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AerWay	519-863-3414	Classen	402-371-2294	Little Wonder	877-596-6337
Bannerman	800-665-2696	First Products	800-363-8780	MacKissic	610-495-7181
Billy Goat	816-524-9666	GreensGroomer	888-298-8852	Turf Specialties	800-201-1031
Bluebird	800-808-2473	Jacobsen	888-922-8873	Yazoo/Kees	877-368-8873

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



POWER RAKES

The Billy Goat PR and CR Series power rakes offer construction grade bearings, premium engines, heat-treated flails or knives, and a single piece steel engine base. The units feature padded, ergonomic handles that fold down for easy transportation and storage. An optional vertislicing reel and overseeder kit is available for overseeding, improving soil drainage, and for thinning St. Augustine, Bermuda and running-stem grasses. The flail reel is standard for dethatching.

Billy Goat/816-524-9666

For information, circle 200 or see www.oners.ims.ca/2080-200



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Circle 073 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/2080-073



NEW GROUNDSMASTER UNIT

The Toro Company has begun shipping the Groundsmaster 4100-D, an all out-front rotary that offers operator visibility with a 10.5 foot width of cut. George Tucker, superintendent of park services for Springfield Park District, Springfield, IL, says, "We have used the out-front Groundsmaster 455-D for many years. The out-front mower gives [you] an excellent line of sight with the mower decks right in front. We have used Toro products since the 1970's."

The Toro Company/800-803-8676
For information, circle 188 or
see www.oners.ims.ca/2080-188



VERTICUT AROUND OBJECTS

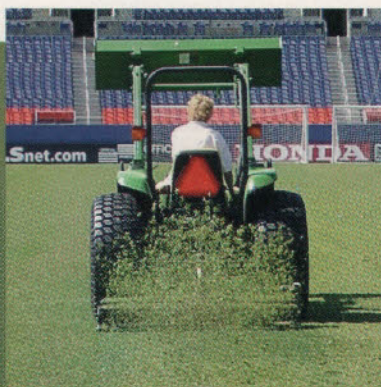
First Products' VC-60 is designed for continuous heavy-duty operation on all types of sportsturf. The unit has a patented swing hitch that allows you to verticut around objects while turning without tearing the established turf. Pivot points allow the unit to float over uneven terrain. Adjustable depth guides make it easy to change cutting depth in the field without tools.

First Products/800-363-8780
For information, circle 187 or
see www.oners.ims.ca/2080-187

72-INCH VERTI-CUT

Turf Specialties announces a new 6-ft. model of its Thatch Master verti-cut unit. It uses the same technology proven over the past 12 years but is 20 percent wider and so reduces labor costs by 20 percent. An NFL turf manager says, "The Thatch Master is a primary piece of equipment we use to renovate our field after a game."

Turf Specialties/800-201-1031
For information, circle 191 or
see www.oners.ims.ca/2080-191



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Processing aeration cores is easier with John Deere's CP48 core pulverizer. When used with Deere's Aercore aerator, the CP48 speeds up aerating activity because it is versatile enough to clear cores of any type and is capable of breaking up pieces at high speeds.

John Deere/800-537-8233
For information, circle 199 or
see www.oners.ims.ca/2080-199



OVERSEEDER

The SPEEDSEED, from Redexim Charterhouse, is for sports fields where economy and random seed dispersements, with no drill lines, are important. The machines offer the same accurate means to produce thousands of holes, deliver the seed and it brush in, all with a single machine. And the large seed hopper means less time filling the machine.

Redexim Charterhouse/570-602-3058
For information, circle 192 or
see www.oners.ims.ca/2080-192

NEW
PRODUCT!

JAKE VERTICUTTER

Jacobsen has a new tractor-pulled, precision-engineered verticutter for sports fields and golf courses. The Verticut 214 attachment has three cutting heads, each with 18 adjustable discs with 54 reversible blades that penetrate soil up to 3 inches to remove thatch and debris. The unit can be used with any PTO-equipped tractor with 30 or more horsepower.

Jacobsen/888-922-8873
For information, circle 174 or
see www.oners.ims.ca/2080-174



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7 ways to maintain a safe playing surface

BY KEVIN VOS, CSFM

The Muscatine Soccer Complex is an 8-field, 41-acre area that is totally surrounded by 7-foot chain link fence. All activity is scheduled on a reserved basis only. We do not allow drop in usage. The complex has wide concrete paved walkways for the spectators and teams to get to their respective fields. These walkways also serve as paths for the maintenance vehicles to each field. For various games and/or tournaments, we will control how close the spectators get to the field by roping off the field. We have permanent and movable bleachers for some fields. Currently, we do not allow any other type of activity but soccer in our complex.

Despite these precautions, one of our biggest challenges has been overuse of the fields. We try to maintain a high-level, safe playing surface. For the soccer fields, the high-use areas are the goal areas, middle of the playing field, ref lines along the touchlines for three-referee system, and team areas. Each year these areas are consistently getting worn from overuse. There seems to be a public perception that if there are not total worn out areas on the fields, you must not be having enough activity. My #1 goal is to provide the safest playing surface possible with the budget I have. I try to maintain it all season long, not just for certain events. Our complex is open from approximately April 1 to November 1. We average 900-1,000 games/scrimmages and 20-22 various size tournaments per season for eight fields. So every year there is a little more activity to keep the pressure on to see how far the fields can be pushed.

To maintain this safe playing surface, we do several things.

1. We constantly educate the teams, coaches about moving warm up activity around the field and not to use one place all the time. We tell them why this is necessary.



Photos courtesy of Kevin Vos

2. I also continue to educate and communicate with my superiors, various city personal, council members, mayor, etc., on various needed turf management practices and complex rules and the need for the fields to rest and recuperate at certain times of the season.

3. We have a complex-wide rule: "No warming up in the goal box area." This is before games and for all groups. For those goalies who need warm ups, we place practice goals at various places by each field. These goals are moved each day/event.

4. Turf management practices include doing extra aerification, overseeding and topdressing in those high-use areas. Aerification will be with solid or coring tines depending on when the next scheduled activity is, and if we are overseeding too. Sometimes during our busiest part of the season, we are aerifying

some field/high-use area every week. Aerification is important to us! We are constantly seeding in some form throughout the season. We do this by slit seeding, broadcasting it in the spots, or putting down divot mix. Depending on

the temperatures, time of the season, and degree of the worn area, we will pre-germinate the seed. We seed before the area is totally worn out. We never want to get behind on this and have dirt areas. Tournaments and, of course, wet playing conditions are the worst for quick damage. For some tournaments, there are anywhere from 8 to 12 games played on a field in 48 hours. This puts intense use on the turf in a short amount of time.

5. Depending on the number of games, age group, time of the year, games played in wet conditions or not, we will move the sidelines in or out 3 feet at a time and/or move the entire field, shifting it north-

south or east-west. We are fortunate to have enough overall area (minimum of 2.5 acres "field" area) to have a playing field laid out in. This oversized area

allows us to shift fields before the turf is totally worn out. After moving the field we will aerify, seed and topdress the high-use areas.

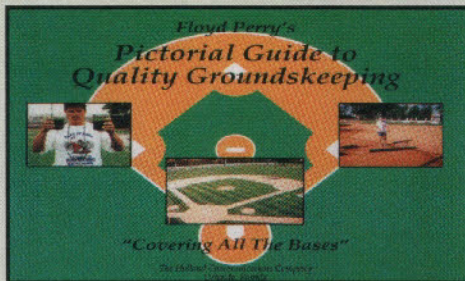
6. I think one of the most important things to do is not allow practices on your game fields. We do allow various controlled scrimmages, 1-2 per week, by the high school teams and club teams.

7. Rest the fields. At some time in the year, usually in July, use is less demanding. We usually only have 1 or 2 fields being played on per week. We rotate and rest the fields for this month. **ST**



Kevin Vos, CSFM, is supervisor of athletic facilities, City of Muscatine, Iowa, Parks and Rec.

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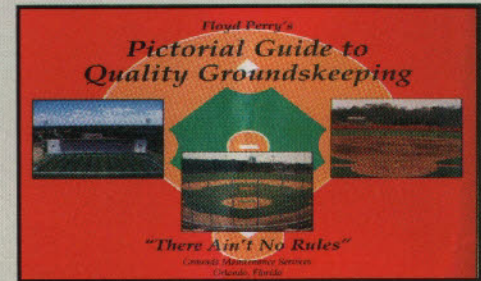
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NEW TRIMMER HEAD

RedMax has introduced a new heavy-duty tap and go head for its string trimmers. The PT104 Plus is standard on RedMax's most popular trimmers, including the BCZ2400S, BCZ2500S/2600S, BC3401DL, EXZ2500 and BC-A. It is available as an accessory for all other RedMax trimmers.

A metal insert in the heavy-duty nylon tap knob extends the head's life by reducing wear and abrasion to the nylon. The tap knob also has a "stay-on" spring, so you'll never have to crawl around in the grass looking for a spring that popped out.

Komatsu Zenoah America
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For information, circle 164 or
see www.oners.ims.ca/2080-164

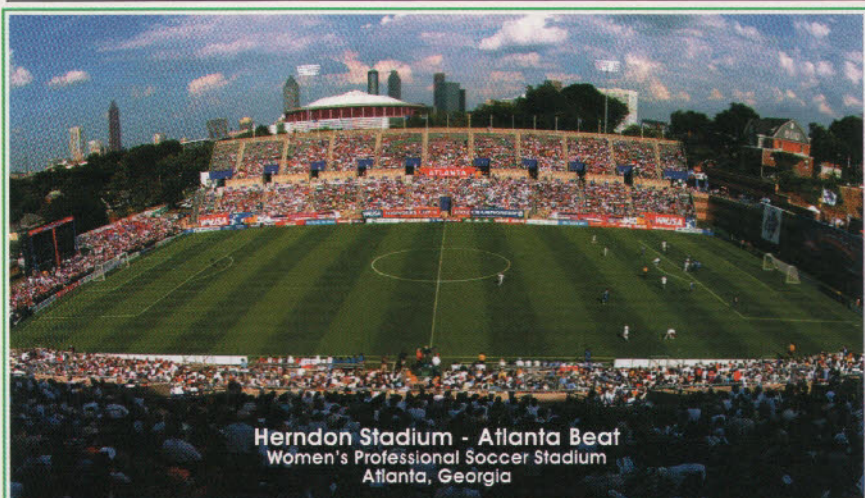


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Meese Orbitron Dunne Co./800-829-4535

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Safekrush/707-824-0903

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Landa Water Cleaning Systems/800-547-8672

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Echo Inc/847-540-8400

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