



For value, quality, resilience, cold tolerance and fast recovery speed,

Nothing Beats Riviera.

Any turfgrass can "talk tough," but **Riviera** has the proof you demand:

- Ranked #1 over all, five years running, in the national turfgrass evaluation trials
- Winner of the turfgrass Breeder's Cup award in 2003
- Rigorously tested and continually proven in leading U.S. university studies
- Rated #1 for cold tolerance over all the rest

All of which is your clear-cut assurance that **Riviera** is:

- Proven superior for quick grow-in time and remarkable recovery rate from damage and abuse
- Top-ranked for quality, color, texture, uniformity and density
- A proven leader in wear tolerance, cold tolerance and drought tolerance

And **Riviera bermudagrass** is your #1 choice for major cost savings:

- It's seed, not sod, and it's estimated to be 1/6 th the cost right from the get-go. And it just keeps on rewarding you with its toughness, low maintenance and overall outstanding performance all season long and all year 'round.

Your superior advantage over all other sports turf, make the call now.

Bryan White
OSU Athletic Department
Turf & Field Supervisor



"The ability of Riviera bermudagrass to establish quickly and recover quickly from wear is just amazing"



JOHNSTON SEED COMPANY
The Cold-Tolerant Bermudagrass Experts

800-375-4613

**Synthetic Turf Groomer
with GreensSlicer®
Spring Tine Rake.**

**Fast, Efficient Grooming
of all filled synthetic
sports fields!**



FEATURES and BENEFITS

- Synthetic Sports Turf Groomer works with all fill material currently used, in both wet and dry conditions.
- Patented brush design lifts turf fibers leaving them in a plush, upright position. Brushes move fill to low spots or depressions left after play.
- Synthetic Super Duty Blue Brushes retain their original shape, resist wear, and will not rot.
- GreensSlicer Spring Tine Rake consists of 3 rows of 28 tines spaced 7/8 inch apart for thorough coverage.
- Each row of tines may be adjusted to the desired level of aggressiveness.
- The GreensSlicer combs through the fill material, relieving compaction and assuring a soft, level playing surface.



Synthetic Super Duty Blue Brushes
Resist wear and will not deteriorate from moisture.



GreensSlicer Spring Tine Rake
3 rows of 28 tines.



**Call for additional information on our line of Synthetic Turf,
Natural Turf, and Clay surface Groomers**

888-298-8852 Fax 317-298-8852

www.greensgroomer.com

GreensGroomer WorldWide, Inc., Indianapolis, IN

Copyright © 2003 GreensGroomer WorldWide, Inc. All rights reserved.
U.S. Patent No. 5833013. Other Patents Pending.

Circle 166 on card or
www.oners.ims.ca/2910-166





cover story

High School/Parks Baseball Field of the Year

08 Cape Fear High School and instructor Terry Nance, Fayetteville, NC, earned the Sports Turf Managers Association 2003 Baseball Field of the Year honors.

features

SPORTSTURF MACHINES

14 Matching expectations with limitations

Clint Eastwood's "Dirty Harry" Callahan character said, "A man has got to know his limitations." That applies to sports turf managers too.

16 Mowing for a pro look without a pro budget

The demand for professional-looking athletic fields is increasing at all levels of competition.

IN & ON THE GROUND

26 Safe handling of pesticides

Many experienced turf managers assume they know how to safely handle pesticides. You may be surprised after reading this article of what you're actually guilty of doing wrong.

30 Fertigation update

Turf managers looking for solutions to heavy traffic problems might consider fertigation, the practice of injecting liquid nutrients into the irrigation system.

AROUND THE GROUNDS

34 Calculations for turfgrass fertilization

Proper fertilization practices require that precise amounts of nutrients be delivered. Small mistakes in area measurements or fertilizer rate calculations can mean poor results or serious turf injury.

departments

06 From the Sidelines

07 STMA President's Message

39 SAFE Foundation Column

40 STMA in Action

41 STMA Chapter News

42 Marketplace

45 Used Equipment

46 Q&A

ON THE COVER: Cape Fear High School, Fayetteville, NC.

SPORTSTURF (ISSN 1061-687X) (USPS 000-292) (Reg. U.S. Pat. & T.M. Off.) is published monthly by Adams Business Media at 833 W. Jackson, 7th Floor, Chicago, IL 60607. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Sportsturf, P.O. Box 2120, Skokie IL 60076-7820. For subscription information and requests, call Subscription Services at (847) 763-9565. Subscription rates: 1 year, \$40 US & Poss.; 2 years, \$65 US & Poss.; 1 year, \$65 Canada/Foreign Surface, 1 year, \$130 Airmail. All subscriptions are payable in advance in US funds. Send payments to Sportsturf, P.O. Box 2120, Skokie, IL 60076-7820. Phone: (847) 763-9565. Fax: (847) 763-9569. Single copies or back issues, \$6 eachUS/Canada; \$9 Foreign. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, IL, and other mailing offices. **COPYRIGHT 2003, Sportsturf.** Material may not be reproduced or photocopied in any form without the written permission of the publisher.

Toro® Workman® Special

©2004 The Toro Company



Get set for the season with a new Toro Workman 2100.



Order a new Workman 2100 with our package of accessories for your field.

■ Mid Duty Toro Workman 2100	\$8,231
■ Rear Lift Kit	\$618
■ Rahn Groomer (C Version, spring tine and scarifier)	\$1,495
■ Turface MVP, 2 Tons	\$625
■ Floyd Perry Products (Mound tamp, tarp holders, tarp pegs, video, book)	\$280
■ Covermaster Pitcher's Mound Tarp	\$150

Retail Package Price **\$11,399**



Workman Special Price

\$9,495

Offer good on delivery occurring before August 31, 2004. Offer available at participating distributors. Offer not valid with any other promotional programs. For commercial use only. Taxes, freight, shipping charges not included. Toro is a registered trademark. "Turfacer" is a registered trademark of Turface. "Covermaster" is a registered trademark.

Call your Toro distributor now at
1-800-803-8676, ext. 400 or visit toro.com.

Circle 127 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/2910-127

TORO®

Count on it.

from the sidelines

Saving your brain

Since my email address is available to anyone surfing the Internet, I receive more than my share of unsolicited messages. Occasionally a public relations firm will send me an article that is generic enough to perhaps fit the readership of any trade magazine. Rarely do I think these articles would be of interest to you, but the other day "Brain Do's and Don'ts" came over the line and caught my attention. After all, who doesn't want to take better care of his or her brain?

So, in the interest of providing information you can use, here are some selected tips (and my comments) regarding your medulla oblongata, courtesy of neuroscientist Dr. Daniel Amen (that's a name that'll jump off the Yellow Pages), author of the bestseller "Change Your Brain, Change Your Life."

Brain Do's:

- Wear a helmet in high-risk situations (such as coming home late without having called your spouse)
- Eat healthy ("waiter, make that 50 wings instead 75")
- Watch the Disney movie "Pollyanna" (you can't make this stuff up)
- Surround yourself with great smells (fresh cut grass yes, maintenance building bathroom, no)
- Learn and use self-hypnosis and meditation daily (but not while commuting)
- Think through answers before automatically saying no (I'll post this one on the frig for the wife)
- Make naturally oppositional children mind you the first time (Does Dr. Amen HAVE children?)
- Sing and hum whenever you can (but expect funny looks from others)
- Move in rhythms (easier to do when you're humming "Stayin' Alive")
- Take medications when needed (especially the Advil after the first outdoor activities of spring)
- Do full brain evaluations for people who do terrible things (start with marching band directors)

Brain Don'ts

- Lie around the house and never exercise (brain obesity—the next plague)
- Think in black-or-white terms (oh, he's all wrong on this one)
- Read other people's minds (I know what he's thinking here)
- Blame other people for your problems (but it's the American way)
- Label yourself or others with negative terms (now he's knocking my hobbies)
- Personalize situations that have little to do with you (don't you see this sign on my back that reads, "It's all about me"?)
- Push people away (unless they're too loud on their cell phones)
- Focus too much on what other people think of you (odds are they aren't thinking about you at all—"Amen" to this one)

Allow your life to just happen without your directing and planning it (obviously the good doctor's without a significant other)

Allow thoughts to go over and over in your head (you mean you can stop them?)

Isolate yourself when you feel worried, depressed or panicky (yes, please try and spread these feelings around)

Deny you have problems (Are you talking to me?)



ERIC SCHRODER, EDITOR

Comments always welcome.
Call Eric at 717-805-4197,
email eschroder@aip.com, or write
P.O. Box 280, Dauphin, PA 17018.

SPORTSTURF

833 W. Jackson, 7th Floor Chicago, IL 60607
PH: 312-846-4600, FAX: 312-846-4638
WEB: <http://www.greenmediaonline.com>

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT BOB CAMPBELL, CSFM
PAST PRESIDENT MURRAY COOK
PRESIDENT ELECT MIKE TRIGG, CSFM
COMMERCIAL V.P. VICTORIA WALLACE
SECRETARY MIKE ANDRESEN, CSFM
TREASURER BOYD MONTGOMERY, CSFM
STMA BOARD MEMBERS TRA DUBOIS, ABBY MCNEAL, CSFM, DR. DAVE MINNER,
JAMES R. ROGERS, CSFM, LANCE TIBBETTS, GEORGE C. TRIVETT, CSFM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEVE TRUSTY

STMA OFFICE
1027 South 3rd St., Council Bluffs, IA 51503
PHONE 800-323-3875
EMAIL stmahq@st.omhcoxmail.com
WEBSITE www.sportsturfmanager.com

INTEGRATED CONTENT TEAM
VICE PRESIDENT/GROUP PUBLISHER STEVE BRACKETT
EDITOR ERIC SCHRODER
SENIOR EDITOR JOHN KMITTA

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD
MIKE ANDRESEN, CSFM, IOWA STATE
CHRIS CALCATERRA, CSFM, PEORIA, AZ
JEFF FOWLER, PENN STATE EXTENSION
BOYD MONTGOMERY, CSFM, SYLVANIA, OH
PAM SHERRATT, OHIO STATE EXTENSION
SUZ TRUSTY, STMA

PRODUCTION TEAM
ART DIRECTOR MAGGIE CIVIK
PRODUCTION MANAGER GABRIELLE MOUZERH

ADAMS BUSINESS MEDIA
CEO MARK ADAMS
SR. V.P.H.R. & ADMINISTRATION MARGIE DAVIS
DIRECTOR OF INTERNET OPERATIONS CHRIS CASAREZ
IT DIRECTOR STEVE SMITH
DIRECTOR OF CIRCULATION JOANNE JUDA-PRAINITO

DIRECT MAIL LIST SALES
JAN LEONARD 847-526-2599

READER SERVICE SERVICES
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CIRCULATION & DIRECTOR OF READER SERVICE
JOANNE JUDA-PRAINITO readerservice@aip.com

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES
PHONE 847-763-9565 FAX 847-763-9569

REPRINTS
FOSTEREPRINTS 800-382-0808

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE: We assume no responsibility for the validity of claims in connection with items appearing in Sportsturf. Reader Service Numbers are given to facilitate further inquiry. Commercial product names are used for the convenience of the reader. Mention of a commercial product does not imply endorsement by Sportsturf or Adams Business Media, or preference over similar products not mentioned.

ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVES

MIDWEST
IA, IL, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI
COLLEEN MURPHY
2028 N. Stanton Ct.,
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
847-590-1162, 847-590-1163 (fax)
cmmurphy@earthlink.net

WEST
AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR,
UT, WA, WY, ALBERTA, BRITISH COLUMBIA,
MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN
JOHN BOLDUC
P.O. Box 12357
Orange, CA 92859
714-538-4730, 714-538-4785 (fax)
jbalduc@mail.aip.com

SOUTHEAST
AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD,
NC, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
DEANNA MORGAN
2095 Exeter Road, #80-336
Germantown, TN 38138
901-759-1241, 901-624-0333 (fax)
dmorgan@mail.aip.com

EAST
CT, DC, DE, IN, MA, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH,
PA, RI, VT, ONTARIO, NEW BRUNSWICK,
NOVA SCOTIA, QUEBEC, EUROPE
PAUL GARRIS
35 Greenbriar
Aurora, OH 44202
330-562-2512, 330-562-3512 (fax)
pgarris@mail.aip.com

CLASSIFIED
SOUTHEAST/MIDWEST
TONYA PRZYBYLSKI
913-897-4158
tpriz@aip.com

EAST/WEST
EMILY ROGIER
630-262-1403
erogier@aip.com

Adams
BUSINESS MEDIA

SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION



Professionalism— it's about you

One of the most talked about subjects among sports turf professionals is improving the image of our profession. This is a charge accepted by STMA, one that has been the major focus of our marketing efforts the past year.

It should go without saying that sports turf managers cannot rely entirely on their professional organization to make this happen. We all must be involved individually to make our profession respected for what it is . . . and what we want it to be. We are on the front lines of the way people see us and have it within all of our power to build a positive image for what we do. Our individual actions must speak louder than any words from our organization.

If we want to be respected as professionals, we must be viewed as professionals. Perception is reality. Period. In today's world, it is sometimes not so much what you do, but how you do it.

We can control the image we project every day in the way we (and our staff) dress, the condition of our equipment, and the appearance of our maintenance facility. We must also be professional in our interaction with those we work with and for. A true professional is also a member of their professional organizations and should be involved in continuing education to stay abreast of current trends in the profession.

There is one more important way to show our professionalism: certification. Every major profession has some form of certification and the sports turf management profession is no exception.

Recognizing the importance of fostering and improving professionalism within the sports turf industry, STMA developed a certification program a few years ago. The stated purpose of the program is:

- Increase professionalism in the sports turf industry
- Promote better and safer sports turf areas
- Establish credentials that signify a specific level of expertise
- Increase career opportunities and promote the sports turf manager and the profession
- Provide recognition for attaining a level of expertise and performance as professionals in the industry
- Stimulate and motivate improved performance and increased professionalism
- Increase opportunities for education and training

Being a certified sports field manager does not necessarily mean you are better than other sports field managers are. It does show you are committed to the profession and are committed to improving our profession. You are also part of something new we hope will set the standard in this profession in the years to come.

If you are not already a Certified Sports Field Manager, I encourage you to contact STMA Headquarters to receive the information you need to start the process of becoming certified. It is not easy, but would not be worth anything if it were. It takes commitment.

It's in all of our best interests to make our profession stronger. By making ourselves better practitioners of our craft, we can make a better organization and let people know we are more than groundskeepers. We are professionals committed to the best fields and playing surfaces possible.

That's the bottom line.



BOB CAMPBELL, CSFM

bcampbell@UTK.edu

Why Settle for Just A Field Striper?



Airlessco FIELD STRIPE piston powered airless striper/sprayers are capable of spraying undiluted paint at up to 3000psi to put down solid straight lines on sports fields and spray paint field stencils, backstops, buildings, or cover graffiti. With models starting at \$1795, their flexibility makes them a smarter investment for universities, schools, parks departments, and sports programs.



FIELD STRIPE+
from \$2595⁰⁰

FIELD STRIPE+ couples our proven "LP" series piston powered paint pump, a dependable Honda engine, clutch actuated paint system, and electronic pressure controls. Delivers paint for striping or spraying with a professional airless spray gun at up to 3000psi. LP pump features Airlessco's patented triple-life packing system which results in reduced maintenance, lower operating costs, & longer equipment life. Rated to paint 1700 gallons per year.



FIELD STRIPE PRO
from \$4595⁰⁰

FIELD STRIPE PRO has striped stadiums hosting events from Pro Football to Womens World Cup Soccer. With 1.5 gallon per minute spraying at up to 3000psi, it supports two spray guns capable of laying down a 24" wide stripe in one pass. Combine the power to paint or stripe with any coating with our patented micro adjustable front swivel wheel with "Radius Memory", and you can stripe rings around the competition. Rated for 5000 gallons per year of use, it offers perfect balance and easy rolling. It's also the most user adjustable striper available today.



BUILT TO PERFORM...BUILT TO LAST
Manufacturers of professional airless painting equipment since 1975

WWW.AIRLESSCO.COM

5397 Commerce Ave., Moorpark, CA 93021
Email: sales@airlessco.com TOLL FREE (800) 856-6786
(805) 523-0211 FAX (805) 523-1063

Circle 126 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/2910-126

BY SUZ TRUSTY

CAPE FEAR HS, HORT FIELD OF THE YEAR

The baseball field of Cape Fear High School earned the Sports Turf Managers Association 2003 Baseball Field of the Year honors in the High School/Parks and Recreation division. Located in Fayetteville, NC, this field has evolved from a diamond in the rough to a gem that draws the admiration of players, coaches and fans. It doubles as a teaching tool in a turf program that is channeling the best and the brightest to sports turf management.

Initiating and coordinating this evolution process and the program is horticulture instructor, Terry W. Nance.

The baseball field is on the school property, located behind the main structure. The field was established in 1969 using a loam/clay base material for the skinned infield area. Single-head quick coupling irrigation devices were installed at four locations in the outfield and one main head was positioned behind the pitcher's mound. The outfield was leveled and seeded with common Bermudagrass.



The dugouts were 6 feet wide, 20 feet long and 7 feet high with wire mesh screens with one walkway and no top. Because the baseball outfield was used as the practice field for football each fall, the outfield fence was erected as a temporary structure during baseball season.

Hose pipes with irrigation stands were connected to the quick coupling heads for irrigation. While this method was functional, it required dragging the hoses out onto the field and off the field each time for each irrigation cycle. There were no major field improvements from the point of establishment until the mid-eighties.

Moving forward

Nance arrived at Cape Fear as a horticulture instructor for the 1985-86 school

year. With a shared love of baseball, he and Head Baseball Coach Terry Jeffrey soon developed a good working relationship and elements of sports field maintenance began working their way into the horticulture program. By the 1988 school year, they were exploring the feasibility of grassing the infield.

Nance says, "In the summer of 1989, we sodded the infield with Hybrid Bermuda 419. Coach Jeffrey did most of the work. His ailing father spent much of that summer sitting at the side of the field under an umbrella, visiting with his son and watching the turf infield develop. Coach Jeffrey lost his dad a couple of years later, but greatly appreciated their time together and the enthusiasm they had shared for the project."

Once the infield was established, the Baseball Booster Club and the horticulture students helped construct two state-of-the-art dugouts. These brick structures are 40 feet long, 10 feet wide and 8 feet high and are covered with a shingled roof. Each dugout was built with a 10 x 10-foot storage area with locking doors for field maintenance and practice equipment.

Nance says, "Once the field improvement project began, support for further field enhancement grew. A major element, the installation of lights for night games was the next component. Having games at night allowed us to double and triple our attendance. To accommodate our fans, we added several prominent seating facilities that gave us a capacity for approximately 300-400 people. Our Legion baseball coach, Wendell Smith, who is also the assistant varsity coach, and his family built an impressive press box to facilitate game coverage and further enhance our stadium appearance."

As the field improved, the level of the field maintenance program also moved forward, all part of the evolution process that has led to the establishment of a yearlong turf management class.

Proper field maintenance is essential with the intensity of field use. Scheduling of on-field activities is nearly year-round. High school baseball starts in February and runs through late May. As the high school season concludes, American Legion play begins. Action starts in late May and continues through mid-August. After legion ball finishes, high school football practice takes over the outfield. The Varsity team practices in left field and the Junior Varsity team in right field. Practices conclude in late November or early December.

Nance says, "Our major field concern is the wear caused by football practice. We work with our football coaches to move drills from spot to spot to reduce compaction. Still, the continual use during October, November and into December puts a great deal of wear on the perennial ryegrass, which has been overseeded primarily for spring baseball play.

"An added challenge to creating an excellent playing surface and developing a quality turf is the lack of proper irrigation in the outfield. Our water source is cut off from November through late March, when temperatures are too cold for operation of our existing irrigation system. This greatly reduces the level of maintenance we can provide for our perennial ryegrass during the period when the stress of wear is extremely high. While an improved irrigation system is on our wish list, it's not an

INSTRUCTOR WIN

option with our existing operating budget and our Booster Club has already committed its major resources to paying for a state-of-the-art weight room. At this point, we try to manage our overseeding program for maximum establishment and turf coverage during the period when irrigation is available and must rely on a combination of other maintenance practices and Mother Nature's precipitation to carry us through into spring."

Evolution of the program

Sixty percent of the curriculum for each of the horticulture classes is set by the state of North Carolina. Nance says, "Instructors have the flexibility to supplement the remaining 40 percent focusing on what we feel is important in our region. That's where our turfgrass studies come into play.

"I saw the 1988 boom in golf course development in North Carolina. Having possible opportunities for our students in these areas, I started attending the state Turfgrass Conference. Through the educational sessions and discussions with the speakers and golf course superintendents, I picked up information on turf cultivar selection, weed and insect identification and control, fertilization and fertilizer application rates, mowing techniques, and the types and uses of equipment for maintaining premium turf. Over the past 10 years, we've tried to bring in a little more turfgrass research and knowledge into the program each year. We've worked to incorporate all the elements into a teachable format that could be applied with a combination of classroom and hands-on instruction at the high school level."

Nance also began taking students on field trips to local golf courses. Students not only saw and learned about such turf maintenance practices as core aeration and verticutting, they also focused on the business side of the course. They observed and discussed how the maintenance facility was set up and how maintenance programs were developed and tracked and how people management skills like dealing with employees, golfers, and the front office all fit into the picture.

Observing the surging interest in sports, Nance began exploring options to expand the program into sports turf management to give his students yet another venue to consider. In 1999, he became involved with the Eastern North Carolina Sports Turf group, including Tommy Walston of the Kinston Indians and Dr Art Bruneau. He attended his first sports turf focused meeting 3 years ago at North Carolina State University's Carter Finley Stadium with Ray Brincefield and Clark Cox conducting the field maintenance seminar. Enthused by the possibilities, he began incorporating the same educational and field trip combination for introducing the profession to his students.

Trips included: a broad spectrum field day at the Kinston Indians conducted by Walston; a tour of the Carolina Panthers' home, Erickson Stadium in Charlotte, conducted by Tom Vaughn; a tour of the Charlotte Knights Triple A baseball facility with Eddie Busque; and last year, a tour of the Louisville Bats field conducted by Tom Nielsen for students attending the national FFA convention. Each trip brought more student enthusiasm, and more networking contacts enabling him to expand the program.

"By the 2001-2002 school year, I had set aside times during instruction periods for students to complete a wide range of turf activities. In 2002-2003, my Horticulture II class involved approximately 25 students in three classes working at different times. Their program included fertilizing, aerating, overseeding, topdress-



ing, cleaning of dugouts, and setting up the pitcher's mound and batting cages. My 2002-2003 Landscape Design class involved approximately 40 students in two classes working at different times. Their program included: mowing duties following a mowing chart for mowing patterns, painting of the field, raking and dragging the infield, setup of the pitchers mound and home plate for games, and pest identification and analysis of control measures.

"In 2001-2002, we established our first Field Maintenance Crew which involved eight students who work on the facility year-round. During the season, they work on the field to prepare it for practices and game day situations and manage the field before, during and after games. The crew is selected from the top class members with an interest in sports turf management who are willing and able to devote this level of commitment to a volunteer project. We've continued the program since then."

Nance incorporates precision and attention to detail in every aspect of his program. While budgets are always a factor, especially at the high school level, and resources must be allocated to achieve the best results, Cape Fear's field maintenance focuses on player safety and field consistency. Nance says, "We make the comparison to a pro level field a part of everything we do. There are limitations on what equipment students can operate. Our baseball coach mows the outfield with a rotary mower. To reduce the possibilities of injury, we focus on hand operations with equipment and tools they can push, pull, or drag. They can calibrate spraying equipment, but a licensed operator must make the applications. Students learn to mow with a walk-behind reel mower at a consistent height and in the assigned pattern. They are responsible for organizing the tools, keeping the hoses in place, and handling all the equipment they are authorized to use in the proper manner. We emphasize that the organization shown when you walk into the facility tells a lot about you and what kind of job you are going to do."

The field preparation for junior varsity and varsity practices is the same as game day preparations except for the decorative painting on practice days. As part of the game setup painting, Cape Fear's Colts are treated to a horseshoe wrapping around the back of home plate as well as the Colts name between the plate and backdrop. The FFA field crew proudly wear that designation on their shirts and hats and neatly

wear pants to complete the professional image.

Nance says, "The field crew demonstrates the professional attitude of the program to the fans and the community as they work. The condition of the field, combined with their on-field performance, has done much to promote our horticulture program throughout the area. The support of Cape Fear's coaches, administration, and Booster Club for our entire program has been excellent and we can't begin to thank them enough for it. Another key has been the educational benefits and networking connections through STMA. Being able to convey to our students the ideas and the commitment and dedication of these professionals makes our program work. After I attended the Major League Baseball Seminar at the 2004 Conference, we decided to take our field up one more notch. In March, we completely rebuilt our mound, incorporating bricks for greater consistency and insuring that our measurements were exactly to specifications. We reworked our home plate area as well."

Nance has been working since 1994 to get a focused turfgrass management course into the horticulture program. He was one of 48 teachers that gathered in Dallas in 1996 to develop the curriculum. This was brought back to North Carolina, where he and others continued to work with Gene Maples of the North Carolina Turfgrass Council and Dr. Art Bruneau of North Carolina State to revise and fine tune the program. This model was presented to Benjie Forrest, the state director. In 2003, the State of North Carolina Department of Public Instruction approved a

career development course in turfgrass management as a course of study.

In the fall of 2004, the program will be available through the agricultural departments not only across North Carolina, but also across the nation. Nance says, "I'll be adding the class to my program then, as will two other instructors within the 16 counties of our Southeastern regional area. A workshop will be offered this summer for teachers at Brunswick Community College, conducted by Dr. Bruce Williams and Benjie Forrest. It's designed to give them the turfgrass training they'll need for this course. As part of our pioneering work on it at Cape Fear, we held a similar workshop 3 years ago, which helped spark broader interest in the class."

Nance notes that many professionals in the industry have told him they wished there were programs similar to his when they were in high school. They'd have found their calling sooner. And that's what it's all about. Nance says, "Six of our 18 seniors in this year's program have been accepted into the turfgrass management program at North Carolina State. Our student captain of the turf team for the 2 previous years is already in that program and on their field crew. Not only are we maintaining one of the best fields in our area, but our students are learning they need the right attitude and the desire, along with education and experience, to achieve their goals." **ST**

Suz Trusty is director of communications at the STMA and a member of our Editorial Advisory Board. She can be reached at 800-323-3875.

Cape Fear Maintenance Schedule

January

Infield irrigation system shut off
Fertilize infield and outfield perennial ryegrass with 24-4-12 slow release at rate of 1/2 pound Nitrogen (N) per 1,000 square feet
Drag and rake fields
Check field for problems

February

Infield irrigation system still shut off
Continue to fertilize with 24-4-12 slow release at rate of 1/2 pound N per 1,000 square feet every 21 days
Start reducing perennial ryegrass height of cut from 1-1/2 inch to playing height of 1 inch
Continue raking mound, home plate and infield for conditioning
Clean and clear any weeds from baseline skinned areas

March

Open irrigation lines
Begin irrigation augmenting natural precipitation to supply 1 inch of water per week
Fertilize with 24-4-12 plus 15-0-14 mixture at rate of 1/2 pound N per 1,000 square feet on 21-day intervals for start of baseball season
Mow infield daily with reel mowers to 3/4-inch height
Begin applying water to skinned areas to condition field for appearance and playability

April

Irrigate augmenting natural precipitation to supply 1 inch of water per week
Fertilize with 24-4-12 plus 15-0-14 mixture at rate of 1/2 pound N per 1,000 square feet for maximum green-up
Mow infield daily to 3/4-inch height due to green-up of hybrid Bermuda 419
Conduct soil test and adjust fertilization program based on test results
Apply summer herbicide for crabgrass and

goosegrass control following standard IPM procedures

May

Apply chemical control to eliminate perennial ryegrass
Apply liquid iron for green-up due to above application
Check field for weeds and spot treat if necessary following standard IPM procedures
Fertilize with 24-4-12 plus 15-0-14 mixture at rate of 1 pound N per 1,000 square feet at 21-day intervals
Mow infield daily to 3/4-inch height
Irrigate augmenting natural precipitation to supply 1 inch of water per week.

June

Core aerate field to reduce compaction and help stimulate growth of hybrid Bermuda 419
Mow infield daily to 3/4-inch height
Fertilize with 24-4-12 plus 33-0-0 mixture at rate of 1 pound N per 1,000 square feet at 21-day intervals
Apply control for nutgrass if necessary following standard IPM procedures
Check field for insects and spot treat if necessary following standard IPM procedures
Irrigate augmenting natural precipitation to supply 1 inch of water per week.

July

Mow infield 4 times per week to 3/4-inch height
Fertilize with 33-0-0 at rate of 1 pound N per 1,000 square feet at 21-day intervals
Conduct soil test and adjust fertilization program based on test results
Check field for brown patch and dollar spot and treat if necessary following standard IPM procedures
Irrigate augmenting natural precipitation to supply 1 inch of water per week.

August

Core aerate field
Apply 5 pounds of 0-0-54 per 1,000 square feet for root and stem development for winter care
Continue edging field
Check for mole crickets and armyworms using 1 gallon of water with 1 Tbsp. of liquid soap applied to 1 square foot areas and treat if necessary following standard IPM procedures

September

Core aerate and drag cores in two weeks prior to overseeding
Overseed field with perennial ryegrass at rate of 15 pounds per 1,000 square feet
Topdress with 1/4 pound of sand/potting soil mixture
Apply starter fertilizer at rate of 1/2 pound N per 1,000 square feet

October

Irrigate lightly until seed emerges, adjust irrigation as turf develops to promote good root establishment
Mow at 2-inch height for good root establishment
Continue starter fertilizer at rate of 1/2 pound N per 1,000 square feet at 21-day intervals

November

Shut down infield irrigation system
Mow twice weekly at 2-inch height
Continue starter fertilizer at rate of 1/2 pound N per 1,000 square feet at 21-day intervals
Conduct soil test and adjust fertilization program based on test results

December

Infield irrigation system still shut off
Continue mowing program
Apply control for spring poa annua and for broadleaf weeds in late December following standard IPM procedures