but it's easier to use...and easier on the environment.

The new ELECTRIC Super Star 48V is the only electric field conditioner made. It uses heavy-duty industrial technology to bring you a conditioner that's rugged and reliable...yet whisper quiet and easy to use.

- You'll learn to use it in minutes.
- Virtually no maintenance. Sealed system keeps out dirt and dust.
- Clean, efficient electric power.

- Charges overnight.
- So quiet you can use it on one field without bothering anyone on the next.
- A full line of implements for all your maintenance needs.

From Little League to Major League to Women's Softball, in schools and municipalities, Smithco ball field conditioners have set the standard for over 25 years.

Smithco Ball Field Maintenance Systems are all about two things: safety and consistent playability. Our products are designed to make infields, basepaths and warning tracks consistently smooth, level and attractive, all while providing the thin cushioned surface with enough give to help prevent injuries from sliding or falling. Two things which happen frequently in baseball and softball.

The smooth, level and consistently cushioned surface also prevents injuries due to bad hops by hot grounders.

Smithco was founded 40 years ago and is still a family business. Test-drive any Smithco product. Discover what a difference pride and continuity, good people and new ideas can make.

From left: Don Smith, President; Ted Smith, Founder; Bill Kenney, VP Marketing and Scott Taylor, Chief Engineer

GOOD PEOPLE MAKE BETTER PRODUCTS.
AMAZING PRECISION FROM ANY ANGLE.

CORPORATE OFFICE
1640 Australian Avenue | Riviera Beach, Florida 33404
Phone: 561-844-1002 | 800-735-7246 | Fax: 561-842-9493 | www.krain.com

IRRIGATION SOLUTIONS WORLDWIDE®

PRO SPORT®

ROTORS | SPRAYS | NOZZLES | ELECTRIC VALVES | CONTROLLERS | PUMP START RELAYS

Fill in 111 on reader service form or visit http://oners.hotims.com/13974-111
FEATURES

Tools & Equipment
8 How much mower can you afford?
36 Latest mowers and other new machines and products

Field Science
18 Latest developments in soil amendments

Facilities & Operations
24 Top 10 ways to get the most out of the STMA Conference
28 MRSA and synthetic fields: more research is in

Irrigation & Drainage
34 New aggregate product being used for sports field drainage

DEPARTMENTS

From the Sidelines ............... 6
STMA President's Message ........ 7
John Mascaro's Photo Quiz ........ 14
STMA In Action/SAFE Foundation . 43
STMA Chapter News ............... 49
Marketplace .................. 50-51
Online Education ............... 52
Advertisers' Index ............... 53
Reader Information Form (Green Mediator) .... 53
Q&A ............................ 54

On the cover: Mowing the outfield at San Francisco's AT&T Park. Thanks to head groundskeeper Scott MacVicar for generously allowing our art director, Britt Menendez, to take this and other photos of Scott and his crew working.
Tough day ahead? Whatever the job, there’s a Toro Workman utility vehicle ready to help. Our versatile Mid-Duty can handle anything from infield grooming to collecting the trash. The electric version will hustle just as hard without making a sound. And for those times when brute strength makes all the difference, nothing outpowers our Heavy-Duty. For financing and other information, visit torosports.com or contact your local Toro distributor at 1-800-803-8676 ext. 257.
Paint buildup removal tips

Here are some tips from your peers on preventing or removing built-up paint from your fields:

"My favorite method is to aggressively verticut the heavy paint areas including the lines," says Jon DeWitt, athletic fields manager at Georgia Tech. "This activity really sprays the old paint out of the thatch layer. Aerating the endzones and logos is also good at breaking up the paint, but verticutting disrupts much more surface area."

"I try to paint our fields about once a week. This may change a bit depending on turf growth rate, rainfall, and game schedule, but if the turf is growing well, I won't end up with much paint buildup from one painting to the next," says Andrew Oossel, athletic director for Covenant Christian HS in Indianapolis. "I use a line mower to cut the areas for the lines about 1/2 inch lower than the rest of the turf. Since the turf is lower, it helps give me a quality line without having to heavily coat the longer blades of turf with so much paint. It also helps save money since I won't use as much paint, and also helps keep me on my 1x/week paint schedule."

"If I am mowing the entire field 2-3 times per week and not using the line mower, I would be cutting a lot of paint turf off each cutting, thereby making it necessary to paint more often. I also make sure I use a quality paint to help ensure not having to re-paint so often. I try not to apply heavy coats of paint; I am careful about corners where two lines meet to not apply several coats," Gossel says.

"It is pretty simple — we try not to paint anymore than we have to," says Herb Combs, assistant athletic groundskeeper at Penn State. "We like to make sure the stadium is bright for game weeks so we will paint the field twice that week, once at the beginning and then once at the end, weather depending. When the team is away for the week we might only paint once to keep the lines visible or depending upon the time of year we might not paint at all and let the paint lines grow out."

"Our only real trouble area is our blue borders around the numbers and the 'Penn State' in the endzones. The color of the paint draws the sun to it and thins the turf as the season goes on, so we try to only single coat that once we get a good base coat down," says Combs.
President’s Message

Our Hall of Fame

The STMA National Conference is just around the corner! Abby McNeal, CSFM, and the Conference Committee significantly increased the amount of educational offerings over past years. What has always been a great value for sports turf management professionals is now even greater! You’ll be hearing more in the near future.

The most exciting single point of the conference for me is attending the Awards Banquet. Seeing friends, colleagues, and crews being recognized for “jobs well done” is very gratifying. Most will be too shy to show the awards off back home, but showing our appreciation for their leadership is what the night is all about. The Banquet is now done in true awards show format, which allows full focus on our stars for that night. It is a privilege to just be in the room.

STMA’s highest honors are the Founders Awards. Each of the four awards is named for one of our original founders: Dick Ericson, George Toma, Dr. Bill Daniel, and Harry C. Gill. Each award has specific criteria that reflect attributes of its namesake. The Founders Award winners are identified and nominated by you! What a great opportunity to shine STMA’s brightest light on someone who has enriched you, your chapter, your association, and your profession. The Banquet is the one night we honor a few of the real giants that have made a positive impact on people. I would say “people in our industry,” but with the Founders Awards we’re honoring members who have impacted far more than just our industry. It is with tremendous and often times tearful pride that we salute four individuals who have changed how the world views Sports Turf Managers. The Founders Award winners are our Hall of Famers!

Please visit the website (www.STMA.org) before November 1 to nominate an individual that has made a difference in your life. The criteria for each award are available with a single click of the mouse. Nominations can be done electronically and need to include your testament about why the nominee deserves the recognition. A simple name won’t do! The Awards Banquet will be the highlight of your year – just as it is mine.

Mike McDonald, CSFM, winner of the Dick Ericson Award, pictured with Mike Trigg, CSFM, at last year’s STMA Banquet.
Whether yours is an upper-end professional stadium or a city park program, the one piece of equipment that is used daily is the mower.

While the basic job of any mower still is cutting grass, units have become more sophisticated and offer more features than ever. The question is: how much mower can your operation afford?

That requires answers to such factors as the required quality of cut, number of square feet or acres mowed daily, and - always - the budget provided from upstairs.

“You have to look at your property first — what kind of turf you are maintaining, the quality requirements, the number of people you have to do the job,” says Christopher Anderson, associate marketing manager for rotary mowers in Toro’s Commercial Division.

Productivity is a function of a variety of factors, primarily determined by width of cut and speed, says Brad Aldridge, product manager, John Deere Golf & Turf One Source.

Assuming speed is constant, the timesavings is directly related to the width of cut of a machine, he explains.

Here are the numbers you need to run by your boss:

A 72-inch mower is 20 percent wider than 60-inch mower, meaning that a 60-inch mower will take 20 percent more time to cover the same ground. Take this extra time and multiply by the labor rate and number of days mowed to arrive at the additional expense. If it takes the 72-inch mower five
Introducing the new 2653B from John Deere. Leaving behind a precise cut has always been a trademark of our utility mowers. But our new 2653B raises the bar on operator comfort and convenience. We moved the seat back and the steering wheel and console area forward for more room. All controls are now located on the console for easy access. And sound levels have been greatly reduced as well. For more on the new 2653B, call your local John Deere distributor. Or visit us online at www.johndeere.com.
a great combination for synthetic turf

When you team up the GreensGroomer® Synthetic Turf Groomer with the Spring Tine Rake, performance is unbeatable.

For fast, efficient grooming of all filled synthetic sports fields, this combination is simply a better alternative and more cost-effective than motorized methods.

The combination is a gravity-driven, well-engineered performer. It works with all fill material currently used, in both wet and dry conditions.

starting at $2,899*

- The patented brush design lifts turf fibers leaving them in a plush, upright position.
- Synthetic Super Duty Blue Brushes retain their original shape, resist wear, and will not rot.
- The Rake Attachment consists of 3 rows of 28 adjustable tines for thorough coverage, while relieving compaction and assuring a soft, level playing surface. Optional trailing brush helps to re-incorporate fill material after raking.

For the dealer nearest you call toll-free 1-888-298-8852 or visit us on the web
www.greensgroomer.com

* Price includes standard GreensGroomer without attachments or options. T08 Indianapolis, IN USA
Fill in 114 on reader service form or visit http://oners.hotims.com/13974-114