discussed locally as "the most beautiful field in America." It has stayed that way thanks to careful design, construction and just a touch of plastic.

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On the Cover:

With less than 24 hours to complete the job, a "Super Bowl team" of sports turf miracle workers from across the country resods Atlanta's Olympic Stadium on July 22. Photo courtesy: Steve Hogben, Valley Crest Landscape Inc.



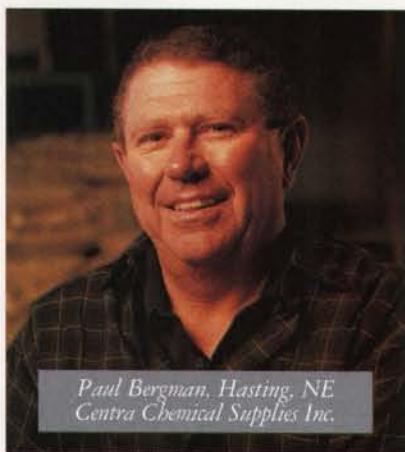
*Michael Woody, Bridgewater, NJ
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"When it's my investment and my reputation, Pendimethalin is my herbicide."



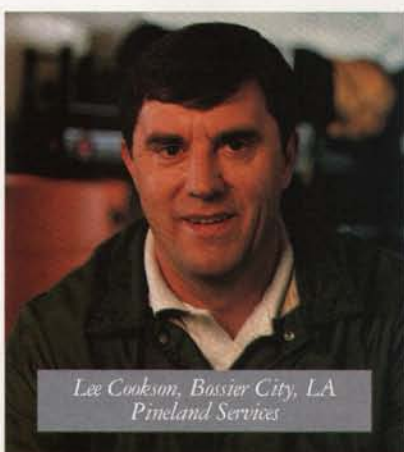
*Mike McLain, Knoxville, TN
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Pesticide Concerns

In this issue, readers will notice what seems to be a new department: "Applicator's Log." Actually, it is the "Chemical Log," which has been running for years, but now appears with a less pejorative ("bad") word in the title.

Chemicals in general, and pesticides in particular, have developed such a negative connotation over the last 30 years that the search goes on unabated for ways to cut back on those "necessary evils." As Jim Puhalla's "Sports Turf Basics" article points out this issue, proper cultural management is one way. Another way, as the "Applicator's Log" points out, is through proper application.

Staying current on those and other ways is, of course, a challenge to everyone. Classes, magazines and books have always provided much needed help, and now there's the Internet. In the wide world of the latter, the following may be the most comprehensive source.

Where: On the World Wide Web/Internet at the following site: <http://ianrwww.unl.edu/ianr/pat/pat.htm>.

What: The Pesticide Education Resources home page — sponsored by the Environmental Programs Office of the University of Nebraska — contains information about pesticide topics of interest to turf managers, farmers, producers, applicators and consumers.

Pesticide menu items include the following: applicator education, health and safety, information databases, protection of the environment, laws and regulations, and integrated pest management (IPM).

The national pesticide applicator training core manual, *Applying Pesticides Correctly*, is available as an aid for pesticide applicators who are studying for certification. Interactive self-tests are in each of the chapters. Pesticide applicators with Internet access can study the manual in preparation for their general standards certification examination.

The pesticide education resource page also contains the *Nebraska Private Applicator Self-Study Manual*; *The Label* newsletter; pesticide-related sources of information such as **EX**tension **TOX**icology **NET**work; pesticide label and MSDS databases; USDA chemical databases; Worker Protection Standard (WPS) information; and access to other web sites containing pesticide-related information. A down-loadable pesticide-related bookmark file is one example of recent additions.

Who: Clyde L. Ogg (e-mail: evpr006@unlvm.unl.edu) and Larry D. Schulze (e-mail: evpr003@unlvm.unl.edu). Phone: (402) 472-1632.

If you have any questions regarding pesticides, don't hesitate to call or e-mail either of those two gentlemen. They are very helpful and friendly.

Curb Appeal Sells

By Floyd Perry

As I travel around the country visiting different facilities (the present count is over 3,400 fields in the last four years), the most glaring problem I notice is the lack of signs and directions to local complexes. One town just fin-



ished a quality softball and youth complex, and it took us three gas stations before anyone even recognized the name of the complex, never mind the location.

Other communities — and granted they may be smaller in size — advertise their product as you enter the town by signing "Home of the Walter Williams Athletic Complex."

If your community is going to spend thousands of dollars on a "state of the art" softball or baseball youth facility, then at least let your local patrons and visitors know where it's located.



Whether you choose monuments, plaques, trendy characters or outstanding murals, make a statement that sets your facility apart from the standard.

Realtors will be the first to tell you "curb appeal" sells the property. As managers and supervisors, let's dress up our windows by creating a positive image on, off and surrounding the fields.

STMA MESSAGE

Starting the New Year Off Right



By Mike Schiller,
STMA president

For those of you who won't make it to the 1997 Conference in Colorado Springs, we really miss you! And you are really missing a great seeing, hearing, learning, sharing, networking experience.

I've found over all my years as an STMA member, our conference more than pays for itself through the ideas and techniques shared in the conference sessions and Seminar on Wheels tours; in that "newer and better" item found at the trade show exhibition; through making connections with people who are fighting the same battles I am, and who are willing and able to share their

successes — and failures — in those battles.

A special "hats off" to Colorado Chapter conference chair Dave Rulli; education co-chairs Ross Kurcab and Abby McNeal; hospitality chair Ken Norkosky; and exhibitor chair Mitch Hovet. And a round of applause to the Colorado Chapter members who are pitching in to do it right — from the excellent site visits on the tours, to the "wow" of an opening night reception, to all those smiling faces that help greet, guide and lend a helping hand, and to all those who helped out with behind-the-scenes preparations. Thank you!

Thanks to our speakers and round-table discussion leaders who are sharing their expertise. *Thanks* and then some to featured speaker George Toma. *Thanks* to our exhibitors, who are really "showing their stuff." Thanks to those who are serving as sponsors.

Thanks, too, to STMA's national Conference Committee: chair Steve Guise; program chair Mary Owen; and exhibits chair Eugene Mayer.

So — what's next? We're going to Disney World! STMA's 1998 Conference & Exhibition will be held January 14 to 18 at Disney World in Orlando, FL. We'll be meeting in both the new Disney World Sports Complex and the even newer Disney hotel, the Coronado Springs Resort.

As you begin working your way into your 1997 budget year, make a note to block out the time and the funding in your 1998 budget to attend the 9th Annual Conference & Exhibition.

And last, but certainly not least, congratulations to *sportsTURF's* Manager of the Year, Floyd Perry.

I'm honored to wrap up a year as president of such a great organization filled with such great people!



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Racing the clock, crew members push and pull strips of sod into place. Photo courtesy: Steve Hogben, Valley Crest Inc.

Saving an Olympic Field — George Toma Rallies Forces

By Steve and Suz Trusty

The Olympic Opening Ceremonies the night of July 19 on Olympic Stadium's field were an awesome spectacle featuring breathtaking props and multitudes of people. On July 24, that same Olympic field's perfect turf showcased track and field events. But its perfection did not come cheaply. Between those two dates the field had to be rebuilt, and the Herculean, behind-the-scenes efforts were marshaled by none other than one of the masters of sports turf magic, George Toma. It took every bit of Toma's "and then some" ethic from every member of the team to make it happen.

In June of 1996, Bob Stiles, venue director of Olympic Stadium, asked Toma to come to Atlanta to check out a problem at Olympic Stadium's field.

When Toma arrived, Opening Ceremonies were in rehearsal and he

says, "The field was covered with material that looked like tennis wind-screen and had the oceans of the world painted on it. When we pulled back a section of the cover to check the grass, it was nearly dead — and the sand-based media was bone dry.

"We discovered that the cover had been left on the field for several days at a time. Later we would verify what we assumed, that the in-ground sprinkler system was inoperable due to damage incurred either during the rehearsals themselves, or during the installation of various support equipment for the ceremonies.

"The likely culprit was the lack of adequate moisture in the sand-based field combined with the compaction caused by all the activity of the rehearsals."

Toma is quick to point out that the original field construction by Southern Turf Nurseries/STN Sports wasn't the problem. The 1995 construction project

was completed as planned, giving the turf an ample grow-in period prior to the Olympics. The glitch came in the coordination of needs — those of the turf versus those of the ceremonies.

Field Tests

As Toma, the veteran of past Olympics and all 30 Super Bowls, explains, the whirlwind of activity apparent to everyone watching the Olympic Opening and Closing ceremonies is just the tip of the iceberg. It takes "to-the-second" precision to pull off a successful extravaganza.

"Multi-ton stages and props may be moved hundreds of times in rehearsal to ensure the proper placement — and the timing. One change can prompt ten other changes, and more rehearsal. It's incredibly complex, and all the traffic obviously puts a field to the ultimate test.

A Sod Story

Knowing there would be field problems, Billy Payne, president of the