Minnesota Chapter: As part of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation, the Minnesota Chapter will participate in the 1998 Minnesota Turf and Grounds Conference and Trade Show Dec. 9-11 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. For information, contact Connie Rudolph: (612) 646-1679.

Colorado Chapter: The chapter encourages members to attend the Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Conference in Denver Dec. 9-11. For conference information, call: (303) 770-2220. For general information, call the 24-hour CSTMA hotline/fax: (303) 438-9645.

Iowa Chapter: ISTMA will again participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Conference Jan. 25-27 at Des Moines Convention Center. Along with special sports turf educational sessions, the chapter will hold its annual meeting. For information, contact Lori Westrum at the Turf Office: (515) 232-8222, or fax (515) 232-8228.

KAFMO Chapter: For information, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club: (610) 375-8469 ext. 212.

Southern California Chapter: For information, contact the chapter hotline: (888) 578-STMA.

Great Lakes Chapter: GLSTMA congratulates the winners of the 1998 GLSTMA and Turface Sports Field Products Field of the Year Awards:

High School Football
Springfield High School
Rick Haskins
Director of Buildings and Grounds

High School Softball
Genoa High School
Mark Cuthbertson
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For information, contact Joe Zelinko: (800) 897-9714, or Boyd Montgomery: (419) 885-1982.

MAFMO Chapter: For information, contact the hotline: (410) 290-5652.

Michigan Chapter: For information, contact Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools: (616) 395-2364.

Mid-South Chapter: For information, contact Chip Houmes: (901) 377-5081, Jim Calhoun: (901) 755-1305, or Robert Bodi: (901) 383-2414.

Chapters on the grow

North Texas Chapter: For information on the forming chapter, contact Rene Asprion, Diamond Pro: (800) 228-2987; or Tom Welch, CSM, Central Garden and Pet: (800) 788-9581.

Arizona Chapter: The Arizona Chapter will take part in the City of Yuma's sixth annual Sportsturf and Equipment Show, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, Dec. 4 at the Ray Kroc Baseball Complex. Arizona Diamondbacks Head Groundskeeper Grant Trenbeath will be the featured speaker. Events will include both educational sessions and demonstrations covering irrigation, ballfield maintenance, fertilization, pest identification, and xeriscape.

The third annual Sportsturf Golf Tournament will be held Dec. 3 at Desert Hills Golf Course. Tee off time is noon.

For information on these two events, contact Larry Munoz, Yuma Parks and Recreation Department: (520) 329-2824.

For general information, contact Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks & Recreation Department: (602) 994-7954; or Kris Kircher, City of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department: (602) 786-2728.

Indiana Chapter: Things continue to move forward with the officer and board member selection process taking place and meeting plans in the works.

For information, contact Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer: (219) 356-8424, or Pat Hickner: (800) 672-4273.


Nevada Chapter: For information, contact Ibsen Dow: (702) 649-1551; or Alan Paulson, Clark County School District: (702) 799-8724.

Great Plains Chapter: For information, contact Mark Schimming, City of Wichita: (316) 337-9123.
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- Remind your customers about a business or professional meeting.
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- Inform customers about the favorable reviews your company has received.
- Send a publicity release.
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Reach more than 35,000 magazine readers from Irrigation Journal, Outdoor Power Equipment, Arbor Age, sportsTurf and Landscape & Irrigation who buy and use the products and services that you offer. Target your marketing efforts by tailoring the list by the magazine readers’ job title, type of business and by state. Find out how you can fax your one-page message to your best prospects by calling Jennifer Testa at 847/427-2039 or fax 847/427-2037 for more information.

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

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16. This statement will be printed in the November 1998 issue of this publication.
17. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
Signed: Rich Perkins, Group Publisher

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My beautiful football field was destroyed in one muddy game. Now what?

-Dear Muddy in Kansas City, MO

Dear Muddy in Missouri, don’t feel bad. You’re in the same boat as all the others that have had home games on wet fields. I’ve used excerpts from several of your calls to build the following scenario for this Q&A.

It rained two inches on Thursday before our homecoming game. Our football field has a good crown, so there was no standing water; but the soil was definitely wet. It wasn’t raining when the game started, but the field was soft. After the first quarter, it started raining and didn’t stop until the last splash in the fourth quarter.

The field was beautiful before the game, but now it’s basically gone between the hash marks. There’s a lot of mud on the surface, and many ruts make the playing surface uneven. It looks dangerous.

Our next home game is in one week. What can I do to make the field playable?

Be sure to take your athletic director and/or school superintendent onto the muddy field, especially if they are wearing shiny shoes. Start on a section of the field that isn’t too bad, but then head straight for the 50-yard line. Don’t look back and don’t say too much; they will follow you right into the mud, and that will speak volumes. On the way off the field, offer to clean their shoes back at the shop.

This strategy may help you get the next game moved to another site, and it might get some of the other games, practices, and other activities off the field. It may even help you get that sand field you’ve been talking about. Don’t miss this opportunity to make a little headway on the things you’ve been suggesting all along.

Now for the plan...

Here are some of the strategies I have watched many of you implement. Follow the rationale closely, because the strategy changes depending on the weather and your projected outcome.

If clear weather is predicted, open up the field and dry out the surface. Sunny and windy conditions are most helpful. Use coring, slicing, and other methods of cultivation that open the surface and promote drying. Leave the surface rough so there is more soil surface for drying.

As the surface dries, cultivate to expose more wet soil. If there is little grass in the center of the field, this is an easy decision; but if there is still a substantial amount of grass, you need to stop cultivating when it appears that you are damaging too much of the protective mat of grass. Drying agents like Turface will also help remove water from the surface.

The surface will be rough, and you should eventually roll it to make it smooth and playable again. Don’t roll until you’re finished drying the field, since rolling will seal the surface and slow the rate of drying. Seeding with perennial rye and/or Kentucky bluegrass before rolling might help get a little grass cover started.

If you expect cloudy and cool weather with a chance of more rain before the next game, consider rolling the field as soon as you can. I know that we’ve programmed you to avoid soil compaction, but many of you have convinced me that it is more important to first get the field smooth and ready for game day, and then deal with compaction later by coring.

I’m for rolling the field when there’s no other option to smooth the surface. You can make your own call, since you have to deal with the outcome. In addition to smoothing the surface, rolling will compact the top inch of surface and reduce water infiltration. Your goal here is to make the soil impervious to water and to use the crown to quickly move any additional rain off the field.

David D. Minner, Ph.D., is an associate professor with the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State University. He serves on STMA’s Certification Committee. Send your questions to Dave at: ISU, Hort. Dept., Ames, IA 50011; or call: (515) 294-2751, fax: (515) 294-0730, or e-mail: dminner@iastate.edu.

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NEW MEMBER SWEEPSTAKES!!

All New Members Joining Between October 1st and December 1, 1998, will be eligible for a drawing for a free registration to the STMA 10th Annual Conference & Exhibition, January 13-17, 1999, Mesa, Arizona.

BONUS – EVERYONE WINS

Join Now – and get up to three months FREE!

That’s Right! If you sign up RIGHT NOW, your membership is in force through December 31, 1999.

Get Serious With STMA

Application for Membership

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) is an organization of professionals representing all segments of the sports turf industry. Our members work to combine the science of growing turfgrasses and the art of maintaining sports turf to produce playing fields that are both safe and aesthetically pleasing.

STMA provides members with a variety of benefits, including: education through regional institutes and conferences; support for sports turf research; facilities tours; a national awards program; access to the STMA National Conference & Exhibition; our Sports Turf Manager Newsletter; and MUCH more!

If you’re serious about the sports turf industry, then it’s time to become a member of STMA. Join today!

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