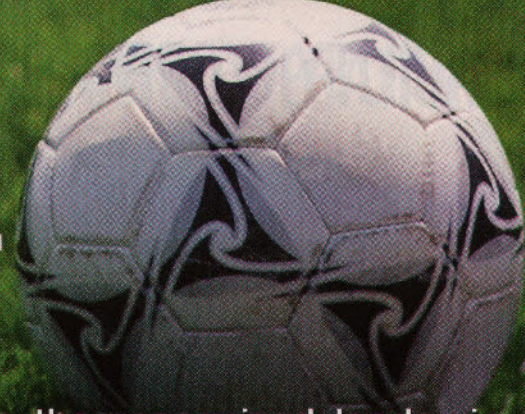


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IF YOUR CAMPUS HAS NOT DONE A CAMPUS MASTER LANDSCAPE PLAN IN THE PAST 10 YEARS THEN YOU PROBABLY SHOULD DO ONE.

mix at 5/8-inch; the coach and players loved the field. But the maintenance on that natural field was not any more, and in some cases less, than the current synthetic field (Astroturf 12).

What primarily drove our conversion to turf was the lacrosse schedule begins so early, coupled with the colleges' desire to increase intramural and club sports. We are blessed with field space here but our intramural and

club programs are very large. Studies show if you should get a student involved in a team sport or environment he or she is more likely to stay at that college for the 4 years.

Once you have determined that there is a realistic need for turf the next step is deciding where it would fit best on your campus. If your campus has not done a campus master landscape plan in the past 10 years then you

probably should do one. Any new sports facility or field is a long-term investment and once it is placed it cannot be moved easily. A master landscape plan will vary on the size of campus and could cost up to \$100,000. A smaller scale athletic field master plan can be developed on smaller campuses and at far less cost. We had a master but choosing the new location was not easy; numerous ideas

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were proposed. We finally chose to replace the existing grass field hockey field.

What sport?

The type of synthetic surface you choose will have long lasting effects on your athletic program. What sport(s) will be played predominantly on this field? For us, field hockey meant we could not go with an infill product. If it is soccer, you'd better make sure the surface is FIFA-approved. (FIFA is the world governing body for soccer.)

Say football is your sport, then an infill might be the right choice. Then you must decide what type rubber, sand, a rubber layer then a sand layer, a sand layer then a rubber layer, a mix of both? What type of turf fibers or seams, inlaid lines and logos or painted, more fibers per square inch or less? Is this all the company does or do they sell carpet too? What about the warranty?

Your best method of solving this riddle is to educate yourself. Get a list of places that have a good cross section of the products you are considering and talk with them. Ask about the contractor that was used, the installation process, ("Did they finish on time?"), the major issues that came up with construction, how has the field held up over the time you have had it, how are the Gmax numbers over time?

A decision has been made to go with "x" infill product now what? The success of the infill or any product is only as good as the contractor installing it and as importantly the contractor installing the sub-base. Many systems fail because of an improperly built sub-base. I would see if you could get the same contractor to do both. And don't forget – these synthetic fields need to be irrigated! It may take some convincing but "flushing" the infield regularly can help move certain things like bird dropping, earth worm casts, saliva, etc through the infill profile and into the sub-base. Irrigation will also help lower surface temps on the turf. No sports field is complete without new bleachers, lighting press box, fencing, goals, benches, dug outs etc., cha-ching, cha-ching. Expect to pay \$1.5 to \$2 million for a basic new stadium.

Synthetic turf does not mean little to no maintenance. The amount of time spent plowing, sweeping, hosing down, marking etc. can equate to far more time that if it were natural grass, in my experience.

I believe synthetic turf has a place on most college campuses but it should not replace the smell, look, and feel and playability of natural grass.

John Fik, CSFM, is grounds and landscape manager for Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY. ■



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product spotlight

Infield Pro



The **Toro Company** introduced the **Infield Pro 3040** and **Infield Pro 5040** one year ago with Sports Fields grounds managers specifically in mind. Along with the initial traction vehicles, 17 attachments were offered, ranging from a carbide-tipped mid-mount scarifier to a finish grader, tooth rake and weeding tine teeth. Each of these works with the **Quick Attach System**, allowing the operator to change attachments and functions in a matter of seconds. Toro also designed an enclosed steering system to minimize the impact of the infield mix to the mechanism. This summer, a new lip broom that works to reduce the lip that builds between infield and outfield will be introduced. Due for launch in the near future is a nail drag with paired groomer drag mat that's controlled hydraulically.

The Toro Company

For information, fill in 067 on reader service form or see <http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-067>

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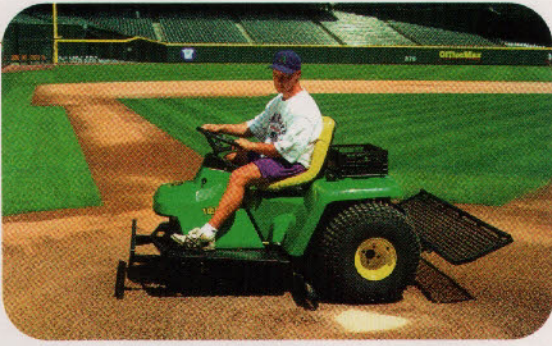
One-pass grooming



For infield grooming, the **Quadraplay** system is fitted with rake/lute/roller/brush, or for renovation work, spiker-slitte/grooming rake/roller/brush. Units frame has a platform to carry hand tools and materials. Implements are independently adjustable and can also be used on turf areas.

SISIS Inc.

For information, fill in 055 on reader service form or see <http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-055>



Deere field rake

The three-wheeled self-propelled **John Deere 1200A** field rake features a 10-hp, air-cooled Kawasaki engine and muffler and the front blade and the cultivator/scarifier have a spring-assisted lift. Flip a switch to raise and lower the rake. The rake attachment is 78" wide and has 3 sections with 24 prongs.

John Deere

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Jacobsen Groom Master-II



The **Groom Master II**, designed specifically for infield maintenance, features power steering, a tilting wheel and a redesigned hydro pedal. Full-time hydrostatic 3-wheel drive system provides traction on all surfaces under any conditions. Available in both gas and diesel models.

Jacobsen

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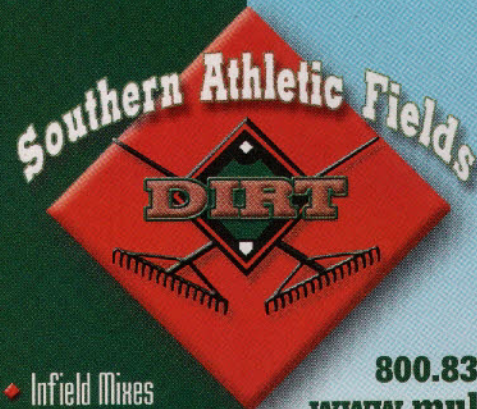
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product spotlight



Cocoa mat drag

The **Beacon Cocoa Mat Drag** rarely leaves a pile of material to disperse after you pick up the drag. The 6 x 4-ft. drag is available with or

without the Leveling Bar to drag an infield with a tractor. The 6 x 2-ft. hand drag is for in-game manicuring, and the 4 x 2-ft. unit is good for smoothing baselines, cutouts, mounds etc.

Beacon Athletics

For information, fill in 066 on reader service form or see <http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-066>

Legacy SPORT

Broyhill introduces the all-new **Legacy SPORT** turf maintenance vehicle. Features AWD, 16-hp air-cooled engine, and zero-turning radius.

Standard features include engine kill switch, headlight, 12-volt power source, cup holder, and exclusive wrap-around rear-hinged cargo box. Mid- and rear-hydraulic lifts accommodate a variety of attachments.



Broyhill

For information, fill in 056 on reader service form or see <http://www.oners.hotims.com/12047-056>



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Newstripe, Inc.

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Smithco

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Kromer Company

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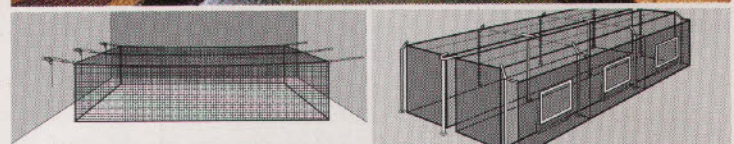
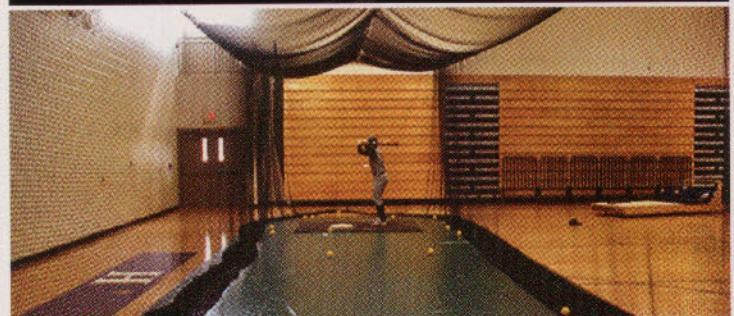
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WHEN HE ASKS TO LIMIT FIELD ACTIVITY IT IS NOT A PERSONAL ATTACK ON A USER GROUP, ALTHOUGH IT IS OFTEN PERCEIVED THAT WAY.

field where everyone wants to practice. The short field has only the infield grass and skin with no outfield. Cut outs can be used around the bases if infield skin is not possible. This field can be used for infield practice and several drills that wear out the game field, i.e. 3rd base to home situational drills, squeeze play, etc.

Where space is available, a whole field can be painted on grass and used for situational play. Over time, these areas often are developed into a full regulation practice field. Coaches love the extra space for maximizing practice time. The idea is to create effective areas off of the field where most of the practice occurs. Go to the field only when you need the whole field. We need your help coaches to improve game field quality and to provide a better training facility.

Inevitably some of you will be forced to continue practice on your game fields. Be sure that you are doing all that can be done to protect the field. Administrators need to realize that more activity comes with

more cost. Don't be afraid to request additional resources for additional traffic on the field.

Protective batting covers or "ding screens" can be placed on the grass in front of the plate area to protect against divots from batting practice and fungo grounders. Portable platforms can be bought or built to protect working areas in front of the mound and fungo areas. Labor must be arranged for set up and take down these protection items during practice. The coaches and team are usually responsible for managing this task. Coaches can instruct players to avoid needless and habitual digging in traffic areas at each position. Sod replacement on high traffic areas should be part of the routine budget. Field covers for winter protection and enhanced growth can be used to extend the growing season and speed field recovery.

Like most of the situations in this business, the problem involves grass and dirt, but the solution involves communication with those good people around you. ■

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Hunting Billbugs

By Dr. David Shetlar



The white areas of bermudagrass on this croquet field are classic spring hunting billbug damage.



This is a close-up of bermudagrass killed by overwintering hunting billbug larvae. Looks like spring deadspot!



Typical adult hunting billbug showing the (Y) markings on the pronotum.

Turfgrass entomologists often state that the bluegrass billbug is one of the most commonly misdiagnosed insect pests of cool-season turf, but managers of bermudagrass and zoysiagrass facilities have their own species to contend with – the hunting billbug.

The problem with billbug damage diagnosis is that the damage is often minor (especially in moist conditions and under higher fertility rates), the damage often resembles other maladies (e.g., disease, drought stress), and the small grub-like larvae are easy to miss. Hunting billbug damage can appear during the early green-up phase when it is often mistaken for delayed spring green-up or spring deadspot. While there are diseases associated with these syndromes, billbugs may be the actual cause of these dead areas or poor growing turf! In August through winter dormancy, the bermudagrass or zoysia may appear to be attacked by white grubs (i.e., wilts in the afternoon, is frequented by birds, patches pull back easily because of a poor root system).

We need to know a lot more about the hunting billbug biology and several southern turfgrass entomologists are beginning these studies. At present, it appears that the adults of this pest lay eggs in the turf over a very long period, from May through August. Their C-shaped, grub-like larvae WITHOUT legs feed on stolons, rhizomes, and roots. During the summer, watered bermudagrass and zoysiagrass can generally grow through this feeding damage. The real problem with hunting billbug can be when there are numerous larvae still finishing development when their warm-season hosts enter winter dormancy. The larvae continue to dine on the stolons and roots that results in the dead spots observed the following spring or the poor spring recovery. Hunting billbugs can overwinter as adults or larvae, but it is overwintering larvae that can cause the most problems, especially when masked by winter overseeding.

You should always be on the lookout for billbugs. The adults tend to wander about on warm sunny afternoons, especially in the fall and spring months. Hunting billbug adults are about 3/8-inch long and they have a diagnostic raised Y-area on the pronotum (the segment just behind the head) bordered on each side by a raised “()” marks, e.g., (Y).

Presently most turf managers knock out billbugs with their grub control treatments, especially if the grub controls are applied in June or July. If billbugs are causing spring damage, inspect the soil-thatch interface in several areas in August to determine if you have any grubs that have survived. If so, you likely still have time to apply a product containing imidacloprid (Merit) or clothianidin (Arena) to knock out these larvae that are likely to damage the turf during dormancy.

Dr. Shetlar is an urban landscape entomologist at Ohio State and is affectionately known as “The Bug Doctor.” ■

McCarty, East Peoria win softball field award



Though Doug McCarty won the 2006 Sports Turf Managers Association School/Park Soccer Field of the Year Award, his job responsibilities encompass an entire sports complex. Mizuno Field is just one field on the 108-acre complex named EastSide Centre (www.eastsidecentre.com). There are a total of 10 baseball/softball fields, four soccer fields, a multi-purpose stadium primarily used for football and track, an indoor recreation facility, and a water park. McCarty manages all grounds of the complex, which includes hiring workers, scheduling work hours, managing youth league and tournament schedules, and all aspects of grounds maintenance.

A renovation in late 2004 assured the facility would continue to host the Illinois High School Association Class A and AA softball state finals, and also attract new events such as the Super 60 high school All-Star weekends.

McCarty began working on East Peoria's city ballfields as a teenager. "I grew up playing on those fields. As a 16-year-old I got a summer job helping with the field work. I caught on quickly and really enjoyed being outside and working on the diamonds," he says. "The next year I took over doing the field prep at age 17. The next year EastSide Centre opened."

He continued to do field work throughout the rest of high school and as a summer job through college with the Park District. But it wasn't until the summer before his senior year in college that he worked on the grounds crew at EastSide Centre. Three years later, in 2004, he was named grounds manager.

"Being 27 and single gives me a lot of time to devote to work," McCarty says. "I think that is a big reason why I have been successful at a young age.

"There are a lot of demands in this profession. I think about all the late nights and early mornings; all the weekends that are tied up

with tournaments and it doesn't leave you with much free time," he says.

"Every year of experience gives me that much more knowledge going into the next season. I keep notes on things that have worked well and use them every season to become more efficient and become a better time manager so someday I will have that balance between work and family," McCarty says.

Changes in '07?

"I don't see many changes in my maintenance plan this year. Since 2004 our summer schedule has remained consistent," he says. "That summer we jumped from around 2000 games played to around 2500 games. In 2005 we had a severe drought that caused me to change some things, and I incorporated those changes in 2006 just to be better prepared for a dry summer. "The more we can get done in the fall, the easier it seems to make things in the spring. Once the games start being played, it's