

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

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 Chapter: Lakes 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 Head Softball Coach

Recreational Softball/Baseball

Sylvania Pacesetter Park **Boyd Montgomery**

Facilities and Maintenance Director Recreational Soccer Field

Sylvania Pacesetter Park

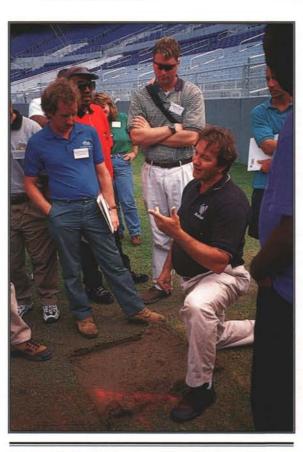
Boyd Montgomery Facilities and Maintenance Director **Professional Baseball**

Akron Aeros Canal Park Rick Izzo

Director of Field Maintenance

GLSTMA also honors: President's Award winners

Joe Zelinko Athletic Field Services **Boyd Montgomery** Sylvania Recreation



Ravens Field Maintenance Manager Vince Patterozzi shows attendees a cut section of turf. Courtesy: Trusty & Assoc.

Outstanding Commercial Affiliate Turface/AIMCOR

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-

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 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 Fertilizer: (219) 356-8424, or Pat Hickner: (800) 672-4273.

Wisconsin Chapter: For information, contact Rich Riggs, R. H. Rettler & Associates, Inc.: (715) 341-2633.

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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17. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Signed: Rich Perkins, Group Publisher

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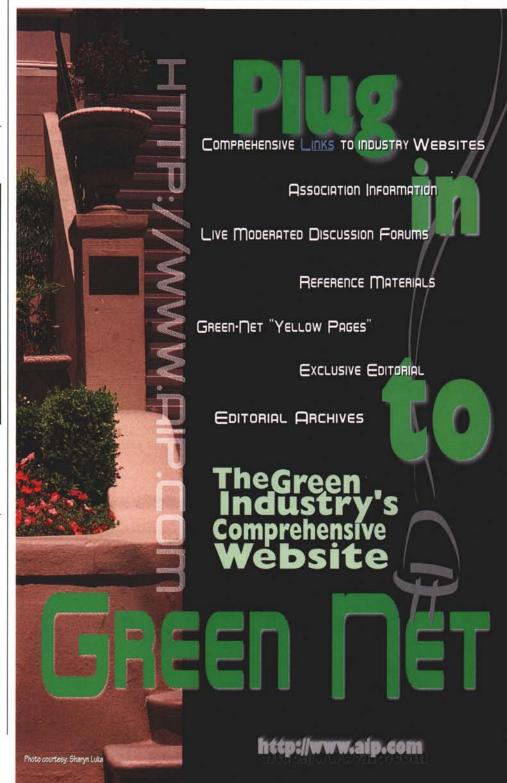
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Have questions? Send them to Dave at: ISU, Hort. Dept., Ames, IA 50011.

by Dr. Dave Minner

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

- Muddy in Kansas City, MO

ear 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?

As a sports turf manager, it's your job to have a plan to get the field ready for game day. But before we get to the plan, now is a great time to give your administrator a tour of your newly created cow-pie pasture, and to evaluate your policy for canceling games. A homecoming event is pretty important, and usually it will take lightning to postpone or cancel a football game.

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 vou'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 cor-

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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