

top.dress / top.dressing (top.dres)/(top.dres.in)

- vt.* 1. introducing new materials for improving or amending native soil conditions
- n.* 2. an important agronomic practice resulting in safe, consistent, healthy turf
- vt.* 3. something done to create great playing conditions



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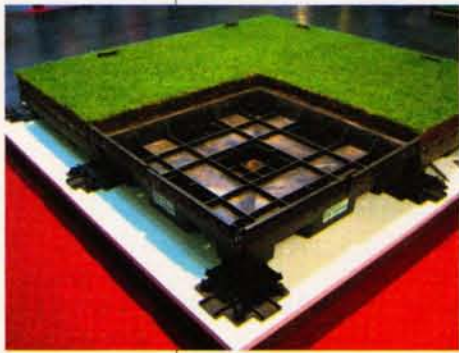


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TRAY DRAINAGE

GreenTech module, 46 in. square and 8 1/2 in. deep, high-density polyethylene plastic container, in effect replace traditional drainage systems. On the bottom of each module, channels accommodate forklift arms on all four sides (pallet channels), and numerous small holes enable drainage and rootzone airflow capacity. GreenTech/804-965-0026 For information, circle 077 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2086-077

SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE

Fielder's Choice just completed a three-field renovation at Mayde Creek High School in Katy, TX. The project consisted of two practice fields and one game field. Pictured is the subsurface drainage system installed in one of the practice fields. The company puts perforated pipe in trenches with a filter sock, and also adds a special rootzone sand mixture to create a base that will provide the drainage needed to make full use of the system.

Fielder's Choice/713-466-9200 For information, circle 080 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2086-080



TRENCH DRAINS

ACO Sport trench drains provide a continuous line of drainage between the track and playing field to act as a barrier and prevent track run-off from draining onto the field. Playing field drainage systems generally cannot cope with large run-off volumes from adjacent running track surfaces, often resulting in flooding at the perimeter.

ACO Sport/440-285-7000 For information, circle 081 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2086-0801



RED CLAY CONDITIONER

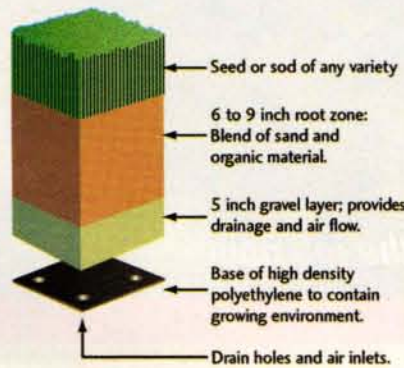
TURFACE Pro League Red is the first and only patented red calcined clay conditioner. It combines a rich red color with proven infield conditioning benefits, and requires about half the tonnage versus aggregates to obtain adequate coverage.

Profile Products/847-215-3470 For information, circle 091 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2086-091



Benefits of GreenTech ITM System:

- ⊕ CONTROL-Temperature, moisture and gas levels for optimal environment to sustain healthy turf
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- ⊕ TRANSPORTABILITY - Construct the ITM System at remote location so grass matures while stadium being built
- ⊕ TURF REPLACEMENT - No need to resod. Remove worn areas and replace with mature turf

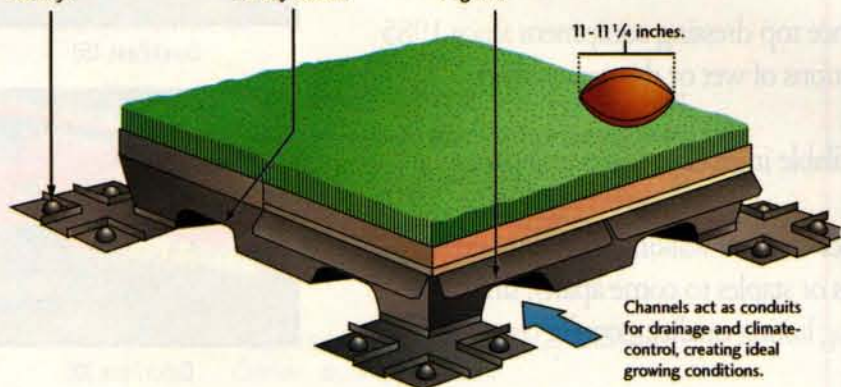


HOW IT WORKS:

A guide system, (foot locator pad) assures the proper position of the trays.

A forklift moves the section, securing it through channels in the tray bottom.

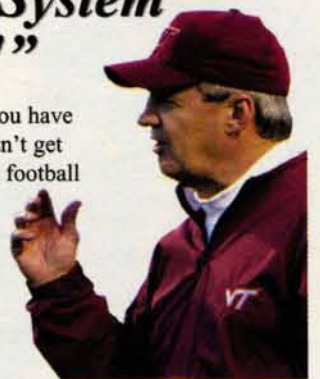
Tray wall folds down, joining neighboring turf sections to create a tight fit.



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NCAA Football Coach of the Year*



Lane Stadium, Virginia Tech

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ELECTRICAL/ IRRIGATION CATALOG

King Innovation, formerly King Safety Products, has a new catalog that details products including DryConn Waterproof Connectors, Proline, Safetyguard, and Easyguard connectors, irrigation products, hand tools, and electrical accessories. King Innovation/800-633-0232 For information, circle 088 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2086-088



SAFE PAINTS

World Class Athletic Surfaces manufactures quality bulk and aerosol paints and custom stencils. For athletic programs that cannot find specific colors, World Class will create a custom color. Company supplies custom color paints and coatings for field marking, traffic, goalposts, non-slip floors, and artificial turf surfaces.

World Class Athletic Surfaces/800-748-9649 For information, circle 090 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2086-090

SOIL PENETRANT

JADA Corp. has introduced FloThru 2403 soil penetrant that reduces water loss from runoff and evaporation, evenly distributes water, and decreases channeling of water through soil profile. This can reduce your water and energy costs, says the company. FloThru can also be mixed with most surface applied chemicals. JADA Corp./973-762-8002 For information, circle 087 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2086-087



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YANKEE STADIUM TURF

Turf-Seed, Inc. supplied Yankee Stadium with a blend of four bluegrass varieties: Midnight, the most-copied bluegrass ever developed; Brilliant, a top NTEP performer with good drought tolerance and high seed count; Moonlight, a variety with excellent shade tolerance that performs well in the Northeast and Midwest; and Unique, a bluegrass variety that grows well in sand or clay soils.

Turf-Seed, Inc./800-247-6910

For information, circle 085 or

see www.oners.ims.ca/2086-085



GREENS AERATION

Advanced Aer has improved its line of subsurface greens aeration products (previously known as Soil Air Technology). This automated sensor-based permanent system attaches to the network of drain tiles under a putting green and continually monitors oxygen, moisture, and temps in the root zone.

Advanced Aer/561-625-3301

For information, circle 083 or

see www.oners.ims.ca/2086-083

GOLF BUILDER MOVES IN TO PARK & REC

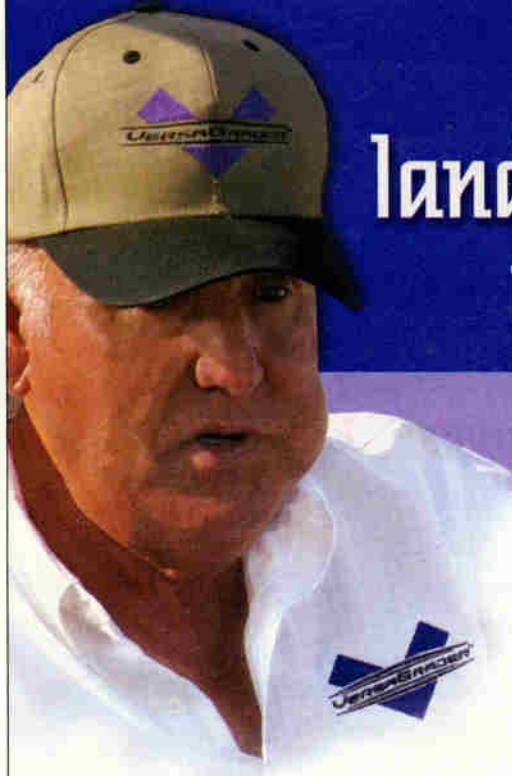
Landscapes Unlimited has made the natural leap into recreational field and parks development. One of the world's largest builders of golf courses, Landscapes in June finished field renovation of Scottsdale Stadium, the training facility for the San Francisco Giants, and in late-summer Baylor University's 15-acre intramural fields.

The company's Construction Group's Sports Development Group is also targeting parks and recreational open spaces, including vertical construction.

Landscapes Unlimited/402-423-6653

For information, circle 082 or

see www.oners.ims.ca/2086-082



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FIELD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY DIRECTORY

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216-581-4990
www.atdsportsfield.qpg.com



Alliza Sports Turf
Alvaton, KY
270-842-0473



Alpine Services, Inc.
Galthersburg, MD
800-292-8420
www.alpineservices.com



American Civil Constructors, Inc.
Littleton, CO
303-795-2582
www.aconstructors.com

Architerra, PC
Coopersburg, PA
610-282-1398

Athletic Fields, Inc.
Cartersville, GA
770-382-7284



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Ballard Sports
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www.ballardsports.com



Beals Sport
San Clara, CA
408-985-7200
www.bealssports.com



Robert A. Bothman, Inc.
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www.bothman.com



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www.cgfields.com



Championship Turf Surfaces
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Clark Companies
Delhi, NY
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www.clarkcompanies.com



Colony Landscape & Maintenance, Inc.
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408-941-1090
www.colonylandscape.com

Creative Landscape & Irrigation, Inc.
Maugansville, MD
301-745-5737
www.creativeirrigation.com

Diamond Athletic Turf, Inc.
Stow, MA
978-897-0344

Duraturf Service Corp.
Richmond, VA
800-358-8283



Fielder's Choice Inc.
Pearland, TX
888-853-4353
www.fielderschoiceinc.com

GSI Consultants/Turfcon
Somerset, NJ
732-247-8026

Gale Associates Inc.
Weymouth, MA
781-335-6465

Geller Sport
Boston, MA
617-523-8103
www.gellersport.com

Grant Sports Fields
Columbus, GA
706-596-9236
www.grantsportsfields.com

GreenTech, Inc.
Savannah, GA
912-353-7944
www.greentechitm.com

Greenway Services
Horsham, PA
215-343-0110

Gregori International
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www.gregori.com

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Huffman SportScope Inc.
Independence, KY
859-647-3000

Hummer Turfgrass Systems Inc.
Lancaster, PA
800-872-8873
www.usaturf.com

The LandTek Group, Inc.
Amityville, NY
631-691-2381
www.landtekgroup.com



Lawn Care Unlimited
Leavenworth, KS
913-682-6706

Mercer Group, Inc.
Troy, OH
937-335-7100
www.mercer-group.com

Mid-Atlantic Turf, Inc.
Gaithersburg, MD
301-990-0315
www.mid-atlanticturf.com



The Motz Group, Inc.
Cincinnati, OH
513-533-6452
www.themotzgroup.com

Munie Outdoor Services
Caseyville, IL
618-632-5296



RTM Sport, Inc.
Burtionsville, MD
301-421-0070

R.T. MacKenzie, Inc.
Burtionsville, MD
301-384-6287

Realty Landscaping Corp.
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610-631-2523
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Glenn Rehbein Co.
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763-784-0657

REIL Construction, Inc.
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815-923-4321



Rettler Corp.
Stevens Point, WI
715-341-2633

SPORTEXE
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905-892-6000
www.sportexe.com

Sports Field Consultants
Duncanville, TX
872-298-0220

SRI Sports
Leander, TX
800-233-5714
www.srisports.com

Sportscape International
Youngstown, OH
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www.sportsturf.net



Team All Sports
Cincinnati, OH
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Turf Services
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616-842-4975

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Al Capitos

BY EVAN LUBOFSKY

DATA LOGGERS IMPROVE TURF MANAGEMENT AT CAMDEN YARDS

One is buried behind the mound of Baltimore's Oriole Park at Camden Yards, the other in right field.

The crowd can't see them, nor can the players. In fact, only a handful of people know they are there, entrenched just 2 inches below the lush green ball field.

What are these objects buried beneath one of America's most beautiful ballparks? If you guessed Orioles season's tickets or Cal Ripken's old batting gloves, guess again.

They are data loggers—tiny, battery-powered devices that Oriole Park groundskeepers use to continuously monitor soil temperature throughout the season. More specifically, the loggers are used to record and time-stamp field root-zone temperatures over month-long intervals, at which time the data is offloaded onto a PC for graphing and analysis.

"We try to track field conditions to the greatest extent possible, and part of our strategy is to use data loggers as a record-keeping mechanism," explains Al Capitos, head groundskeeper at Oriole Park. "By keeping track of the temperatures over time, we can establish trends, which ultimately puts us in a better position to proactively deal with turf diseases associated with high soil temperatures."

Capitos monitors the soil with HOBO H8 data loggers from Onset Computer Corp. The H8 incorporates a microprocessor, an internal temperature sensor, and a user-replaceable battery into a hard-plastic casing slightly larger than a matchbox. By burying one H8 behind the pitcher's mound and the other in the outfield, the groundskeeping team can profile two distinctly different microclimates that exist at the stadium. Each logger is housed in a moisture-resistant enclosure, and takes temperature readings every 30 minutes.

After a month's worth of data has been collected, groundskeepers "unearth" the data loggers and offload the data from each onto a PC. Using Onset's software, the data is immediately translated into easy-to-read graphs that clearly show spikes and drops in root zone temperature. The data is then matched up with soil temperature readings that are taken manually with a probe, a process that Capitos refers to as "double-measuring."

"Some people may think this is way too much information, but we believe that having as much temperature data as possible is key to really getting in touch with the field," he says.

One area where data loggers have really proved their value at Oriole Park is in crabgrass prevention. In order for a pre-emergent herbicide to be effective in preventing crabgrass, the field must be sprayed after the soil temperature has been 55 degrees F for at least 4 days. According to Capitos, historical data recorded by the loggers over the past several seasons helps them predict when this block of time is likely to occur.

"The year-to-year data allows us to almost predict exactly when the temperatures will break," he says. "Knowing this helps us make good decisions as to when we need to spray. After all, the chemicals we spray on the field are expensive, and we have an obligation to be responsible applicators. I sure wouldn't want to be the guy who goes out and puts down chemicals ineffectively."

Capitos now trains new turf management interns on using the products. "We have interns from a variety of schools, including Penn State and Iowa State, and it's great to get them involved with the equipment so they can visualize the collected data and begin learning how to predict trends. It's fun for the students, and they can take the knowledge and experience with them after they graduate and go on to manage their first field."

Since the data loggers were originally buried in the spring of 1999, they have been functioning without any problems. Capitos has been impressed with their durability, and feels that any ballfield, especially those with a variety of microclimates, could benefit from the technology.

He says, "The most important thing is that we can now manage our field proactively instead of having to catch up with problems that we didn't expect." **ST**

Evan Lubofsky works for Onset Computer Corp., www.onsetcomp.com.



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Gregori International has more than 30 years experience in all aspects of sports field construction, installation, grow-in, and maintenance. Gregori has built high-profile facilities all over the world for Soccer, Rugby, and Cricket and, recently, has begun marketing its expertise in Equestrian and Polo field construction, and the use of its patented FIBERsoil product and process.

Gregori International/305-663-7393

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SPORTS TURF COMPANY

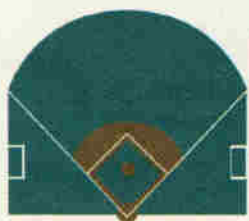
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Sports Turf Company/800-273-8608

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