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

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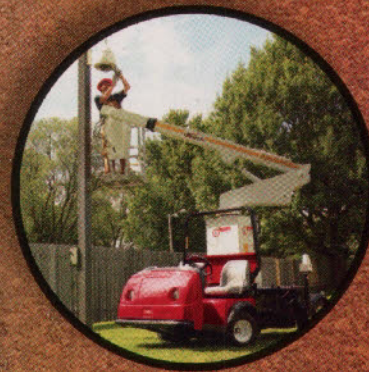
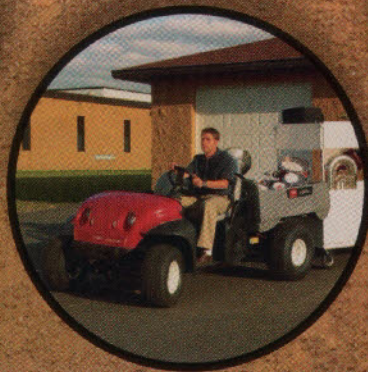
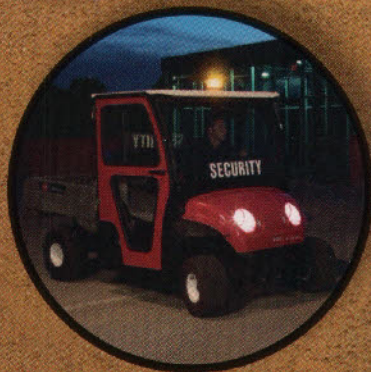


On the cover: Mowing the outfield at San Francisco's AT&T Park. Thanks to head groundskeeper **Scott MacVicar** for generously allowing our art director, Britt Menendez, to take this and other photos of Scott and his crew working.





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## From the Sidelines

# Paint buildup removal tips



**ERIC SCHRODER**  
Editor

eschroder@  
m2media360.com  
717-805-4197  
P.O. Box 280,  
Dauphin, PA 17018

**H**ere 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 Gossel, 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.

## SportsTurf

760 Market Street, Suite 432  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone 415-839-5060  
Fax 415-398-3511  
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### STMA Office

805 New Hampshire Suite E  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
Phone 800-323-3875 Fax 800-366-0391  
Email STMAinfo@STMA.org  
www.STMA.org

### Editorial

**GROUP PUBLISHER** Douglas Hebbard  
**EDITOR** Eric Schroder  
**TECHNICAL EDITOR** Dr. Scott McElroy  
**ART DIRECTOR** Britt Menendez  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER** Sutton Annas  
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## President's Message

### Our Hall of Fame

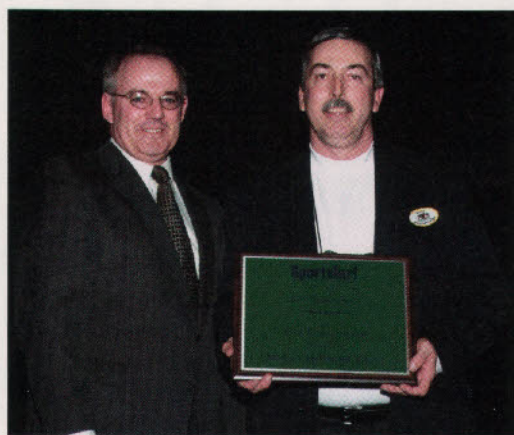
**T**he STMA National Conference is just around the corner! Abby McNeal, CSFM, and the Conference Committee significantly increased the amount of educational offerings over past years. What has always been a great value for sports turf management professionals is now even greater! You'll be hearing more 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](http://www.STMA.org)) before November 1 to nominate an individual that has made a difference in your life. The



**Mike McDonald, CSFM, winner of the Dick Ericson Award, pictured with Mike Trigg, CSFM, at last year's STMA Banquet.**

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 ANDRESEN**  
CSFM

[mandrese@iastate.edu](mailto:mandrese@iastate.edu)

*Mike Andresen*

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Cheryl Naughton 770-995-4964

[cnaughton@m2media360.com](mailto:cnaughton@m2media360.com)

##### **Reader Service Services**

##### **DIRECTOR OF READER SERVICE**

Joanne Juda-Prainito

[Readerservice@m2media360.com](mailto:Readerservice@m2media360.com)

##### **SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES**

Phone 847-763-9565 Fax 847-763-9569

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35 Greenbriar

Aurora, OH 44202

330-562-2512; 330-562-3512 (fax)

[pgarris@m2media360.com](mailto:pgarris@m2media360.com)

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2095 Exeter Road, #80-336

Germantown, TN 38138

901-759-1241; 901-624-0333 (fax)

[dmorgan@m2media360.com](mailto:dmorgan@m2media360.com)

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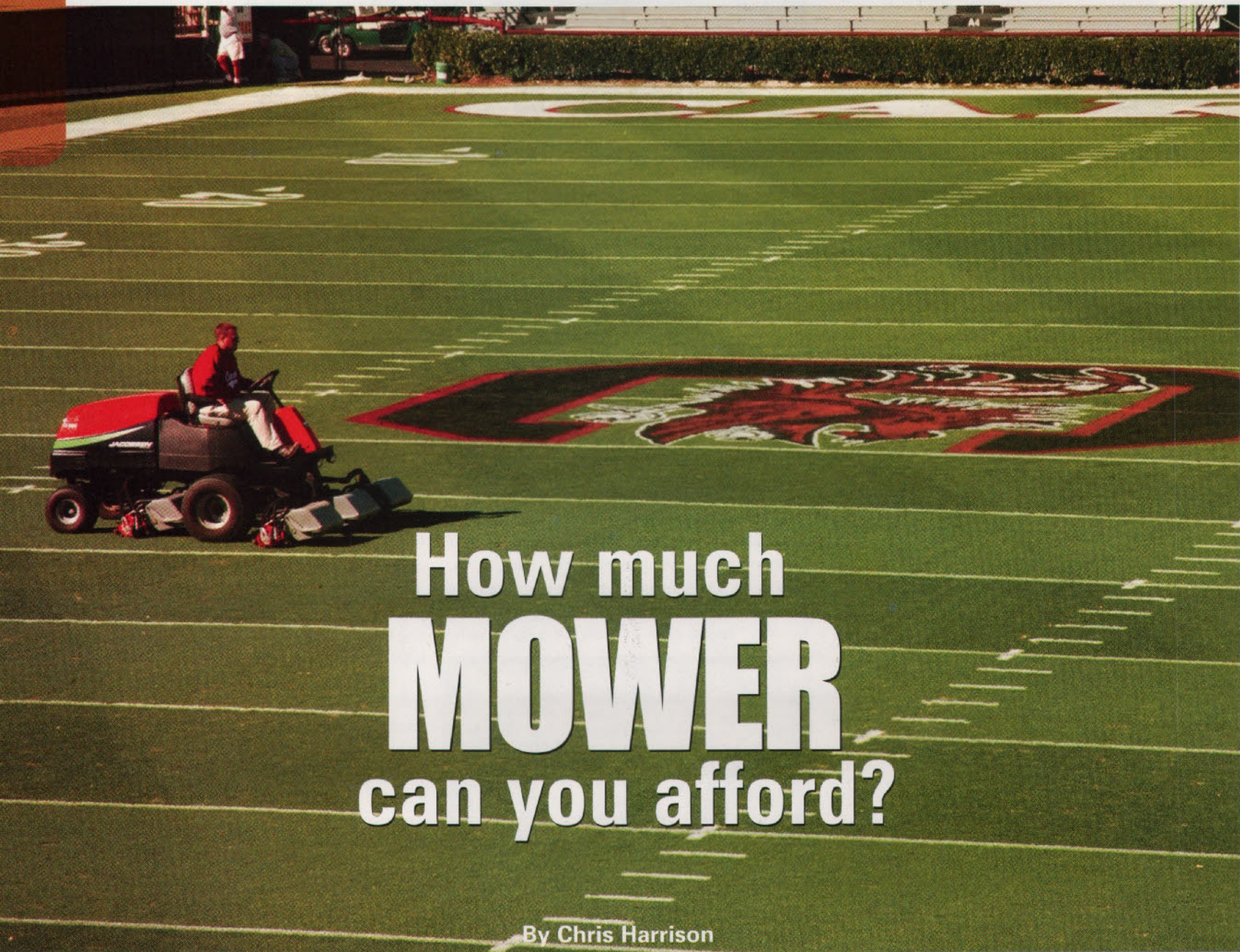
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# How much **MOWER** can you afford?

By Chris Harrison

**W**hether 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



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