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General Manager
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MVP's

Millcreek Manufacturing Co. introduces the Turf Tiger, a new type of large capacity topdresser for turf applications that applies a wide variety of topdressing and bulk materials even when wet, giving you additional flexibility for scheduling and working around variable weather and material moisture conditions.

The unit has a 7500-lb. capacity and applies sand/peat topdressing, compost, infield mix, topsoil mixtures, soil amendments and other bulk materials. The patented Saber/Tooth attachment is composed of a series of uniquely arranged steel plates mounted on a rapidly spinning bar, and is more aggressive in handling wet or clumpy material than brush or spinner attachments. The result is not only the ability to handle wet materials, but also the spreading pattern is consistent and precise across a path that ranges from 10-16 ft. wide, depending on material conditions.

For information, circle 155, or see www.OneRS.net/210sp-155

FIELD PAINTS

"Often times, we have found products for field maintenance and game preparation that cost less end up costing more in the long run," says Vince Patterozzi, field maintenance manager for the Baltimore Ravens. "We began using World Class field paints in 1996. The results were amazing. We found that even when mixed at a 3-1 ratio with water, World Class is brighter and lasts longer than any other leading brand of field marking paint we have tried, while reducing our cost per gallon. In addition, we have found no residual damage to our turf or rootzone, as we did using other brands."

World Class Athletic Surfaces/800-748-9649
For information, circle 195, or see www.OneRS.net/210sp-195

LINE CUTTER & PAINTER

"With the 50-gal. paint tank, we can re-line our fields each day without refilling between fields," says Roland F. Raymond, Lewiston Parks & Rec Dept., about the Kromer AFM inlaid line cutter and painter unit. C.T. Rundberg, grounds supervisor at the University of St. Thomas, says, "We save about 25% on labor time using this striper and we have straightened out our lines as well."

Kromer Co./800-373-0337
For information, circle 156, or see www.OneRS.net/210sp-156

TOPDRESSER APPLIES WET MATERIALS

Millcreek Manufacturing Co. introduces the Turf Tiger, a new type of large capacity topdresser for turf applications that applies a wide variety of topdressing and bulk materials even when wet, giving you additional flexibility for scheduling and working around variable weather and material moisture conditions.

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For information, circle 155, or see www.OneRS.net/210sp-155
COVER STORY

Rush-Henrietta (NY) earns STMA distinction

A passion for athletic field safety, quality, and playability have earned head groundskeeper John Gaffney and his crew High School FOY honors.

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ON THE COVER: Elmer Gordon Stadium, the Rush-Henrietta (NY) Central School District. Photo by Patrick St. Clair
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1. **EDGE IT**

With its adjustable guide shoe, the Bannerman Diamond Edger is surprisingly easy-to-use. Its three-inch blade depth and reversible, 20-inch concave disc work together to quickly eliminate ridging. Debris is spiraled into the infield for fast and easy clean-up.

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2. **GROOM IT**

The Diamond-Master® (pictured) and Ballpark-6® groomers will give your ball diamonds a surface just like the professional teams demand, and reduce the time, effort and labour required to do the job.

![Diamond Master]( أنحاء-B-DM-6.jpg)

3. **LINE IT**

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Used correctly, crumb rubber can help

I recently tagged along on the Midwest Chapter of STMA's "Tour on Wheels" that included a stop at Brookfield-Riverside High School to check out their crumb rubber-amended football field. Athletic Director Otto Zeman was ebullient about how this soil amendment had helped improve conditions on a field that sees 45-50 games each fall and is maintained by a one-man crew, an old Kikco sprinkler, and ServiceMaster.

Later I talked to Jim Stepp, who supplied and put down the recycled tire rubber. A former asphalt contractor, Stepp has a custom-built machine he's trying to patent for this work. "It takes ten times more pressure to pull grass from these fields," he says. "The rubber migrates with roots and creates air pockets, which helps retain moisture or absorb moisture as necessary."

In East Lansing, Dr. Trey Rogers says there's two ways to handle rubber: till into the rootzone or add as topdressing. "It's no magic bullet, but with topdressing we've seen improvements to justify using crumb rubber. There's an increase in wear tolerance. Of course you still have to maintain the turf," he says.

But it's a mistake to put down 1/4 inch and leave it at that, it won't work. "You must use 3/8 to 1/2 inch to see benefits," Rogers says. "It's not a case of half the material will yield half the results."

Like Minner, Rogers says it's a waste of money to use crumb rubber in non-high traffic portions of your field. And he adds a comment that might be said for many products: "We proved it doesn't work but it doesn't replace good turf management."

Credit due: Our September issue cover photo of Virginia's Scott Stadium was taken by Jill Callhoun.
September was an exciting month for many of you. On the international front, professional baseball finally settled the strike issue between owners and players. This was good news.

But, at the same time, the International Olympic Committee put baseball and softball on the chopping block for the 2008 Olympics. Baseball industry leaders from all national federations including Major League Baseball and the Players Association met in Switzerland to discuss a strategy to present to the next council meeting in Mexico, in November. All looks positive that an effective case will be submitted at the meeting that proves baseball and softball should stay as Olympic sports. The entire development of removing these sports would have a rippling effect on everyone involved in maintaining softball and baseball fields around the world.

This issue of SPORTSTURF is packed with some great articles about people and their fields. Congratulations to Jon Strantz and his crew on the opening of Reliant Stadium! Jon and I spent a few years together at Disney before going different ways and, from the looks of things in Texas, he has accepted the challenge extremely well. Also congratulations to John Gaffney and his crew for the great work they do for the fields of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District. The football earned Field of the Year (FOY) honors in the High School division.

Speaking of FOY honors, October 15 is the deadline to get your FOY entry packet headed to STMA Headquarters. That’s also the postmark date for sending in all scholarship application materials for the SAFE Scholarship Program. If you have questions about either of these programs, please call or email STMA Headquarters.

The STMA Chapters have been busy. The Pacific Northwest Chapter kicked off their first major event at Safeco. Catch the details in “STMA in Action,” page 42. Both the Minnesota and Midwest Chapters report their Seminar on Wheels tours went very well. The Michigan Chapter notes that more than 150 attendees of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Field Day in Lansing joined in the Chapter-sponsored tour of the Michigan State University athletic fields and facilities. Obviously, the opportunity to view the results of the modular makeover at Spartan Field (featured in last month’s issue) was a big draw.

In the area of professional development, everyone should review the article by Amy Fonty that discusses professional image and improving working relationships with staff and peers. Amy is sports turf manager for the University of Michigan and serves as the Michigan Chapter’s president.

The STMA mentoring program for the professional member is wrapping up its first year and is looking for partners to join in as mentors for next year. The commercial member mentoring program got started the first week of October. As of this writing, there were still a few openings for commercial mentors. Please contact STMA Headquarters if you are interested in serving as a mentor.

We are definitely reaching out to more and more people around the world through our organization. It’s an exciting industry to be a part of. Next issue we will cover more details on the STMA Conference that EVERYONE will attend, January 15-19, 2003, in San Antonio.

You can contact me via email at murrayc@brickmangroup.com
A passion for athletic field safety, quality, and playability has earned the 2001 STMA Football Field of the Year Award in the High School division for the field of Elmer Gordon Stadium. Under the direction of head groundskeeper John Gaffney, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District Grounds Department has set the goal of making this field the best that it can be—and better every year. Gaffney became a member of the grounds staff in 1982, and advanced to his current position in 1991, when his predecessor, Don Tobey, retired.

Gaffney says, "Henrietta is located in western New York, 10 miles south of Rochester. The native soil field was built in 1967 and has a heavy clay soil profile that continues to create a challenge for drainage, rooting, and compaction reduction. Don Tobey, who served as head groundskeeper from 1960-1991, had the vision of creating a top quality playing field. The district's theory has always been, 'As long as one of the main objectives of the game of football is to put somebody to the ground as hard as you can, we are going to provide a safe surface for them to land on.'"

"The construction included establishment of a 18-inch crown for surface drainage, installation of drainage tile and a manual irrigation system. The field was seeded with a combination of Kentucky bluegrasses and perennial ryegrasses, and allowed to grow in for 2 years before it was used. Key to maintaining field quality, then and now, is limiting use."

The stadium was originally built for varsity football and track and field events. A stone dust track surrounded the field. The grounds crew installed an automatic irrigation system in 1986 to replace the original manual system. Designed by a local irrigation supplier, the new system covers all the turf inside the track with 48 pop-up sprinkler heads, seven electric valves, a 24-zone controller and a booster pump. The system operates on municipal water. During the winter of 2001, the crew installed a larger pump and a new controller, with more programming ability.

Gaffney says, "More events have been added as the field has improved due to management and cultural practices to withstand more use without damage. Men's lacrosse was added to the spring play schedule in the early 1970s. Women's lacrosse expanded spring field use starting in 1995. Junior varsity football was added to the fall field program in 2000. An all-weather rubber running track was installed in 1996 to replace the stone dust track. The field is not lighted, though that has been discussed. The field now
Elmer Gordon Stadium Field Maintenance Program

April
- Soil tested for pH, fertility levels and organic matter content
- Apply granular fertilizer 18-24-12 at 1 lb. N per 1,000 square feet
- Apply biostimulant at 1 gallon per acre rate
- Mowing as necessary - generally three times per week at 2-inch height
- Chelated iron applied if necessary for green up
- Paint lines for men's and women's lacrosse for each game
- Broadcast overseed 50/50 bluegrass/perennial ryegrass weekly as necessary
- Aerify with shatter tines, one direction

May
- Mow three times per week at 2-inch height
- Apply granular fertilizer 24-5-11 at 1/2 lb. N per 1,000 square feet
- Paint lines for men's and women's lacrosse for each game
- Broadcast overseed 50/50 bluegrass/perennial ryegrass weekly as necessary
- Irrigate as necessary depending on weather conditions

June
- Mow three times per week at 2-inch height
- Paint lines for men's and women's lacrosse for each game
- Irrigate as necessary
- Analyze soil test results; adjust nutrient program as necessary

At completion of lacrosse season
- Aerify with shatter tines in two directions
- Aerify with hollow tines four to six passes
- Topdress with organic compost approximately 40 cubic yards
- Drag mat to break up cores and mix with compost topdressing into aeration holes
- Overseed with slicer/seeder in three directions 50/50 bluegrass/perennial ryegrass at 8 lb. per 1,000 square feet
- Apply granular fertilizer 18-24-12 at 1/2 lb. N per 1,000 square feet
- Apply biostimulant 1 gallon per acre to speed germination and recovery

July
- Irrigate regularly until new grass is established
- Raise mowing height to 2-1/2 inches for off-season

August
- Irrigate as necessary, deep and infrequent
- Mow three times per week at 2-1/2 inch height until third week of August, then lower to 1-1/4 inch
- Monitor for turf pests; treat with insecticide only if necessary following standard IPM practices
- Apply broadleaf herbicide if necessary following standard IPM practices
- Aerify with shatter tines in two directions

September
- Apply biostimulant at 1 gallon per acre rate
- Mow three times per week at 2-1/4 inch height
- Irrigate as necessary, deep and infrequent
- Apply granular fertilizer 24-5-11 at 1/2 lb. N per 1,000 square feet
- Paint lines for each football game

October
- Repair divots immediately after games
- Aerify with shatter tine one direction
- Overseed center of field if necessary

November
- Apply biostimulant at 1 gallon per acre rate
- Mow three times per week at 2-1/4 inch height until growth stops
- Paint lines for remaining football games, play usually ends second week of November

At completion of football season
- Aerify with shatter tines in two directions
- Aerify with hollow tines two to four passes depending on condition
- Topdress with organic compost approximately 20-25 cubic yards
- Drag mat
- Apply granular fertilizer 18-24-12 at 1/2 lb. P per 1,000 square feet

http://www.sportsturfmanager.com • STMA
hosts all modified, junior varsity, and varsity track and field events, as well as invitation- 
al meets and county meets.

Spring 2002 was one of the wettest ever in western New York. Field use began in 
mid-April and continued into early June. The men's and women's lacrosse teams 
played all their home games on the field, which is two to four games a week. Track and 
field events took over the facility on the non-game days.

Gaffney notes, "2002 also was one of the busiest ever for the field with 30 lacrosse 
games played here. We wrapped up that season with good field conditions. Then, on 
June 1, we hosted the New York State track and field championships that brought 
10,000 people here for 2 days. Events took over the facility. We added a couple high 
jump and pole vault areas behind the grandstands. We also added a steeplechase 
event—for the student athletes—complete with water hazards and hurdles around the 
track. It was a popular event and showcased the facility. The field was used for warm 
ups and for all the judging. Again, it held up well."

Spring field renovation began at the completion of all these events to repair worn 
areas and improve the turf for football season. Steps included: shatter tine aeration in 
two directions, hollow tine aeration with from four to six passes, topdressing, drag mat- 
ting, overseeding a combination of bluegrass and perennial ryegrass in three directions 
with a slice seeder, fertilization, irrigation, and mowing height manipulation.

New, single pole goal posts were installed to replace the old "H" style posts. 
Permanent, handicap accessible, bleachers were added on the visitors side of the field, 
upping seating there from 150 to 500 for an overall capacity of 3,350.

Gaffney heads a staff of six: John DaGama, Don Wheeler, Kent Porter, Ron 
Tirabassi, Bill Ladd, and Jeff Brown. He says, "They're an incredible team. Each 
brings his own unique talents, yet all are cross-trained to share all duties and responsi- 
bilities. They're willing to do whatever it takes to create and maintain top quality con- 
ditions."

And it takes a lot. The grounds department is responsible for maintenance at six 
elementary schools, two middle schools, the 9th grade academy, the senior high 
school, and the administration building, bus garage and building, and grounds facility. 
Duties include the mowing of 265 acres of turf spread over nine locations around the 
district, landscape installation and maintenance, lawn maintenance, playground con- 
struction and maintenance, irrigation installations and maintenance, repair of all 
grounds equipment and vehicles, snow removal in the winter, as well as athletic field