On the national level, Kurcab has been a busy participant as well. At the STMA National Conferences in 1998 and 1999, he served as a discussion leader for round-table discussions on Poa Annua and the effective use of tarps. In 2000 he led two sessions on establishment and grow-in and successful overseeding. This year, he will lead three sessions, dealing with the certification process and stabilizing playing surfaces.

Awards and recognition are not new to Kurcab. He was the 1984 recipient of the Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association (RMRTA) Scholarship. In 1988, he received the RMRTA Turf Professional of the Year Award; in 1990, the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado (ALCC) Excellence in Landscape Merit Award. And in 1999 The STMA honored him with the Dick Erickson Award, one of STMA's four Founders Awards.

Kurcab's dedication to the profession not only results in better fields, it results in better turf professionals. Several men and women have served under Kurcab through his position with the Broncos, and they have gone on to prominent positions in the industry as well.

"Ross is a great teacher, as evidence by the people who have done internships with him and gone on to other professions in the field," said Koski.

In addition to Smith, Abby McNeal, assistant facilities and grounds manager for Colorado State University, interned under Kurcab in the early 1990s. Both have nothing but heavy praise for the man they credit in helping them prepare for their professional careers.

"Ross has a strong passion for what he does," said McNeal. "He always wants to learn and try new things. That energy is very positive and easy to feed off of."

McNeal, who is in frequent contact with Kurcab to ask for advice or information, added: "He's one of my biggest mentors; he's always making me think."

According to Smith, "Ross is a great teacher, he's dedicated and he has a natural instinct on how to grow grass. He's been a great boss, teacher and friend."

Added Smith: "I've never met anyone who loves their job more than he does. His job is very dear to him. He's definitely found a career he loves."

sportsTURF's Managers of the Year

2001: Ross Kurcab
2000: Eugene Mayer
1999: Dr. Henry Indyk
1998: Mike Schiller
1997: Floyd Perry
1996: Steve Wightman
1995: Ed Birch
1994: Dr. Kent Kurtz
1993: Roger Bossard
1992: George Toma
1991: Murray Cook
1990: Harry Gill
1989: Dr. Fred Grau

Finally!
An infield conditioner that
gives you brick red color
without the brick.

With TURFACE Pro League Red you get the rich red color you want plus the infield conditioner you need. TURFACE Pro League is the only patented infield conditioner that provides superior rainout protection and delivers the ultimate playing surface.

Call us at 1-800-207-6457 or visit our website at www.turface.com

Color and Performance.
Pro League® Red.

sportsTURF • http://www.sportsturfonline.com

Circle 126 on Inquiry Card.
Know Your Sports Field Conditioner

In the past, there have been some misconceptions about sports field conditioners. The following definition of terms and clarification of product characteristics has been put together based on significant research and development to help you make informed decisions about which products will work best on your baseball and sports turf fields.

What are the most important characteristics to look for in a soil conditioning product?

Know your mineral! What is the base material of the product, because different minerals perform differently? Does the mineral's inherent characteristics enhance field conditions?

Absorption. How have the characteristics of the mineral been optimized for maximum absorption?

Color. Will the product help you meet the standards for a good-looking field? For example, on a baseball field a deeper red color provides maximum visual contrast for the white ball.

Liquid Holding Capacity (LHC). Measures the internal pore volume of a mineral. What sort of capacity for moisture does the product have? What is its ability to retain that moisture.

Stability. Will the product resist breakdown and deliver long-lasting performance?

Absence of Dust. Will the product go on cleanly and not blow away with the first breeze or blow back in an infielder's face?

What type of product meets these criteria?

The physical and chemical makeup of a mineral will directly impact its performance as a soil conditioner. Research shows the best available mineral for sports turf applications is montmorillonite clay. Unique deposits of Montmorillonite clay are found in northern Mississippi and southern Illinois. The internal pore size of montmorillonite is very small. This creates surface tension that absorbs and holds water tightly. Other minerals either do not absorb as much or do not hold water as tightly. In order to process montmorillonite clay into a high quality sports field conditioner, the manufacturing process must include super-heating.

What does super-heating mean?

Super-heating is a process (typically 1250-1500°F) which removes all moisture from montmorillonite clay. Super-heating transforms the clay into a hard, ceramic-like product. It fixes (or case hardens) the crystalline structure, optimizing the absorptivity of the pores and permanently hardening the granules.

Montmorillonite, when super-heated, absorbs and exchanges moisture in the soil. Also, because it has been case hardened, it is physically stable and will not break down in the field. In other words, super-heating optimizes montmorillonite for sports field applications.

Are other soil conditioners super-heated?

They can be. Super-heating is a manufacturing process ideal for montmorillonite. The term refers to the level of thermal treatment applied in processing. Super-heating optimizes the hardness and stability of montmorillonite without compromising its porosity.
making it a perfect soil conditioner. Super-heating other minerals may or may not optimize them for sports fields.

What is the best way to superheat montmorillonite clay?
The best method of producing high quality soil conditioners is to utilize a seven-step process. The raw absorbent clay is mined, sized, dried, ground into specific particle sizes, dried again, superheated, and de-dusted. Because the granules are ground and sized prior to the drying and super-heating processes, each granule receives the full benefit of these steps. In other five-step processes, drying is the first process, then grinding and sizing. The drying cannot drive out all the moisture in the larger granules. This results in lower liquid holding capacities and lower absorptivity.

Are there other important differences?
Yes. If the dust has not been removed from the product, you lose part of what you pay for at the first sign of wind. You also run the risk of the product blowing back in the face of your players. Also, a deep red color is inherent to clays found in northern Mississippi and southern Illinois.

What does vitrified mean?
Vitrification is a thermal process that involves higher temperatures than super-heating (typically 1800-2200°F) to transform minerals into a hard, glass-like material. Vitrification is not optimal for montmorillonite. It wastes heat and can destroy porosity. Vitrification may be optimal for other minerals, but none with the excellent sports turf attributes of montmorillonite.

Since vitrification processes hotter, does that make it better than super-heating?
Again, you have to know what mineral is being used. Vitrifying a montmorillonite clay will not provide any benefits. In fact, important performance characteristics such as absorption and the holding and releasing of moisture will be seriously degraded if higher vitrification temperatures are used with montmorillonite clay.

Is this a process used in sports field products?
Yes, but the mineral that undergoes vitrification, lacks the absorbent characteristics of montmorillonite.

How can I tell the difference between vitrified clay and superheated montmorillonite?
A simple test is to put a handful of both products on a plate or on your field right next to each other. Pour water in a puddle between the two products and watch the montmorillonite clay pull water away from the other material. The super-heated montmorillonite clay has a much stronger affinity for water due to its extensive network of small, thirsty pores.

What do professional groundkeepers use on their Major League ballfields?
Three quarters of the Major League groundkeepers choose montmorillonite clay to maintain their fields. In fact, the World Series champions for each of the last five years have used montmorillonite soil conditioners.

The use of properly super-heated montmorillonite clay on a ballfield will help prevent rainouts, break up compaction and improves the fields resiliency.
This is an exciting time for sports turf managers and for the profession of sports turf management. Participation in sports is beginning at an ever-younger age and continuing into adulthood, often to the senior citizen level. The growing interest and enthusiasm for soccer is creating the demand for more field time and for more fields. Rapidly advancing technology is reflected in the design and construction of new stadiums all across the world.

It's also a demanding time for sports turf managers, a time that calls for enhancing one's own knowledge and skills to meet the multiple challenges of new technology, increased field use demands and field quality expectations. As the profession moves forward to reach new heights in the new millennium, the Sports Turf Managers Association also is moving forward with the implementation of a Strategic Plan to serve its members and the industry as a whole.

This is reflected in the new STMA Mission Statement recommended by the Strategic Planning Committee and ratified by the STMA Board of Directors in June of 2000. The Mission Statement calls for STMA: “To be the recognized leader in strengthening the sports turf industry and enhancing members' competence and the acknowledgement of their professionalism.”

This is a clear statement not just of what we are, but also of what we are becoming and what we will achieve. It's a powerful tool to give a united sense of direction and focus to our organization.

The words were carefully chosen for the messages they represent. The phrase “strengthening the sports turf industry” focuses on the process of making it stronger in areas of knowledge, performance and leadership. The phrase “enhancing members’ competence” focuses on the quality of being competent, well qualified, capable and fit to accomplish the requirements of the position. The word acknowledgement in the phrase “the acknowledgement of their professionalism” focuses on developing broader recognition of the fact that sports turf managers are professionals whose professionalism is to be recognized and affirmed.

This leads into STMA’s updated Positioning Statement, also adopted at the STMA June Board Meeting. The Positioning Statement defines what STMA desires to create for all of its stakeholders, in the long-term: “Providing the best sports surfaces for all levels of play.”

Obviously, this is a long-term plan
that will need to be continually reviewed, updated and fine-tuned.

The following priorities—expressed as Master Strategies—have been identified for implementation in the short-term. These Master Strategies and Implementation Guidelines are, in the judgment of the Strategic Planning Committee and the STMA Board, critical to STMA's future success in serving its members and representing their interests.

**Develop Performance Measurements**

This is part of an ongoing Master Strategy that has been moving forward within the Association since its formation and which has become increasingly structured with its growth over the last five years. It has resulted in a strong and growing organization with a sound financial base. The current finance committee, chaired by STMA Treasurer Bob Campbell, developed a more detailed and far-reaching set of financial guidelines, which were adopted by the STMA Board at its September meeting.

The Board, various committees and STMA Headquarters will work together to develop checks and balance systems for the strategic plan implementation. This will include development of formal statements of policy for the Board, Committees, Executive Director and STMA Staff.

**Define and Promote Image**

STMA will work with its membership, industry leaders, university personnel, administrator groups and others to identify and define an accurate positive image of the sports turf manager and the sports turf management profession. The input received from all these groups will be studied, categorized and summarized to define the image the STMA should project for the profession.

STMA will continue to promote the Certified Sports Field Manager program, the acceptance of the CSFM program among sports turf managers and recognition of the Certification among targeted audiences including athletic directors, parks and recreation and municipality directors, stadium managers, MLB, NFL and other key industry representatives.

STMA will develop a comprehensive marketing plan to achieve recognition of the image of the profession and the professional with clearly defined 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year goals.

**Develop Education and Research Agenda**

STMA's educational focus will seek to identify and prioritize the educational and resource needs of its membership, students and the industry, identify solutions to industry challenges and enact programs to address these areas. STMA also will seek to identify and prioritize the educational needs of the general public pertaining to athletic fields and address those educational needs.

In addition, STMA has formed...
the Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE), a separate 501(c)(3) corporation with purposes as outlined in the SAFE Mission Statement: “To support sports field specific research, education programs and environmental concerns to promote user safety.”

**Enhance Information and Member Services**

STMA will develop and implement a systematic process to evaluate current and develop new Association programs and services in response to member, former member and potential member input. Among the areas of anticipated action are undertaking to provide and promote expanded networking opportunities for members to communicate and share knowledge and build professional relationships both within the US and internationally.

**Strengthen and Enhance Chapters**

STMA will work to strengthen the capacity of current affiliated Chapters and potential new Chapters to deliver education programs, information services and networking opportunities to members and other targeted audiences.

The Chapter Officers Training Session (COTS), held in conjunction with the STMA Annual Conference, has proved beneficial in this area. An additional area of assistance could be development of a series of procedures to facilitate Chapter interaction to help continue year-round the idea and information exchange that takes place at COTS.

**Gathering Input**

A major part of the entire implementation process involves seeking the input of the STMA membership on key issues of the industry, the profession and the Association.

An important survey will be undertaken in February of 2001 to do so. But please don’t be limited to that. Your input is welcome anytime. Please feel free to contact me, any of the STMA officers or board members or any staff member at STMA Headquarters with your questions, comments and concerns. By working together, we'll move forward to meet the challenges of the new millennium and accomplish our long-term goal of providing the best sports surfaces for all levels of play.

*Steve Trusty is Executive Director of the Sports Turf Managers Association.*
Whatever happened to great seed varieties like Palmer III, Shenandoah II, Apollo and Crenshaw?

They landed in our bags and buckets.

After the recent disappearance of a large seed company, many seed buyers were left to wonder what became of many well-known and respected seed varieties.

Rest assured, they have a new home. United Horticultural Supply is now the nation’s source for top varieties.

The varieties you’ve always counted on are now available individually, or formulated in new blends and mixtures, many of which carry the Signature Pure Seed Tag.™ When you ask for this tag, you are assured to receive clean seed of the highest quality. It underscores our commitment to provide only the best products and services.

Check with your local UHS representative for more details about our outstanding selection of premium seed varieties, mixtures and blends, the best available.

A sampling of our varieties:
Palmer III Perennial Ryegrass
Prelude III Perennial Ryegrass
Pennant II Perennial Ryegrass
Apollo Kentucky Bluegrass
Princeton 105 Kentucky Bluegrass
Shenandoah II Turf-type Tall Fescue
Falcon II Turf-type Tall Fescue
Crenshaw Creeping Bentgrass
A’s & G’s Creeping Bentgrass
Laser Poa trivialis
Azure Sheeps Fescue
Reliant II Hard Fescue
plus more than 100 more varieties!

Circle 131 on Inquiry Card
Gasoline-powered athletic field marking machine
Ruggedly designed for years of use, the BS1500 athletic field marking machine is currently being used at more than 4,000 high schools, colleges, universities and park and recreation departments nationwide. The unit includes a 7-gallon stainless steel tank which reduces the number of delays for refilling. Three large, fully pneumatic 10-inch wheels provide smooth rolling on rough athletic surfaces. A 12-foot-long hand hose with wand and a fully adjustable spray box, which is offset to eliminate straddling of freshly painted lines, are included as standard equipment.

Pioneer
Colleen Leslie
4529 Industrial Pkwy.
Cleveland, OH 44135
Tel: 800-877-1500
Fax: 800-877-1511
For more information circle 100.

Mowing on air
Eastman Hover Mower, instead of using wheels, floats on a cushion of air, allowing it to mow a wide variety of difficult terrain. A stream of air keeps the mower off the ground while it slices through the grass. The cushion of air lends itself to maneuverability, reduces the wear and tear on mower parts, increases productivity and allows the mower to be used in applications unthinkable for traditional walk-behind mowers. The mower is powered by a lightweight, 2-horsepower, two-stroke engine. It is ideal for tackling awkward areas, is easy to maneuver and easy to store.

Robin America
Pamela Accetta
1239 W. Madison 3rd floor
Chicago, IL 60607
Tel: 312-850-4273
Fax: 312-850-9329
Accetta@dca-dcpr.com
For more information circle 101.

Tuck in your sod
Typar Turf Blankets speed the germination and growth of turfgrass, helping turf managers make the most of the short time available for grass recovery. They are excellent for seeded, sprigged or sodded turf. The blankets work by retaining warmth and moisture, creating an environment similar to that found in a greenhouse, which is ideal for turfgrass growth and health. The blankets are porous to allow sunlight, air, water and nutrients, all essential to turfgrass health, through it. Air temperatures under the blankets are 3 to 7 degrees Fahrenheit higher than surrounding uncovered areas. This extra warmth is important during the spring because turf under the blankets germinates earlier, greens-up faster, has longer roots and is stronger.

Typar
Cindy Kershner
P.O. Box 5
Apex, NC 27502
Tel: 615-297-9077
Fax: 919-363-0621
For more information circle 102.

Don't need a weatherman
Cell-Alert AWS-2000 weather station uses a new, revolutionary wireless data transmission technology that provides high reliability at a low cost.

This development sends digital data packets through an underutilized channel on existing cellular towers throughout the entire North American continent. The station is installed for microclimate weather monitoring and is self-powered by a solar power supply. Parameters such as ambient temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, rainfall, solar radiation intensity and soil temperature are monitored by the station's remote transmitting unit. Measurement values are stored and transmitted at programmable intervals. Summary data for minimums, maximums, summations, as well as calculated values such as evapotranspiration and disease model index are also transmitted. In addition to data, alarm events such as freeze alarms are also transmitted in real time.

Strison Wireless Systems
John Strandberg
1302 N. O. Henry Blvd.
Greensboro, NC 27405
Tel: 336-279-1070
Fax: 336-272-4521
Wireless@strison.com
For more information circle 103.

5-foot drill is convenient, field-proven
The 5-foot, three-point drill is outfitted with 00 series, straight-arm open-
ers for seeding in conventional and min-tilled ground. Seeding is ground driven and can be adjusted easily through the speed change gearbox. Seeding depth can be quickly and precisely changed with an 18-position T-handle on each opener. Row spacing on the 3P500 is 6 or 7 1/2 inches. An optional small-seeds attachment is also available.

Great Plains
Rick Hanson
1525 E. North St.
P.O. Box 5060
Salina, KS 67402-5060
Tel: 785-823-3276
Fax: 785-822-5600
For more information circle 104.

A reel winner
N500 Series high pressure spring rewind reel is designed for efficient hose handling in applications such as hydraulics, air/water and chassis grease. A compact frame and narrow base additionally promote ease of installation. The reel handles single 1/4-inch or 3/8-inch I.D. hose. It features a heavy-duty spring motor with self-contained rewind power, and a four-way roller assembly. A non-sparking ratchet assembly locks the reel at the desired length of hose payout, and a pull on the hose unlocks the reel for the spring motor to retract it. A declutching arbor is also included to prevent damage from reverse winding. The standard N500 operates at pressures to 10,000 psi and can manage product temperatures from -20 to 225 degrees Fahrenheit.

Hannay Reels
Ed Rush
553 State Rte. 143
Westerlo, NY 12193-0159
Tel: 518-797-3791
Fax: 518-797-3259
For more information circle 105.

Exmark introduces the 27-hp Liquid-Cooled Lazer Z
Cut up to six acres per hour with the 27-horsepower Liquid-Cooled Lazer Z, featuring 60-inch or 72-inch UltraCut deck options. The quick-lift deck assist is standard on the 72-inch model. An electric start Kawasaki V-Twin engine runs quieter with less vibration than single-cylinder engines and simplifies on-trailer starts. System design provides more power to the cutting deck, delivering a high-quality cut at high-mowing speeds. Unique up-top radiator positioning draws clean, cool air, substantially increasing engine life. Standard Donaldson canister air filter traps more contaminants and lasts twice as long as standard air cleaners. Use of Dex-Cool Extended Life coolant/antifreeze provides a virtually maintenance free system, with the first scheduled change at 4,000 hours or four years.

Exmark
Jason Schmaderer
P.O. Box 808
Beatrice, NE 68310
Tel: 402-223-6300
Fax: 402-223-6384
For more information circle 106.

Environmentally friendly stripper
The battery-powered EZ-100 athletic field striping machine is equipped with a large 14-gallon tank with a 5-inch screw cap, garden hose attachment for easy clean up and low center of gravity for superior handling. The 12-volt DC rechargeable system will allow operators to paint more than seven football fields on a single charge. The specially-designed Shur-Flo pump provides clean, crisp lines at 50-60 psi. A standard 12-foot-long hose with spray wand makes painting logos and numbers simple.

Whitlam Paint
Dale Forester
200 W. Walnut St.
P.O. Box 380
Wadsworth, OH 44282
Tel: 800-321-8358
Fax: 800-537-0588
For more information circle 107.
Very early motorized mower by Ransomes. The first such model was built in 1902. It was a model like this that won the competitive demonstration against steam mowers in 1905.

The first tractor-drawn tri-aerator, developed by Tom Mascaro and used on athletic fields-circa 1950’s.

Above: 36” Economy tow model, fully equipped on Yazoo-Kee® ZTR®

TURF-AIRE®... aerating made easy!

Turf-Aire® aerators come as 36”, 48”, and 60” three-point hitch or tow units in economy or heavy duty models with tine selections from 48 to 160. All of these units are designed to service the golf industry, sport/turf industry, and landscaping industry.

If you would like more information about the various Turf-Aire® models... call us today!

Above: 60” Golf/Sport/Turf tow model with sand weight kit on John Deere® ProGator®

An early walk-behind aerifier developed by Tom Mascaro, circa 1950's.