

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: The former North Texas Chapter and the former South Texas Chapter have merged to become the Texas Sports Turf Managers Association. The mailing address is: PO Box 1078, Keller, TX 76244. The phone/fax number is 866-TXSTMA1 (866-897-8621), the website www.ntstma.org. The alternate contact is: T. J. Thompson, Treasurer, phone: 972-670-2138 or email: TXturfmanager@prodigy.net

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will meet at the Broomfield County Commons Fields May 13. This is a multi-use soccer and football facility. The Chapter also is planning a June 30 event at Denver University. Mark your calendars now for the annual Lawnmower Man Open golf tournament to be held at The Heritage at Westmoor July 20. For info on the Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit www.CSTMA.org, call the Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954, or contact Chapter President Ryan Jensen at 303/464-5687 or rjensen@ci.broomfield.co.us.

Florida Chapter # 1: The Chapter will stage an STMA Bus Tour May 18. Stops include: Haverland Turf Farm; the St. Lucie County Sports Complex (New York Mets); and Rodger Dean Stadium (Florida Marlins and St. Louis Cardinals). For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, contact John Mascaro at 954-341-3115 or STMA@Turf-Tec.com.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will hold a Comprehensive Irrigation Workshop June 8 at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. The Chapter will participate in the ITI Equipment Demo Day planned for June 22 at the ISU Athletic Fields in Ames. The annual Iowa v. Minnesota Chapter Clash will be held July 9-10, with Iowa this year's host. For info, or upcoming activities, contact Jeff Wendel of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): The Chapter will hold a Hands-On Irrigation Workshop at Paul Brown Stadium, home of the Cincinnati Bengals, June 17-18. This event will include sessions on soils, basic irrigation principles, and troubleshooting. OSTMA also will hold its Southeast Ohio Field Day July 8 at the University of Rio Grand. Low budget field maintenance will be the focus of this event. For info, call 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.

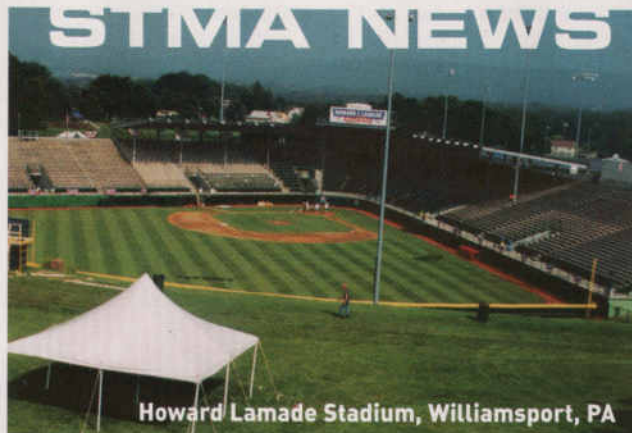
Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): The Chapter's MiSTMA Field Days, with featured speaker Floyd Perry, will be held June 22 at Zeeland High School, June 23 at Albion College, and June 24 at Oakland University. More details will be announced soon. The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Field Day will be held July 21 at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center in East Lansing.

For information on the Chapter or pending events, contact MiSTMA Headquarters at 517-712-3407, or email Amy Fouty, at fouty@ath.msu.edu, or see www.mistma.org.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: The Chapter is planning its annual Tour on Wheels for June 23. Sites will be announced soon. The Tour will wrap up with the traditional return to the St. Paul Saints Stadium for tailgating and the game. The annual Iowa v.

Minnesota Chapter Clash will be held July 9-10, with Iowa hosting. For info, contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, 651-638-6075 or e-mail: j-hintz@bethel.edu or check out www.mstma.com.

The Greater LA Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will hold a general meeting at USC June 24 beginning at 11:00 AM. The meeting topic is Field Installation. Lunch will follow. For info call Eric Johnson, University of Southern California, at 213-821-5654 or email ejohnson@busaff.usc.edu.



Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: A Chapter Meeting is planned for June 29 in Curtis. Check the STMA Website for further details. For info call Loren Humphrey at: 402-461-2324 or email to lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: VSTMA will hold its Field Day at Atlee High School, Hanover County, July 20-21. Host is Marc Moran, VSTMA Category 3 Director. For Field Day Information contact Marc: mmoran@hanover.k12.va.us. The chapter also will participate in the Virginia Tech Field Day to be held July 27-28. For information on this event contact: David McKissack at 540-231-5897 or turf1@vt.edu. For info contact Bob Studholme, Fairfax County Park Authority via e-mail: Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov or at 703-324-8590.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: SFMANJ will participate in the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days. The Landscape and Sports Turf Research Field Day will be held from 9:00-3:30 July 28 at the Plant Science Research & Extension Farm in Adelphia. The Golf and Fine Turf Research Field Day will be held from 9:30-2:30 July 29 at the Hort Farm II, North Brunswick. For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call SFMANJ at 908-730-7770 or Eleanora Murfitt-Hermann at 908-236-9118; or e-mail to HQ@sfmanj.org or visit www.sfmanj.org.

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

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

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

Chesapeake Chapter STMA (formerly called 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.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, call Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College, 314-392-2328 or email krone@mobap.edu.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: For info contact Skip Kirby at 770-928-1580 or email skip@sportsturfmanagement.com

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

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Tom Nielsen at TNielsen@batsbaseball.com or Aaron Boggs at AVBoggs@netscape.net.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA): For info, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at tel. 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or e-mail to: kafmo@aol.com.

Midwest Chapter STMA: For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, visit <http://mcstma.org> or call Libby Baker at 847-263-7603 or email Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

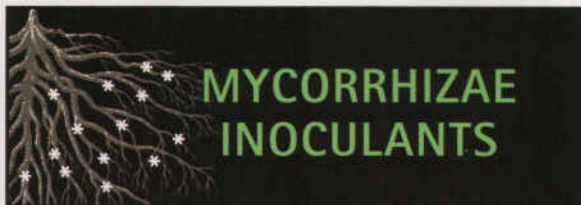
MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call Mike Green at 913-888-8055 or mikegreen@3and2baseball.com.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Bob Christofferson at bchristo@mariners.org.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA: For more information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Dr. Hale at 843-662-3526 extension 206 or by email at tchale@clermson.edu or on the chapter's website www.scstma.org.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): For information on the TVSTMA 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, or visit the chapter's website: www.tvstma.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: For more information on the Chapter, or other pending events, contact Chris Brindley at 715-346-3622 or cbrindle@uwsp.edu.



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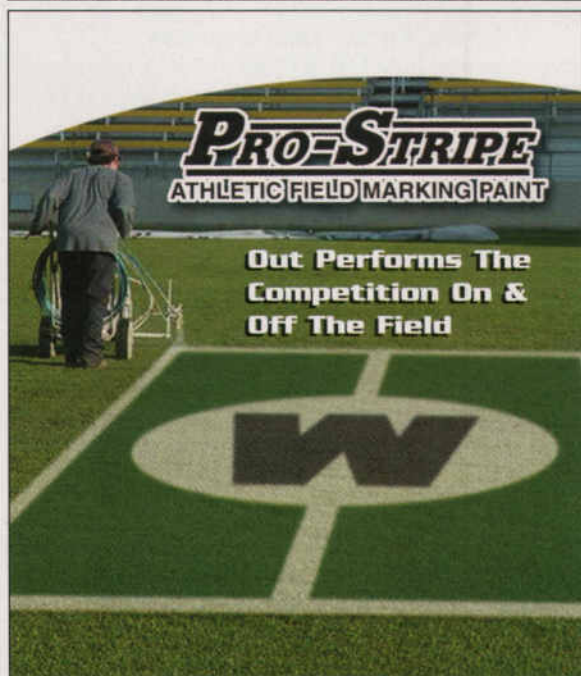
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The athletic director at our district has the opportunity to receive a grant that will cover the costs for the application of shredded tires on our football field. We have a clay-textured base with Bermudagrass and I overseeded with perennial ryegrass last year. The AD has been told that it will make the field softer but it will increase the field temperature. I'm looking for pros and cons with this type of surface.

Jim
Director of Grounds
West Frankfort School District (IL)

Research into the use of crumb rubber on athletic fields began in the mid-1980's and products have been on the market for more than 10 years. These are my recommendations based on research and experience. I would certainly like to receive some reader updates on positive or negative experiences concerning crumb rubber.

Research trials by others and myself have been able to show some benefit compared to using no rubber. As I travel around and look at some of the actual playing fields that have been using crumb rubber it is clear that all field situations do not benefit from its addition. Before getting to the advantages and disadvantages you need to ask yourself two important questions: What exactly do you expect to gain by using crumb rubber? And, before considering crumb rubber have you already provided the basic inputs to improve the field, such as irrigation, proper mowing, aerification, sand or compost topdressing, and aggressive seeding?

Crumb rubber is topdressed into native grass until a 0.5 to 0.75-inch layer has accumulated. The crumb rubber is mixed amongst the turf crowns and develops a pseudo-thatch layer that reduces crushing and tearing of plant stems and crowns. The layer of rubber also reduces compaction of the soil surface. This sounds wonderful to anyone with too much traffic on the field and since that is most of you, you have probably wondered if crumb rubber would help your situation. Nearly all states in the US have recycling grants for many products and rubber tires have been used with mixed success.

Advantages:

- * Our best result from traffic simulation trials indicated that crumb rubber slows the rate at which turf cover is lost and there was 20 percent more turf cover with crumb rubber compared to no topdressing.
- * Under dry conditions and if the rubber has not been incorporated by aerification, the field will be slightly softer according to Gmax measurements.
- * The crumb rubber layer holds less water and reduces muddy and frozen conditions near the playing surface.
- * Crumb rubber is readily available and easy to apply with conventional equipment.

Disadvantages:

- * Under simulated traffic, sand topdressing with 0.5 to 0.75 inches of sand

provided the same amount of turf cover as an equal amount of crumb rubber.

* When the grass eventually wears thin black particles of crumb rubber are visible.

* Late spring and summer establishment of cool-season grasses, within the exposed particles of black rubber, can be impossible because of excessive heat. Bermudagrass performs better than any cool-season grass during this accelerated heat situation.

* Crumb rubber floats and can accumulate in uneven pockets on the field during heavy rain. Reestablishing grass can be difficult in areas where too much rubber has accumulated.

* Long term turf management practices for crumb rubber fields have not been determined, i.e., do you add more each year to manage the mat layer and can it be used with sand or compost?

I seldom make a blanket recommendation to use crumb rubber on the entire playing surface since there are many moderate to low traffic field areas that grow just fine and would not benefit from crumb rubber application. My expectation is to produce more turf cover for a longer period of time on intense traffic areas of the field. Furthermore, anything placed on the field should enhance, or at least not detract, from the playing conditions or reestablishment practices when the grass eventually wears away.

Soccer goalie areas, between the hash marks on football fields, and dugout-to-home areas on baseball fields are all difficult traffic areas on athletic fields that need enhanced traffic tolerance. Because I have observed mixed reviews with crumb rubber, I recommend that you gain experience with crumb rubber on your specific facility before making a decision to use it on an entire field. Whether you get it for free from a recycling

grant or purchase it from your budget you will want to make sure it is meeting your expectation for field improvement. Believe me, if it is a product that meets your expectations you will gladly pay a reasonable price.

Do this simple test to prove to yourself if crumb rubber can improve your field. Apply the crumb rubber as recommended by the distributor to an area between the hash marks and from the 50-yd. line to the 45-yd. line (approximately 0.5 to 0.75 tons/800 sq.ft.). Use your normal management practices on the entire field, including the test area. Observe the test area for 1 year and it should become self evident if the crumb rubber is helping you in terms of more turf cover, drier conditions, and reduced hardness.

For soccer, use the crumb rubber in only half of the goalie box for a similar side by side evaluation. Do not treat all of one goal and try to compare it to the goal on the other end of the field since the traffic may vary from goal to goal. Athletes challenge each other on your field all the time, I guess it's only fitting that a product makes it through the "tryouts" before it makes the team. **ST**

QUESTIONS? Send them to Dave Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall, Ames, IA 50011, or email dminner@iastate.edu. Or, send them to Grady Miller at the University of Florida, PO Box 110670, Gainesville, FL 32611, or email gmliller@mail.ifas.ufl.edu.



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