STMA Field of the Year Program: Take Pride in Your Profession

Now is the perfect time to prepare your STMA Field of the Year Application. The deadline for materials to be received at STMA headquarters is October 15, 2007. STMA’s prestigious Field of the Year program is in its 16th year and is getting stronger every year. With record numbers of applicants the past two years, competition is still stiff! But with hard work and diligence, each and every STMA member has a field that could become Field of the Year. STMA presents awards in baseball, softball, football, and soccer categories at High School/Parks and Rec, College and University, and Professional levels.

Each Field of the Year Award winner is presented with a special plaque at the STMA Awards Banquet, held each year at the STMA Conference and Exhibition. This year, the Awards Banquet will be the evening of Friday, Jan. 18, in Phoenix. In addition to the plaque, each STMA Field of the Year winner will receive free conference registration, up to $500 towards lodging at the conference, STMA signature apparel, and a feature article in the official publication of STMA, SportsTurf magazine. These awards are generously supported by STMA’s official awards sponsors Carolina Green Corp., CoverMaster, Hunter Industries, Scotts Turf Seed, Turface, and World Class Athletic Surfaces.

Take pride in your profession and submit your application for STMA Field of the Year and get recognition for your field and respect from your peers. For more information or to download an application, please log on to www.STMA.org or call (800) 323-3875. Remember the deadline for materials to be received is October 15, 2007.

Penn State’s award-winning Jeffrey Field, with Beaver Stadium and famed Mount Nittany in the background

Answer:

from page 14

The irregular brown arrow shaped area on field was caused by running over a fireworks with a mower. The fireworks was not a little one that you buy at the store, but one of the big booms that are in the sky after a typical minor league game. According to the sports turf manager, the fireworks guy scouts the area for any extra, unexploded shells but apparently he missed one. The mower operator was mowing the multi-use park field behind the stadium when he hit a 3-inch shell (or "salute" as the fireworks guy called it) and it exploded, leaving this nice arrow shaped pattern in the grass.

The sports turf manager thinks the "stem" of the arrow shape comes from the discharge chute on the zero turn rotary mower with a 60-inch deck. The mower was not damaged but the operator received a concussion and was put on the disabled list for 15 days. All things considered, it could have been worse. The mower operators also usually do a thorough check before they start mowing this particular area. I bet these guys on this crew do not need coffee in the morning to keep on their toes.

Photo submitted by TJ Brewer, Head Groundskeeper for the Burlington Bees in Burlington, IA, the Class A minor league affiliate of the Kansas City Royals.

If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz please send it to Turf-Tec International, John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Suite # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 or email to john@turf-tec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted become property of SportsTurf Magazine.
Capture your history now

Capture Your Chapter History NOW is one of STMA Chapters’ Best Management Practices. As the STMA affiliated chapter network grows, chapters are sharing ideas with each other on what is working for them in membership, sponsorship, administration - virtually any activity with which chapters are involved.

The Gateway Chapter has a unique idea that goes beyond preserving its history to making certain it captures history as it happens. Of course, the 8-year old chapter is safeguarding all of its historical documents to-date, i.e. original bylaws, meeting minutes, newsletters, etc., but it is adding an element to that stockpile.

The chapter is having each President detail in writing key events, happenings, and milestones during his/her presidency. This “snapshot” of each President’s term will become an important historical reference for the chapter. Since the Gateway Chapter is still relatively young, it is having each of its previous presidents “catch them up” so there is a complete record of Presidents’ perspectives.

Consider implementing this process and add a new dimension to your chapter’s history.

The Shindaiwa T2510 trimmer is designed and built with professionals in mind.

- The T2510 is 24.5 cc, 1.1 hp (0.8 kW).
- Features our patented C4 Technology high torque 4-stroke engine.
- Uses 50:1 mix. No dip stick!
- Quality 2-ring piston & chrome plated cylinder for maximum durability.
- All position carburetor with primer.
- Better fuel economy vs. equivalent 2-stroke.
- 2-year consumer warranty, 1-year commercial warranty.
- Limited lifetime warranty for solid drive shaft and major ignition components.

To find a dealer nearest you, call 800.521.7733
Or visit www.shindaiwa.com

HILLTOPPER
Mound Clay

The Evolution of Clay

Polymer Coated
Ready to Pack Out of the Bag
Performs in any Condition, Rain or Shine

Advancing the Evolution of Soil
www.StabilizerSolutions.com
800.336.2468   602.225.5900

Relax, RTF Sod makes your job easier.

It's simple to have a field that looks this good.
Self-repairing RTF Sod: Simply perfection!

- Self-repairing to fill bare spots
- Strong, deep root system
- Drought tolerant
- Excellent color and density

RTF is a registered trademark of Baradock USA. U.S. Patent No. 6,617,357

GRADEN
www.gradenusa.com
Call for your Free Demo!
Supreme-Green™
Turf Growth Cover

Supreme-Green is a multi-purpose turf growth cover made of a specially designed material to provide early green-up, accelerated germination and winter protection. The Supreme-Green cover encourages root development and rapid growth while extending your spring and fall seasons.

Supreme-Green turf growth cover is specifically engineered to promote earlier openings by 2-3 weeks.

- Reduces seed loss
- Promotes earlier root establishment
- Accelerates Germination
- Reduces frost and ice damage
- Porous to allow water and air circulation
- Mildew and rot resistant
- Quick turf repair

Specifications:
- Made of tough woven non-coated polyethylene material
- UV treated for long life
- Green tint for best heat build-up
- One piece construction
- Comes complete with anchor pegs and storage bag

279 Humbertine Dr. Bobcaygeon, Ontario M9W 5T6
Phone: 1-800-837-8961
Fax: 1-800-798-1342
E-mail: sales@covertechlab.com
Website: www.covertechlab.com

ATHLETIC SURFACE

Red Warning Track Material
Red Infield Fines
Red Infield Conditioner
Red Diamond Absorb
Red Mound Packing Clay

Order in bulk, supersacks, or 50 lb. bags

TOLL FREE 888-749-2880 • PH 334-749-2880
P. O. Box 150, Cusseta, AL 36852
sales@rareredrock.com • www.fuller5.net

279 Humbertine Dr. Bobcaygeon, Ontario M9W 5T6
Phone: 1-800-837-8961
Fax: 1-800-798-1342
E-mail: sales@covertechlab.com
Website: www.covertechlab.com

Home Field Advantage.

SubAir

Moisture Removal & Aeration Control & Monitoring Permanent & Portable

www.subairsystems.com
866.641.6663

Organics You Can Trust

Organics You Can Trust

A Minnesota-based peat company servicing worldwide.

Peat, Inc. • Elk River, MN 55330 U.S.A.
www.peatinc.com • 763.441.8387 or 1.800.441.1880

Fuller Five Landscape Supply

4x6 in size, made of 1/8" aluminum
Offsets built-in for quick alignment
Three font types available
The Only Painting System You'll Ever Need.
888-780-4441

DSS
Diversified Sports Specialties
www.DSSworks.com
**MARKETPLACE**

**GRACO FIELDLAZER / PAINT SALE!**

SAVE $1,045.00 ON OUR PAINT & MACHINE PACKAGE

WITH THE PURCHASE OF:

- 16 PAALS OF OUR 77-30 OR 88-30 BRILLIANT WHITE PAINT
- $300.00 GRACO BUCKS REBATE
- 16 PAALS OF PAINT
- FIELDLAZER COST OF $1795.00
- FREE FREIGHT FOR ALL

**PACKAGE PRICE**

| #77-30 KIT | OPTICALLY BRIGHT | $2,514.20 |
| #88-30 KIT | | $2,674.20 |

**THESE PAINTS ARE HIGH ENERGY FORMULATED FOR:**
- GREAT ATOMIZATION...SHARPER LINES...EASY MIX...
- LESS SETTLING...LONGER SHELF LIFE...HIGH SOLIDS

**AEROSOL FIELD PAINT**

- Brightest White
- 12 Brilliant Colors
- Low VOC's
- Fits most machines

$44.95 / 12 CAN CASE

FREE SHIPPING
COLORS $46.95 / CASE
Call for QUANTITY PRICES

**SINCE 1947**

**MISSOURI TURF PAINT**

800-426-0774

**THATCH MASTER**

TM-720

- Heavy Duty -
- Low Maintenance -

Turf Specialties, Inc.

Call for price, demo or CD
800-201-1031

**TRIWAVE**

60 OVERSEEDER

**NEW**

The next wave in overseeding is here!

The patent-pending TriWave™ 60 overseeder is perfect for rejuvenating heavily-used sports fields — allowing ongoing overseeding with minimal disruption to play. Here's how:
- Three independent floating heads seed both low and high spots.
- WaveBlade™ technology optimizes slit width for improved seed-to-soil contact with minimal turf disruption.
- Special seed delivery system puts seed directly into slit, increasing germination with reduced waste.
- Infinite depth adjustment allows tools-free in-field adjustments.
- 1-1/2" blade spacing increases germination with fewer passes.

Experience the TriWave difference.
Call Turfco at 800-679-8201 today!

Turfco Incorporated • 7800 64th Avenue NE • Kirkland, WA 98033-4440 U.S.A.
Tel: (425) 798-3000 • Fax (425) 798-0556 • www.turfco.com

**TURFCO**


**GMAX TESTING**

Field hardness testing from the name that's been synonymous with sports turf testing for over 15 years!

**Turf Diagnostics & Design**

Contact Sam or Duane for all of your artificial and natural turf testing needs.

phone: 913-723-3700
fax: 913-723-3701
email: turfdiag@turfdiag.com
www.turfdiag.com

**THATCHMASTER**

TM-nODUZ

The fastest wave on earth!

TurfWindspeeding: 7000+ M.P.H. Averag. F. • Turfwind.com: 760-955-4010 U.S.A.

**THATCHMASTER**

TM-DOVERSEEDER

- Three independent floating heads seed both low and high spots.
- WaveBlade™ technology optimizes slit width for improved seed-to-soil contact with minimal turf disruption.
- Special seed delivery system puts seed directly into slit, increasing germination with reduced waste.
- Infinite depth adjustment allows tools-free in-field adjustments.
- 1-1/2" blade spacing increases germination with fewer passes.

Experience the TriWave difference.
Call Turfco at 800-679-8201 today!

Turfco Incorporated • 7800 64th Avenue NE • Kirkland, WA 98033-4440 U.S.A.
Tel: (425) 798-3000 • Fax (425) 798-0556 • www.turfco.com

**TURFCO**


**PRO-STRIPER**

ATHLETIC FIELD MARKING PAINT

**Major League Look on a Minor League Budget...**

Try our New
"EXTREME" WHITE PAINT

Contact Whitlam for all your sports field marking needs...

Stencils • Striper • Aerosols

Windscreens • Tarps • Benches • Goals • Nets

Call:
800-321-8358
whitlampaint.com
Natures Wonder APEX-10 is an organic Peat Humic Substance made from highly humified North American Peat. APEX-10 organic properties are over 88.5% volatile and 100% of the humic acid is plant available. These Biostimulating qualities of APEX-10 have been proven in university studies and in the field to deliver the highest results with the lowest application rate.

WITH THESE BEING JUST A FEW OF THE PROVEN RESULTS USING APEX-10, THE REAL QUESTION IS... Why Not APEX-10?

1.856.222.4675
www.natureswonder.com
900 BIRCHFIELD DRIVE | MOUNT LAUREL, NJ 08054

FROM THE EARTH FOR THE EARTH

Reviewed by OMRI and Registered for Organic Crop Production by USDA Standards.
Advertisers’ Index/Reader Service Information

Three fast and easy ways to get additional information on products and services in this issue:

1. Visit the Web address next to the advertiser’s name for the ad in this issue.

2. Go to sports turf.hotims.com to search for products by category or company name. Plus, link directly to advertisers’ Web sites, or request information via e-mail or by fax.

3. Complete the reader service information below. Write in the reader service number from the product or circle advertiser from the index, copy, and fax to (416) 620-9790 or mail to SportsTurf, PO Box 5167, Buffalo, NY 14205-5167.

Please complete this form in its entirety to receive your product information.

1. What is your company’s primary business? (check ONLY ONE)
   F Q Sports Complex  G Q Athletic Field and/or Park Architect/Designer
   T Q School, College or University  P Q Park  H Q Other (please specify)

2. Which of the following best describes your title? (check ONLY ONE)
   A Q EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATOR—President, Owner, Partner, Director, General Manager, Chairman of the Board, Purchasing Agent, Athletic Director
   B Q MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT—Superintendent, Landscape/Ground Maintenance Manager, Foremen, Supervisor
   C Q GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL—Government Commissioner, Agent, Other Government Official
   D Q SPECIALIST—Architect, Designer, Consultant, Agronomist, Horticulturist, Certified Specialist
   F Q COACH  E Q Other (please specify)

3. Do you have the authority to buy, specify or recommend products and/or services for your business or organization?
   Y Q Yes  N Q No

4. Yearly operating expenditures (excluding salaries)
   F Q Over $1 million  C Q $0.001 - $100,000
   E Q $500,001 - $1 million  B Q $50,001 - $50,000
   D Q $100,001 - $500,000  A Q $25,000 and under

5. Please also send a free subscription to the following people at the same location
   Name
   Title

Please write the reader service number for FREE product information in the boxes above.

If this is not your copy of ST, please go to www.submag.com/subltfto sign up for a FREE one year subscription of your own.

Advertisers’ Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advertiser</th>
<th>Web Address</th>
<th>Fill in #</th>
<th>Page #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aerovay/Holland Equipment</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-141">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-141</a></td>
<td>141</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bannerman</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-118">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-118</a></td>
<td>118</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrenbrug USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-121">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-121</a></td>
<td>121</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beacon Athletics</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-128">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-128</a></td>
<td>128</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell Labs</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-163">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-163</a></td>
<td>163</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLEC USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-143">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-143</a></td>
<td>143</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covertech</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-151">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-151</a></td>
<td>151</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Bluegrass</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-112">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-112</a></td>
<td>112</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversified Sports Specialties</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-147">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-147</a></td>
<td>147</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen Turf</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-137">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-137</a></td>
<td>137</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewing Irrigation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-114">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-114</a></td>
<td>114</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Products</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-123">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-123</a></td>
<td>123</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuller Five Landscape Supply</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-152">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-152</a></td>
<td>152</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gradus USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-150">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-150</a></td>
<td>150</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Industry Education</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-164">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-164</a></td>
<td>164</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GreensGroomer</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-117">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-117</a></td>
<td>117</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydraulix Drainage</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-135">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-135</a></td>
<td>135</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobiawn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-166">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-166</a></td>
<td>166</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JDR Enterprises</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-120">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-120</a></td>
<td>120</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Deere</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-113">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-113</a></td>
<td>113</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kifo Irrigation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-136">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-136</a></td>
<td>136</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krylon Products Group</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-127">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-127</a></td>
<td>127</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon Turf</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-119">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-119</a></td>
<td>119</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-146">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-146</a></td>
<td>146</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newstripe</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-140">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-140</a></td>
<td>140</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partic Peru/Beam Clay</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-167">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-167</a></td>
<td>167</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennington Seed</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-129">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-129</a></td>
<td>129</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penn State Outreach</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-129">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-129</a></td>
<td>129</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer Athletics</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-123">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-123</a></td>
<td>123</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redaxim Charterhouse</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-131">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-131</a></td>
<td>131</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIT Turf Producers Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-149">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-149</a></td>
<td>149</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shindawo</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-145">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-145</a></td>
<td>145</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SISIS</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-138">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-138</a></td>
<td>138</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SubAir Systems</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-156">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-156</a></td>
<td>156</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Toro Company</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-110">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-110</a></td>
<td>110</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trito</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-120">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-120</a></td>
<td>120</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turf Diagnostics &amp; Design</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-158">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-158</a></td>
<td>158</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turf Specialties</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-144">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-144</a></td>
<td>144</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turf Manufacturing</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-160">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-160</a></td>
<td>160</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TVRDO</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-126">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-126</a></td>
<td>126</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underhill International</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-155">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-155</a></td>
<td>155</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicore Technologies</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-165">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-165</a></td>
<td>165</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiedemanns NA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-142">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-142</a></td>
<td>142</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitlem Paint</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-161">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-161</a></td>
<td>161</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Class Athletic Surfaces</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-125">http://www.oners.hotims.com/13972-125</a></td>
<td>125</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SportsTurf ADVERTISERS’ INDEX
Clump, clump, clump

BY DR. DAVID MINNER
Professor, Iowa State University

Questions? Send them to David Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall, Ames, IA 50011 or email dminner@iastate.edu.

Or, send your question to Grady Miller at North Carolina State University, Box 7620, Raleigh, NC 27695-7620, or email grady.miller@ncsu.edu.

My fescue soccer/football field is clumping and no one is pleased with the playing surface. Our administrators are considering my suggestions for improving the field but they are requesting outside consultation to develop a renovation plan. Reconstruction is not possible so I have been talking to them about coreing, topdressing, and seeding concepts that I have learned through STMA.

We have a dark loamy clay soil over a hardpan and drainage is very slow. Can you give specific renovation recommendations to reduce surface clumping? The field receives high traffic and doubles for youth football and soccer. We have used both a 5-way blend of turf-type tall fescue (finer, denser, darker green, more traffic tolerant, but less heat tolerant) and also K-31 tall fescue (wider bladed, lighter green, and faster growing). We have irrigation so heat stress is less of a concern except for extreme years.

I have suggested to administration that our normal seeding rate of 7 lbs/1000 sq.ft. may need to be increased based on newer evidence, but they want more justification. We have a sand plant 30 miles from the field. We would like to do the renovation now (June) to accommodate flag football in September. Specifically, we want information on sand size, timing of the renovation, and seeding rates and methods.

Richard English
Beloit, KS

Rich, Here are some specific suggestions for your field renovation project:

Timing. Avoid starting your renovation in mid-summer since this is a difficult time to establish tall fescue in Kansas; anticipate too much heat, disease, and weeds to guarantee successful establishment. On the other hand many high school field managers may be forced to seed in mid-summer when there is only a 2.5 month period starting in June when the field will be idle and renovation is possible.

In your situation I would seed in late August or early September and move flag football to another location. If flag football can’t be moved then consider shifting the flag football field set up so that there is minimal traffic on the worn and clumpy areas that you are regrassing. The whole renovation will take about 1-3 days of work that could be spread over a 1-2 week period depending on weather. Plan to scalp mow and aerify during the last week of August followed by topdressing and seeding during the first week of September.

Where the field is clumpy mow as short as possible and remove all of the clippings. Getting it scalped down helps smooth the field when you topdress and drag. If the grass is too tall then you won’t have enough loose soil and sand to drag around the surface. I like to use a three-prong approach when your goal is to maximize turf cover in a shortest period of time.

After scalping drill seed in a minimum of 2 to 4 directions, broadcast seed and drag into aerifier holes, and broadcast and cover seed with topdressing. Seedlings will only establish into areas where there is exposed soil; seeding into areas with 100% turf cover does not improve turf density and is a waste of seed. Unfortunately, in a situation with 50% turf cover you will need to seed 100% of the area just to get the proper amount of seed into the bare areas. If funds are limited concentrate your resources such as seed and sand into the high traffic areas only.

Seed. Even though K-31 is a coarse pasture type tall fescue I have seen it provide a suitable, but unattractive, surface for both football and soccer. The turf-type tall fescues are a much better choice for appearance and playability compared to K-31. In fact, the K-31 may be causing some of the clumps within the finer textured improved tall fescue varieties.

To further reduce clumping consider using the newer rhizome producing tall fescues such as Defiance ("Grande I") and RTF ("Labarinth"). These first generation rhizome producers for tall fescue are a step in the right direction, but don’t expect them to be completely resistant to field clumping. Plan on annual over seeding in high traffic areas of the field.

Our traffic and seeding trials show that a heavy single seeding of tall fescue near 1 September is better than spreading the same amount of seed out over the entire autumn growing season. Seeding rates up to 35 lbs/1000 sq.ft. improved turf cover during autumn traffic and following spring recovery. If you don’t anticipate any traffic during the fall 20 lbs/1000 sq.ft. may be your upper limit for a one time seeding in early September.

Topdressing sand. Here is a general specification for topdressing sand that should be incorporated into the top three inches of the field by routine aerification. Ideally you want a sand composed mostly of coarse and very coarse sand because you are trying to create macro pores for better water movement. Avoid sands high in fine or very fine sand. Your minimum topdressing target should be a 75% sand content by weight in the top three inches over a 3-year period. Existing soils that have twice as much silt as clay may be impossible to improve. (See http://www.hort.iastate.edu/turfgrass/extension/EGaerifytab.pdf.)

Tall fescue is gaining popularity as a good choice for many athletic field situations because of its relatively low seed cost, good traffic tolerance, and potential for recovery from newer varieties with some rhizomatous growth.
IT'S DONE EVERYTHING WE'VE CLAIMED.
Thousands of systems installed...still working strong.

Technical Assistance | Complimentary Design & Layout | Project Planning

Varicore Technologies, Inc. | 800-978-8007 | service@varicore.com

www.varicore.com

Fill in 165 on reader service form or visit http://oners.hotims.com/13972-165