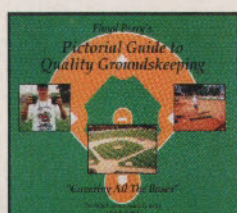


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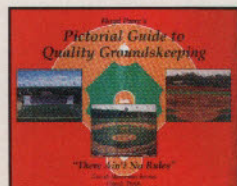
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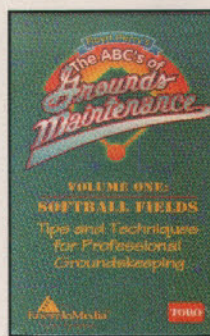
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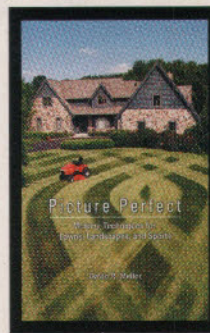


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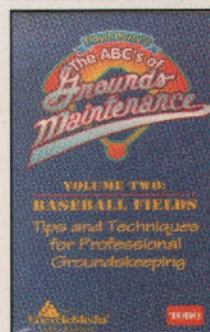


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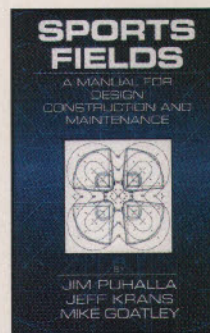


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# Is it snowing yet?

**H**ave you ever noticed that any large undertaking starts with a small group of concerned individuals that band together? An excellent "real life" example of this is the Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association Chapter. This year chapter members, led by Mike McDonald, CSFM, will gather to improve the condition of one of America's ballfields. Snowflakes fall.

Last month we detailed Dr. Andrew McNitt's research at Penn State on infilled synthetic turf systems. That project, endorsed by the SAFE Foundation, will provide much needed guidance on the performance of infilled systems in varying conditions. More snowflakes fall.

The SAFE Foundation has established a review committee to assess what projects to endorse. In fact, we have recently endorsed a second project, "Athletic Field Establishment," led by Pam Sherratt at Ohio State. While we would prefer to invest financially in sportsturf research, we can offer our stamp of approval. More snowflakes.

As snowflakes continue to fall, we will be able to form a snowball. Once that snowball begins to roll downhill, watch out!

It may be a year or two before SAFE is an established leader in sportsturf research and education. When we "arrive" on the "research and education scene," we will be able to determine what problems need solutions. SAFE was founded to be a clearinghouse for finding solutions to these problems.

The SAFE Foundation encourages any effort, small or large, that improves ballfield conditions. Service projects like those of the Minnesota STMA Chapter are wonderful. At the same time, it would be nice to have large efforts like research projects that impact thousands of fields. These larger projects require the coordinated efforts and finances of many individuals. The SAFE Foundation will continue fund-raising efforts that will enable large projects geared toward sportsturf specific research and education. We believe that research and education initiatives will have the greatest impact on America's ballfields.

As a collective group of concerned professionals, our impact is directly related to the impact each of us makes as individuals. Snowflakes in June lead to snowballs in August. As nonsensical as snow in summer may sound, the SAFE Foundation is forecasting a few more snowflakes.

Contact Mike McDonald, CSFM (mcdon015@umn.edu) of the Minnesota STMA Chapter for more information on their service projects. They are accepting support through donated materials & equipment.

Contact Rich King (Rich@st.omhcoxmail.com) for information on making contributions to or receiving research endorsements from the SAFE Foundation.

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# OSTMA sponsors "hands on" clinic

BY BOYD MONTGOMERY, CSFM

**T**he Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA) Chapter held its first event for 2003 on April 14. The event was billed as a hands on athletic field painting clinic and it did not disappoint. About 42 OSTMA members and non-members participated in the clinic. There were three stations set up for this event: logo painting by Jeff Limburg (Toledo Mud Hens), field lining by Darian Daily (Columbus Crew), and tricks of the trade by Brian Hall (Sylvania Recreation). Participants got to demonstrate hands on painting techniques in both Jeff's and Darian's demonstrations and learned many "innovative ideas" to help in the painting of multiple fields from Brian.

The day ended with a panel discussion with Daily, Limburg, Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, (Sylvania Recreation), and Brian Gimbel (Ohio State University). The weather cooperated also, providing Northwest Ohio with its first 70-plus degree day of the year!

ST



## STMA Chapter News

**The Greater LA Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter will meet at 11 AM June 4 at Big League Dreams in Chino Hills for a mini field day, facilities tour, general meeting, softball challenge, and lunch. Next on the calendar is a General Meeting and Nominations for 2004 Board members to be held September 11 at 2 PM at Mt. San Antonio College. The speaker for this event will be announced soon.

For information on the Chapter or pending events, call Steve Dugas, California State University - Fullerton, at 714-278-3929 or email [sdugas@fullerton.edu](mailto:sdugas@fullerton.edu).

**Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):** The Ohio Chapter will hold a Summer Field Day in conjunction with the Kentucky Chapter at the Cincinnati Reds Great American Ballpark in Cincinnati June 10. Speakers will include: Lynda Wightman from Hunter Industries, STMA President Bob Campbell from the University of

Tennessee, Doug Gallant from the Reds, and Pam Sherratt from OSU. Afternoon events will include a tour of the Great American Ballpark and of Paul Brown Stadium, home of the Cincinnati Bengals.

The Chapter's Golf Outing will be held July 22 at Apple Valley Golf Club in collaboration with the OLCA.

For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call OSTMA Headquarters at 888-824-9805 or 419-824-9805 or Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, at 419-885-1982; or visit the chapter's website at [www.ostma.org](http://www.ostma.org).

**Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter will join in a joint meeting with the Ohio Chapter June 10 at the Great American Ballpark in Cincinnati, Ohio, home of the Cincinnati Reds.

For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Tom Nielsen at [TNielsen@batsbaseball.com](mailto:TNielsen@batsbaseball.com) or Aaron Boggs at [AVBoggs@netscape.net](mailto:AVBoggs@netscape.net).

**Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Gateway and Mo-Kan Chapters of the STMA, in association with the University of Missouri, will present the first ever MU SportsTurf Field Day June 11 at the MU Turfgrass Research Center in Columbia, MO. Please see the Mo-Kan Chapter block for additional details.

For information on the Gateway Chapter, or upcoming events, call Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College, 314-392-2328 or email [krone@mobap.edu](mailto:krone@mobap.edu).

**MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:** The MO-KAN and Gateway Chapters of the STMA, in association with the University of Missouri, will present the first ever MU SportsTurf Field Day June 11 at the MU Turfgrass Research Center in Columbia, MO. Registration begins at 8:30, with sessions from 9-3. The Field Day will concentrate only on sportsturf related research activities at the MU Turfgrass Research Center including: skinned



infield materials, preliminary results of the bermudagrass overseeding and transition trials and more. You will have the opportunity to share ideas with Sports Turf Managers from St. Louis and surrounding areas as we tour a number of MU athletic facilities in the afternoon. Arrangements are being made for optional Motorcoach transportation from Kansas City to Columbia. The Chapter's Fall Field Day, Sept. 10, will focus on strategies for High Use, Low Budget Fields. More details will be announced soon. For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jody Gill at 913-239-4121 or JGill2@bv229.k12.ks.us.

**Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter will hold a Seminar June 19 at Sky Sox Stadium in Colorado Springs. Attendees will have the option of taking in a ballgame following the seminar. An August event is in the works at Hughes Stadium of Colorado State University in Fort Collins. The World Famous Lawnmower Man Open will be held at Heritage at the Westmore Golf Course July 22. For information on the Colorado Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website, [www.CSTMA.org](http://www.CSTMA.org), or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954, or contact Chapter President Phil McQuade at 303-237-7188 or [pmcquade@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:pmcquade@jeffco.k12.co.us).

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:** ISTMA will hold its Iowa Cubs Baseball Workshop at Sec Taylor Stadium in Des Moines June 24. Observation of Pre-Game preparations starts at 10 AM. Game time is 12:05, with post-game observation to follow. For information on the Chapter, contact Jeff Wendel of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: [Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org).

**Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA):** The KAFMO Sports Turf Managers' School will be held June 23-25 at Lebanon Valley College in Annville. The School will provide classroom and hands-on sessions about baseball infield maintenance and renovation, turf management, aeration techniques, overseeding, soil biology and fertility, and much more. For information on the KAFMO/STMA Chapter or upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at tel. 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or e-mail to: [kafmo@aol.com](mailto:kafmo@aol.com).

**Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):** The Chapter will hold its Annual Meeting and Field Day June 26 at Birmingham Public Schools. Rob Carson, Sports Turf Manager, will host this event. This year's theme is the five fundamental cultural practices: mowing, fertilization, irrigation, aeration and top-dressing. There also will be a tour of the facilities including Groves and Seaholm High School Fields and Stadiums.

For information on the Chapter or pending events, contact MiSTMA Headquarters at 517-712-3407, or email Amy Fouty, University of Michigan, at [fouty@umich.edu](mailto:fouty@umich.edu), or go to [www.mistma.org](http://www.mistma.org).

**Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter is planning a major event for July 11. Morning sessions will be held at St. Norbert College. The afternoon events will be held at the legendary Lambeau Field. For more information on the Chapter, or other pending events, contact Chris Brindley at 715-346-3622 or [cbrindle@uwsp.edu](mailto:cbrindle@uwsp.edu).

**Minnesota Chapter STMA:** The Minnesota and Iowa Chapters will hold their annual Chapter Clash July 11-12. This year the events will take place in Minnesota. The MN Chapter's annual Tour on Wheels will be held August 13 and will again incorporate a St. Paul Saints game. For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota at tel. 651-638-6075 or e-mail: [j-hintz@bethel.edu](mailto:j-hintz@bethel.edu).

**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter will meet July 15-16 at the University of Virginia. Join the "Tailgate Reception" July 15 from 6-9 PM for a tour of UV's Scott Stadium and Harrison Field and the Harrison Field reconstruction presentation. Registration for the July 16 Field Day begins at 7 AM at Davenport Field. Educational sessions and demonstrations run from 8-4. STMA President, Bob Campbell, CSFM, will be the featured speaker. For information on the Virginia Chapter, or other upcoming events, contact: Bob Studholme, Fairfax County Park Authority via e-mail: [Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov) or at 703/324-8590.



**Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):** The Chapter will meet at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis July 18. In the planning stages is an August event at the Tennessee Titans Facility in Nashville. For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call Chapter President, Bob Elliott, Tieco, at 800-239-9547 or Glenn Lucas at 800-837-8062; email to [Glenn@tvstma.org](mailto:Glenn@tvstma.org), or visit the chapter's website: [www.tvstma.org](http://www.tvstma.org).

**Florida Chapter # 1:** The Chapter will meet at the Seminole Indians facility in Hollywood July 22. Education will include: Preparing fields for Year-Round Baseball and Irrigation Design for Sports Turf. For information on the Florida Chapter, or pending activities, contact John Mascaro at 954-341-3115 or [STMA@Turf-Tec.com](mailto:STMA@Turf-Tec.com).

**Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter will participate in the UNL Field Day July 22 beginning at 9 AM. Activities will include a tour of the UNL facilities and Haymarket Park and educational sessions with UNL speakers. Lunch will be served at a Memorial Stadium SkyBox. Pre-registration is required. For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Loren Humphrey at 402-461-2324 or email to [lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org](mailto:lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org).

**Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers**

**Association:** The Chapter will hold its second Annual Safeco Field Day August 19. Rotating stations will instruct participants in turf management, infield maintenance, and facility management. More details will be announced soon. For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact in Washington, Jay Warnick at [JayW@Seahawks.com](mailto:JayW@Seahawks.com) or in Oregon, Mike Wagner at [MWagner@Oregon.UOregon.edu](mailto:MWagner@Oregon.UOregon.edu).

**Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:** For information on the chapter, or upcoming events, contact Chris Calcatera at e-mail: [chris@peoriaaz.com](mailto:chris@peoriaaz.com) or tel. 623-412-4231 or Bill Murphy, at e-mail: [bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us](mailto:bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us) or tel. 480-312-7956.

**Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter's Annual Seminar on Wheels will be held in late August. Please email Emory Hunter at [emhunter@usa.net](mailto:emhunter@usa.net) if you have questions or suggestions about this program.

For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

**Southern California Chapter:** For information on the Southern California Chapter, or pending activities, call Michael Tarantino at 858-679-2526 or [MTarantino@powayusd.com](mailto:MTarantino@powayusd.com).

**Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Lori Turek at 770-509-3663 or [gastma@earthlink.net](mailto:gastma@earthlink.net).

**Indiana Chapter:** For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, contact Stan Moscrip, Indiana University, at 812-856-2256 or [smoscrip@indiana.edu](mailto:smoscrip@indiana.edu).

**Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA):** For information on the Chapter, or other pending activities, call the Hotline at 866-818-8873 or email Nick Gammill, CSFM, at [ngammill@american.edu](mailto:ngammill@american.edu).

**Midwest Chapter STMA:** For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, visit the Chapter's website, <http://mcstma.org/>, or call Libby Baker at 847-263-7603 or email [Bake60ft6in@aol.com](mailto:Bake60ft6in@aol.com).

**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:** For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call SFMANJ at 908-730-7770 or Eleanora Murfitt at 908-236-9118; or e-mail to [HQ@sfnanj.org](mailto:HQ@sfnanj.org).

**North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, contact Kathy Cassmeyer at 972-603-2869 or [Katherine.Cassmeyer@lmco.com](mailto:Katherine.Cassmeyer@lmco.com), or visit the website at [www.ntstma.org](http://www.ntstma.org).

**South Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Tim Loesch at 210-207-3734 or [TLoesch@alamodome.com](mailto:TLoesch@alamodome.com).

## Chapters on the Grow:

New York: For information on the chapter forming in Central New York, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: [Kevin@wpe.com](mailto:Kevin@wpe.com) or at tel. 607-432-2953.



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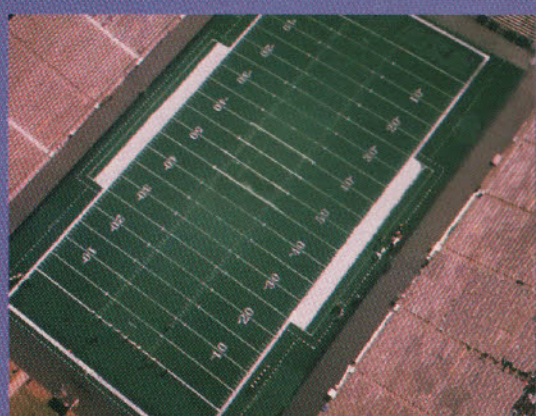
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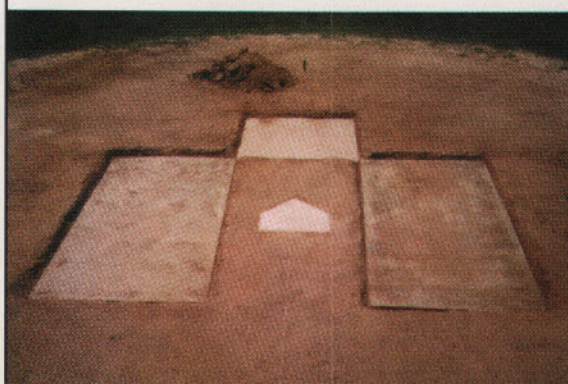
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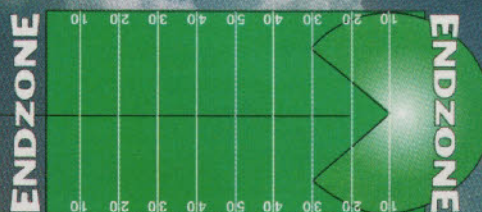
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# Who is on first?

*Our baseball season is about over and I have not quite a month before we start summer baseball. Is there is any order as to which should come first, verticutting or aerification, or does it matter? Also, can I do both right behind each other or is there a time period required between them? I also plan to do some topdressing. In the past I have used clean sand to topdress. Is that all right or do you have another suggestion for our sandy Florida soils?*

Bob McCullough  
Head Baseball Coach  
Lyman High School  
Longwood, FL

**B**ob has some great questions, but I wanted some additional information before I got busy typing him a response. I found out that Bob's field is Tifway (419) hybrid bermudagrass that is not overseeded. Most years the "freeze line" does not go as far south as Central Florida, but I occasionally see high school and college fields overseeded in the Orlando area as well as even further south. The reason given is to provide the same striping that is commonly seen on big-league ballpark fields.

Bob's fields are well drained and the sandy soil is not prone to compaction. This is not too uncommon for much of Florida. Along with nice weather, it seems we were given another break with our predominantly sandy soils. The last bit of additional information I sought was related to Bob's irrigation system. The response was positive. "I have adequate irrigation."

With Florida's sandy soils, a good irrigation system is needed to maintain healthy turf during dry periods. It is not unusual for our soil's field capacity moisture content to be 8 percent. With actively growing turf, it does not take long to pull enough water out of the rootzone so that you are left with drought stressed turf.

I thought I had all the information at this point to answer Bob's question intelligently and then a thought occurred to me. "Why is he verticutting?" Bob is almost two hours south of me. While the bermudagrass in my area has not yet reached its maximum growth rate, Bob's has probably got a 3-week head start. Most of the time I suggest verticutting to either (a) thin out overseeded grasses or (b) reduce thatch in bermudagrass. Since Bob did not overseed, then he must need to remove some excess thatch. It is best to remove thatch when the grass is actively growing since this can be a significant stress on the turf. Given the location of the field then this may be an acceptable time to commence with the dethatching.

The question of when to aerify can be answered similarly to when to verticut. Aerification of bermudagrass fields usually is justified for two reasons. The first is to encourage overseeded grasses to begin transitioning and secondly, to



alleviate compaction. This field was not overseeded so the justification was to alleviate compaction. I always tell people the best time to aerify is whenever they can. Athletic fields are notoriously overused so cultural practices such as aerification have to be fit in between events. Sounds like Bob is on the right track trying to fit aerification (and verticutting) in between two baseball seasons.

The question of the order between the two cultural practices may be a significant question in some circumstances and not in others. There are at least a couple of equipment companies that have developed these super machines that can accomplish multiple cultural practices with one pass. Some can aerify, verticut, and vacuum at the same time. The only significant downfall of these pieces of equipment is price. While they may very well be cheaper than buying three pieces of equipment, the cost of these multiple-use machines may be more than some can handle.

So if you are like Bob, you have two pieces of equipment, which should you do first? I could think of at least two scenarios that could influence the order. Aerify first and the soil surface is softer and more prone to surface disruptions. To put a tractor back over the surface to verticut can cause rutting from the tractor's

weight. On the other hand, once you aerify you can use your verticutting to chop up your aerification cores you brought to the surface. If you verticut using a triplex mower then the weight is not a significant factor.

From the grass' perspective I do not think it really matters. Which is why you can do these practices right behind each other. What matters is that the irrigation system works so that you can irrigate the fields in the days following these cultivation practices. Both aerification and verticutting tend to dry out the soil from the increased light exposure and air movement in the soil, along with the desiccation brought on through severing the turf shoots and roots. The turf may need some extra irrigation water applied to prevent excessive desiccation of the turf while it is overcoming the stress.

As for the topdressing question, I would suggest that topdressing sand should be physically and chemically very similar to the existing soil unless the intent is to modify the soil profile. If the clean sand has been working well in the past, I see no reason to change.

ST

## Have Questions?

Send them to Grady Miller at the University of Florida, PO Box 110670, Gainesville, FL 32611, or email [gmler@mail.ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:gmler@mail.ifas.ufl.edu). Or, send them to Dave Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall, Ames, IA 50011, or email [dminner@iastate.edu](mailto:dminner@iastate.edu).