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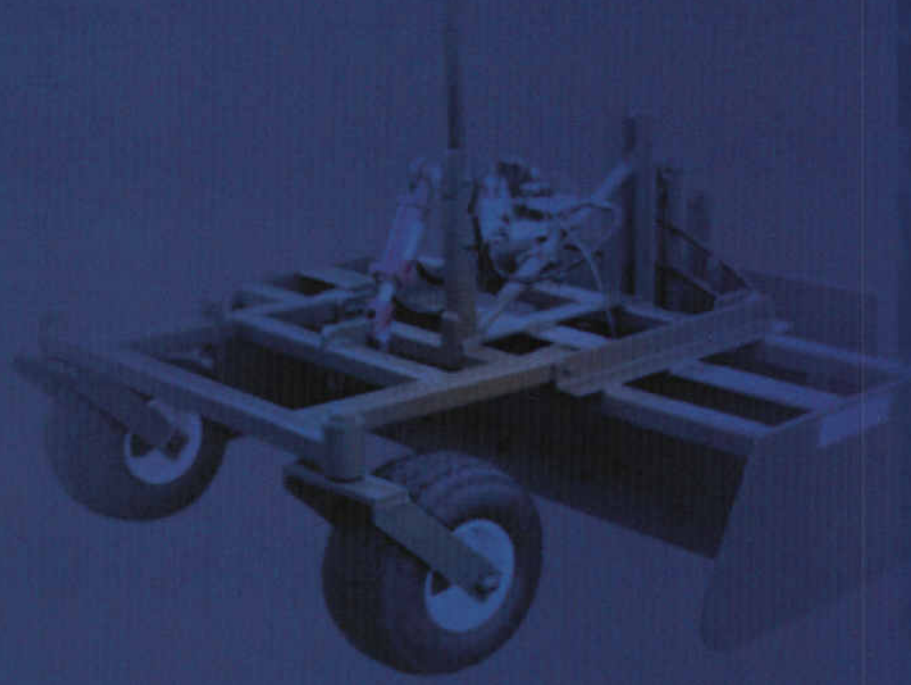


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On the cover: The San Francisco 49ers listen to head coach Mike Nolan at their award-winning practice field in Santa Clara.

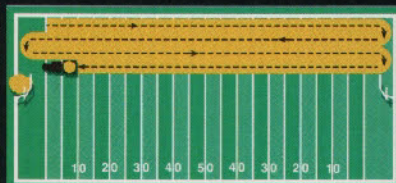
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C SFM practice exams are now available online. Considering certification as a Sports Field Manager? Take the Certified Sports Field Manager practice exam to determine the content areas that you are strong in and where you might need a refresher. To determine if you have the 40 points necessary to be eligible to take the test, contact Leah Craig at Sports Turf Managers Association headquarters, 800-323-3875. Remember, you can take the test at a time and location convenient to you.

Reds go green. The Cincinnati Reds, baseball's first all-professional team and the first MLB team to play night games, are striving to become the first team to be fully "green" in its ballpark operations, according to Will Weiss at baseballprospectus.com: "At Great American Ballpark, high-efficiency lighting illuminates all parts of the stadium, from the structures that light the field to the internal office areas. In addition, a computerized motherboard regulates the ballpark's lighting system. At various points during a game, the unit will recognize areas in greatest need of either heating or cooling (luxury boxes, team clubhouses), and transfer power to that area from an area of the stadium that doesn't exhaust as much power. During post-game cleanup, stadium lights are programmed to shut off on a timed basis, contingent upon the area of the stadium that is active," he writes.

Field of the Year wins, exposure in this magazine can improve career prospects. Jon DeWitt is the new sports turf manager for Georgia Tech athletics in Atlanta. He told me he didn't think the two STMA Field of the Year Awards he's won, including one last year, "hurt his resume"! DeWitt's predecessor, Kris Harris, was profiled for his work with the Yellow Jacket's football field in our January 2007 issue. He emailed "I took a position as Director of Turf at Southern Methodist University . . . by the way, it was the article that got me the job, so thanks."

Authors wanted. Yes, we at SportsTurf magazine want YOU! Many readers of this magazine are national experts on many topics relating to maintaining athletic turf and the sports turf management profession in general. Writing an article is a great way to give back to the STMA and your peers, gain points toward certification, or share your passion for your work. It's also an avenue to take if you want to put your name and knowledge in front of potential employers, aka networking.

And if you're concerned about not being the world's greatest writer or grammarian, please know that that is our department and we'll work together with you to get it right. Any time, any topic, please contact me at 717-805-4197 or eschroder@m2media360.com. Your fellow sports turf managers will be glad you did.

* "A heterogeneous mixture; medley; mishmash."

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In past columns I've promoted the virtues of our membership and tried to convey the special role our profession serves to sports, to youth, and to society. Today I'm going to ask you to be selfish. On page 48 you'll find a Call for Nominations to the STMA Board of Directors. This call goes out every year and surprisingly, or not, few people step up and nominate themselves or a colleague. The slate is always filled with exceptional members, but I'm asking you to consider playing a bigger role – either on the national stage or at least in your chapter or local association.

The biggest reluctance is the "I'm too busy" argument. I bet you are the busiest person, or at least in a tie with someone, at your facility. We're busy because we get things done. A wise person once said that if you want something done you take it to the busiest person you know! We're exceptional at time and resource management, we have good people skills, we're not afraid to be decisive, and we'll dig ourselves out when things get overwhelming. The "too busy" argument only feeds my desire to ask you to give more!

Please consider the rewards of association service. Already there are more than 200 members giving time to STMA committees. Many more members are in leadership roles in our 30 chapters. You're already making a positive impact on our association, but I'm asking you to consider giving more. You certainly have what it takes to help STMA become better!

Nine years ago, after serving locally and on a couple of national committees, I was asked to run for the Board. I was extremely humbled and honored. I chose to do it because I thought there were a few things I could directly help the association with by being in a board seat.

Board service has helped my career through exposure to things that are not always comfortable. Ten years ago I was terrified to speak in public and even in small groups. The terror was based in lack of confidence. Though I will never be an accomplished public speaker, serving on the Board has helped me at least effectively process my thoughts and convey them accurately no matter how many people are in the room. Besides the professional skills I've learned from STMA, working through stage fright may be at the top of my list of improved skills I attribute to being involved.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said it better: "It's one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that you cannot sincerely try to help another without helping yourself." I'll attest that as you become more active, your career and your life will be more blessed and richer. How it enriches you is the great unknown, but anyone who's ever served on the STMA Board of Directors knows I'm right. You are the busiest person I know. Please consider becoming more active locally and nationally. You'll directly impact our profession, and you'll certainly grow from the experience. Thank you.



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Nutrient management planning for sports fields

By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Nutrient management planning for sports turf is both an art and a science. More than just a fertility program, it is a site specific management tool. Nutrient management planning integrates the use of plant nutrients and cultural practices necessary to achieve optimum turf health. The amount, form, placement, and timing of nutrients and soil amendments make up the nutritional plan.

Cultural management practices such as mowing, irrigation, aeration, and turfgrass selection enhance its efficacy. It is appropriate for all sports turf uses. Whether you are growing cool or warm season turf grass on native, sand based or modified soil, nutrient management planning permits efficient sports field management and protects water quality from nutrient pollution.

In many areas, Nutrient Management Planning came about as result of excess levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in our surface and ground water resources. Many states, provinces, and local governments now have laws or programs regulating the sources and amounts of nutrients contributing to nonpoint source pollution of our water resources. The overall goal of many of these programs is to

protect and improve water quality by promoting the efficient yet responsible use of fertilizers and soil amendments. Also, an effective nutrient management plan adds value through better results and cost savings.

Fate of nutrients

Whenever fertilizer and water are applied to a sports field, there is the potential for some nutrient loss to occur. To illustrate this process, here is a simple explanation: Precipitation from rain (or from a sprinkler head) is absorbed by the soil to become ground water or runs off to a body of water, such as a river or ocean. Water is returned to the atmosphere (by evaporation or through transpiration through the turf), condenses and returns to earth as precipitation.

What happens to the nutrients in the environment? Nutrients go into solution with the water. Some of the nutrients are used by the plant or stored in the soil for future use. Unfortunately, some of the nutrients may be lost through leaching into the ground water or by surface runoff, erosion (A dense stand of turfgrass can limit nutrient runoff). Nitrogen can even be volatilized directly into the atmosphere. One of the goals of nutrient manage-

ment planning is to minimize nutrient loss.

Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are referred to as macronutrients because they are used by plants in large quantities. (Micronutrients are elements that are essential for plant health, but used in very small quantities.) Of the three macronutrients, nitrogen is the most unstable, meaning that it can change its form easily. That is why nitrogen is not usually measured on a common soil test. Phosphorus binds with the mineral compounds and the clay fraction in many soils and is less mobile than nitrogen. Both nutrients can cause contamination when moved away from their target by erosion or leaching and become concentrated in a body of water. Potassium is the least mobile, meaning that once applied to the soil, it stays in place. Rarely does potassium contamination cause environmental problems in surface or groundwater.

Getting started

A documented nutrient management plan is best. Start with accurate area measurements because a nutrient management plan is dependent upon some amount of material needed per unit of area. Obtain a site map showing the locations of all surface waters

Continued on page 11



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