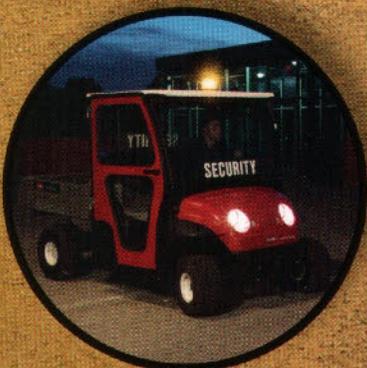


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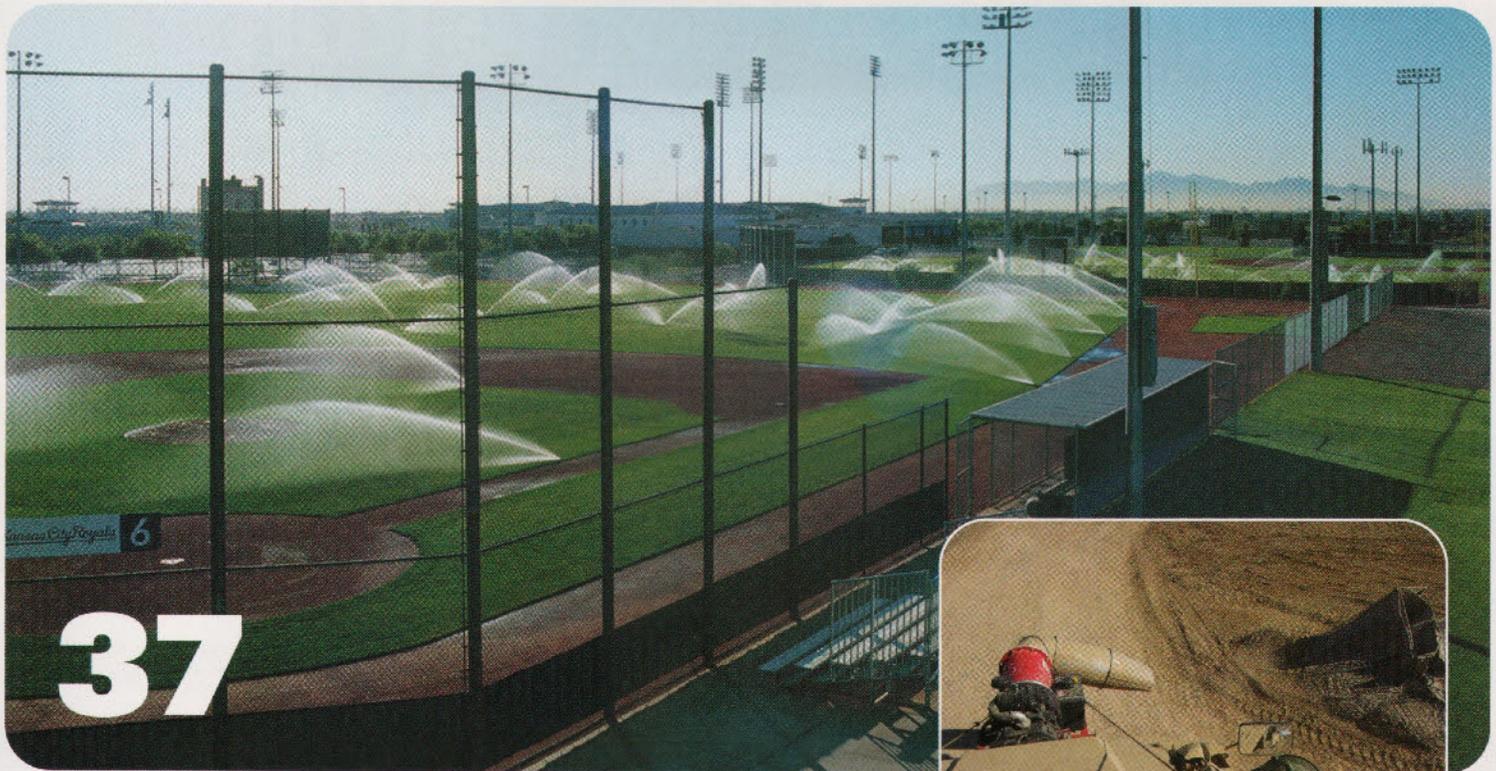
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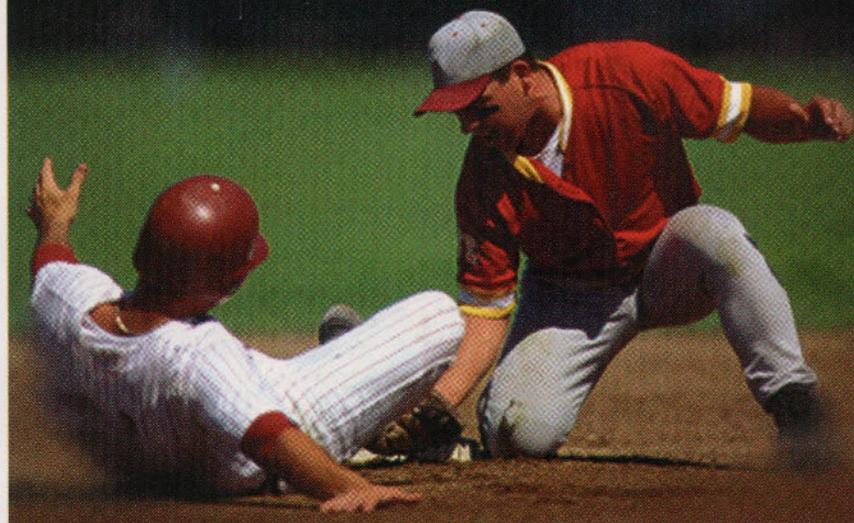
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On the cover: Surprise Recreation Campus, Surprise, AZ, won an unprecedented third Complex of the Year Award in 2006.



HOME TEAM ADVANTAGE



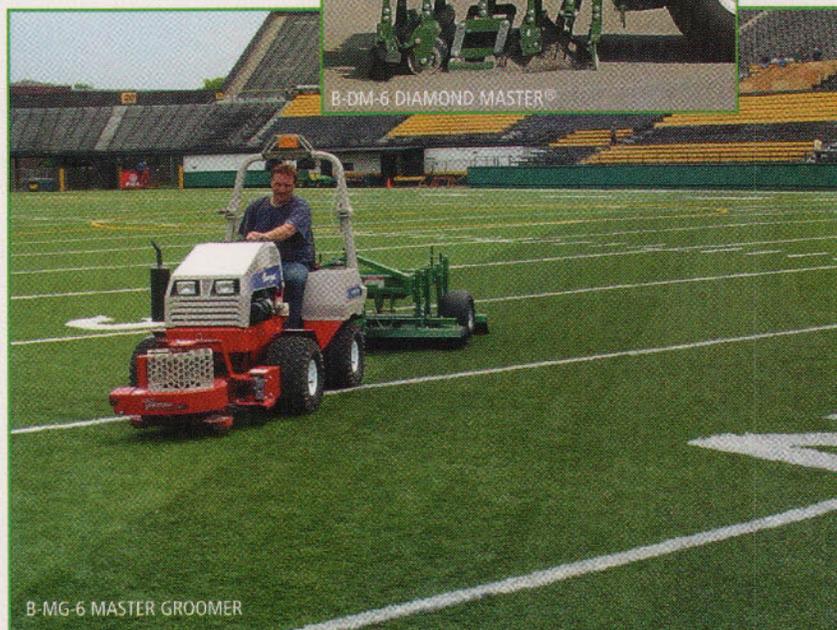
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From the Sidelines

Project EverGreen still matters



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Nearly 3 years ago Project EverGreen launched a national media campaign to inform consumers about the positive effects of well-maintained green spaces, including sports turf. Today the organization, led by executive director Den Gardner, continues to focus solely on its mission to educate and inform consumers on the environmental, economic, and lifestyle benefits of green spaces.

According to Gardner, current projects include:

GreenCare for Troops. A national initiative to help military families with lawn care while the major breadwinner is serving in the Middle East. "What a great way for sports turf managers as a group to volunteer their time for just ONE family," says Gardner. "Go to www.projectevergreen.com and sign up. We have more than 2,700 families signed up and need many more volunteers. All you need is a lawn mower in most cases."

Yard Enthusiasts of America (YEA). This new affinity club is for all consumers and provides a place for them to go to become a member (it's free), take part in trivia contests, and win prizes. "Consumers can get information on how to maintain their green spaces," Gardner says. "It's our outreach program to get consumers talking to each other about caring for green spaces."

Habitat for Humanity. Efforts continue in some cities. The Sports Turf Managers Association last year provided the lawn and landscaping for two houses in Lawrence, KS, and the association also provided assistance in Philadelphia and Raleigh, NC on youth field renovations orchestrated by Project EverGreen.

"There is a tremendous disconnect between consumers and the efforts needed by those in the lawn and landscape maintenance business, including sports turf managers, regarding caring for green spaces," says Gardner. "For your industry, our market research shows that nearly 100 percent of consumers expect a well-maintained playing field for the sports their children participate in.

"Yet by the same token, they don't understand, unless they are volunteering to maintain these fields, all the work it takes to keep undesirable weeds, pests, and diseases from turf," he says. "They don't understand that efficient irrigation means much more than turning on the water only at night to conserve resources, that mowing practices are crucial to the overall safety of kids playing on sports surfaces, for example.

"We can only be successful if national associations like STMA, its members, and other readers of your magazine help us tell the story to the specific consumer audiences that use the fields they prepare," Gardner says. "Our tagline, 'Because Green Matters,' has never been more important than today."

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President's Message

Committee volunteers propel initiatives

Last fall the Board of Directors spent a few days of the board meeting mapping out a five-to-seven year strategic plan for STMA. The plan sets forth bold initiatives for the association. The involvement of committees is essential to reaching these goals. Your board members chair or serve as liaisons to at least one STMA committee. This is an important responsibility because we're expected to set cognitive goals, help provide energy, and also ensure that the appropriate committees address the strategic plan initiatives. In many cases, there must be multiple committees working on different angles of the same goal simultaneously. As board members' tenure grows, so does their understanding of how one committee's work is intertwined with the work of other committees. If one part of the machine slows down or ceases to function, the whole machine slows down. I assure you that each board member takes his and her responsibility very seriously for keeping our machine full of fuel and running smoothly.

Members of our association amaze me! What is truly remarkable and makes our board's responsibilities much easier, is having engaged and energized committee members. There are more than 200 member volunteers on STMA committees for this year. Many volunteers are sage veterans of STMA whose wisdom and experience provide our association with its strong foundation. Many more are new, or nearly new members, who see great things going on and are willing to lend new ideas, new energy, and new sets of expectations to build on that foundation.

It's exciting to track the progress of each committee, to learn about new perspectives, and to be involved in our association's evolution. STMA is doing a lot of work, not because we developed a strategic plan, but because of the passion of its more than 200 committee members. They embrace a vision that we will grow by enhancing the value of membership through fulfilling members' needs and expectations.

I personally want to thank those who voluntarily serve on committees and task groups for STMA. It's a great lesson in teamwork to see our collective work making STMA better today than it was yesterday. Thanks to Kim and our staff at headquarters for helping keep the pieces in place and ensuring we don't feel overwhelmed. Thanks also to the Board and non-Board members who lead our committees. Your dedication and passion is making a difference now and for the future. Most importantly, thanks to each member who voluntarily has chosen to set aside time to advance this profession and leave your stamp on STMA. We're all very grateful for your commitment to STMA and trust it will be rewarding in a few years to see how far we've progressed! The heart of STMA is its members, and each member is equally important to our future. Thank you.



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Editor's Note: To view STMA's Strategic Plan, go to www.STMA.org.

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Removing overseeded rye from bermuda with chemicals

By Travis C. Teuton, Christopher L. Main, John C. Sorochan, and Thomas C. Mueller

Perennial ryegrass is commonly used in the transition zone of the United States for overseeding both common bermudagrass and hybrid bermudagrass sports fields. Benefits of overseeding a dormant warm-season sports field turf include reduced winter weed invasion, increased turf uniformity, better wear tolerance, and increased aesthetics quality of the field. Traditionally, sports field managers have relied on warmer weather, cultivation, fertilization, and bermudagrass competition to transition back to the bermudagrass base. However, perennial ryegrass varieties with improved heat, disease, and drought tolerance

can persist longer into spring and cause delayed bermudagrass green-up.

Warm-season grasses in dormancy use stored carbohydrates to return to active growth when weather conditions warm during spring. Persistent perennial ryegrass competes with bermudagrass much like a weed. Perennial ryegrass shades the bermudagrass canopy and competes with bermudagrass roots for water and nutrients.

Foramsulfuron (Revolver), rimsulfuron (Tranxit), trifloxysulfuron (Monument), and metsulfuron (Manor) are ALS-inhibiting herbicides effective for the removal of perennial ryegrass. Sulfonyleurea herbicides control sensitive plants (perennial ryegrass) by inhibiting

the acetolactate synthase (ALS) enzyme, a key enzyme in the production of the branch chain amino acids. Foramsulfuron, metsulfuron, rimsulfuron, and trifloxysulfuron are effective in the removal of perennial ryegrass and several other weeds, which promotes healthier more uniform bermudagrass turf during summer. There is a wealth of information about each of these products on individual performance on perennial ryegrass. However, there is little research that includes direct comparisons of the products mentioned above. To this end, the objectives of our research were to evaluate the selective control of overseeded perennial ryegrass in bermudagrass with foramsulfuron, trifloxysulfuron, metsulfuron, and rimsulfuron

Help your herbicides

- Manor, Monument, Revolver, and Tranxit are excellent herbicides for controlling perennial ryegrass in bermudagrass.
- Most herbicides require non-ionic surfactants (consult product labels).
- Two applications of these herbicides at low rates are better than a single application.
- If single applications are necessary, high label rates of Monument and Revolver are the best choices.
- Applications should be made at 20-50% bermudagrass green-up.

- Slight bermudagrass yellowing may occur with all herbicides; however, injury will be transient and will have no long-term effects.
- Perennial ryegrass control will take from 3-6 weeks.

Practices to aid herbicides with spring transition

- Apply nitrogen when bermudagrass starts to green-up.
- Decrease irrigation.
- Lower mowing heights.
- Don't mow the day before or after herbicide applications.

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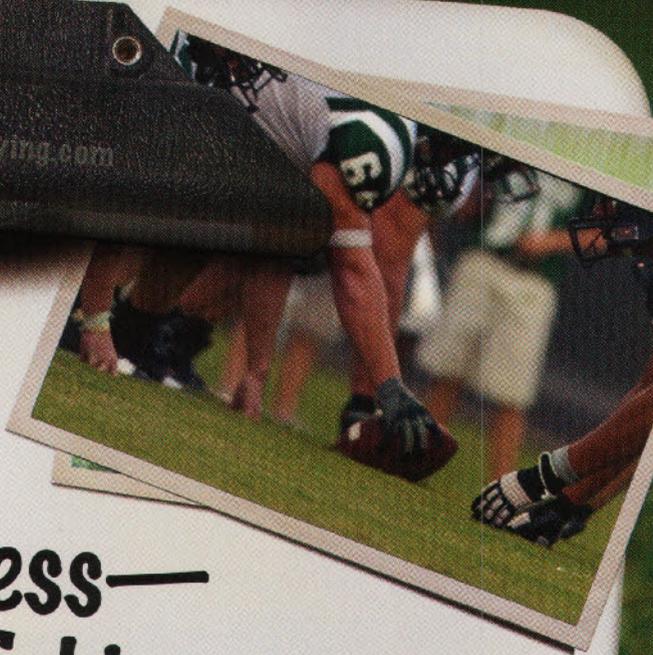
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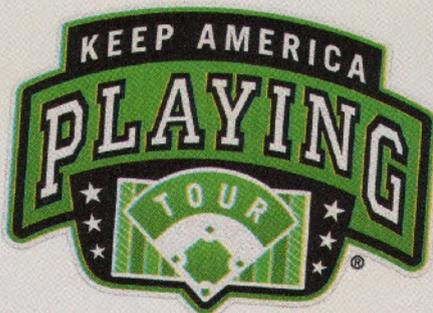


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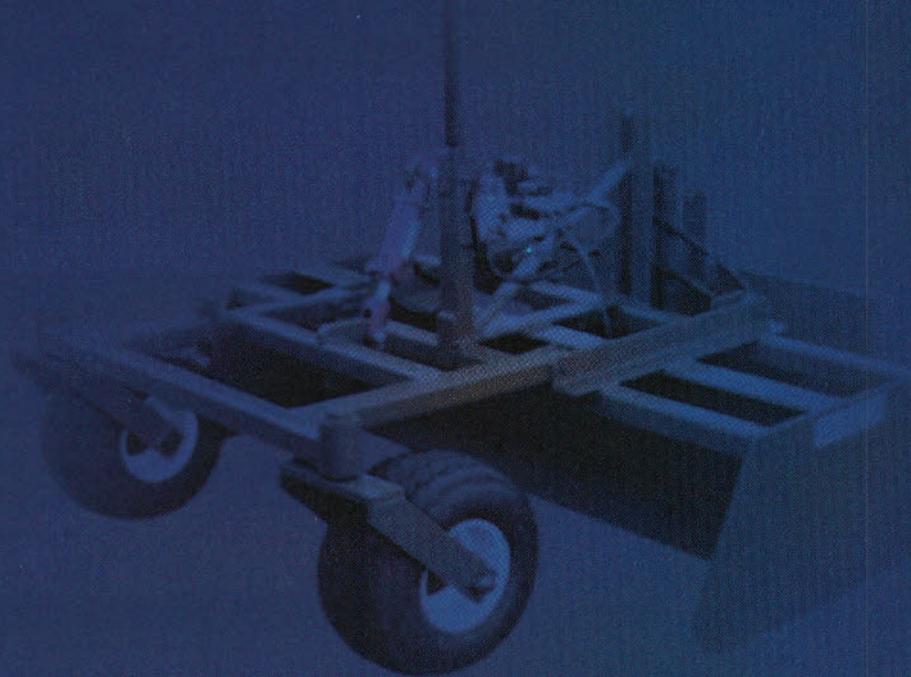


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