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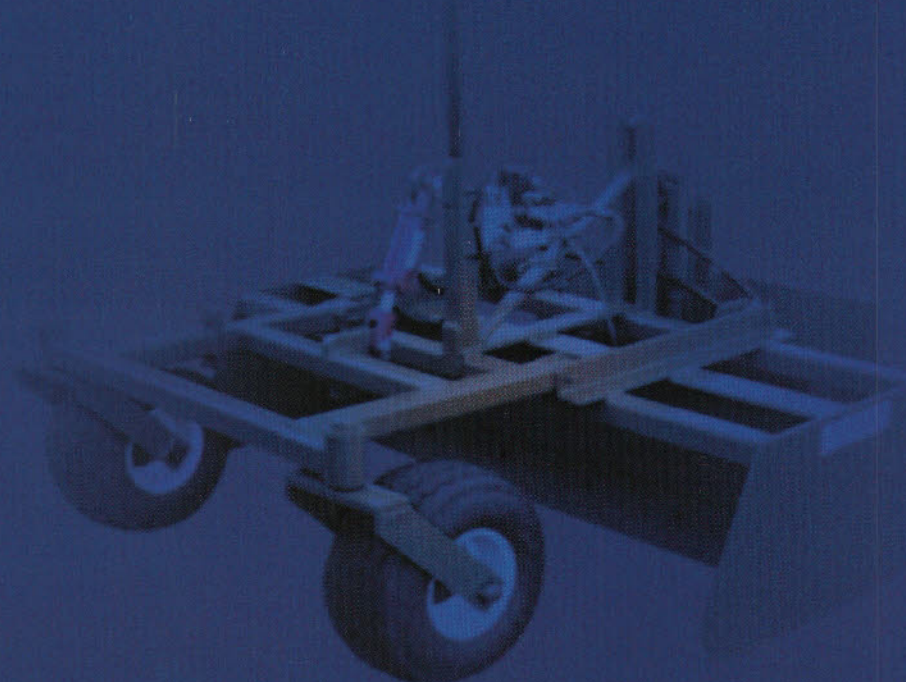


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On the cover: The Miami Hurricanes' Greentree football facility is STMA's 2006 College Football Field of the Year.

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From the Sidelines

Off-field maintenance means TRASH



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We used email to poll some members of the Sports Turf Managers Association about their biggest off-field maintenance headaches. Here are the best responses:

Collecting trash daily is one of our jobs. These days when school is in session it takes us 2 to 3 1/2 hours to pick up trash, and that's just the athletic grounds areas. This does not include cleanup after events; cleaning the stadium takes longer! If we put these hours together back-to-back, each day, it comes to 10 to 17 1/2 hours a week for one person and we usually have at least two or three people picking up trash. We could be spending 30 to 35 hours more a week on our fields. — *John from the Midwest*

We are responsible for staffing security and trash cleanup for all rentals of the athletic fields. We have a landscape company do all of the mowing of the common ground, flowerbeds, etc., whatever is not an athletic field. When it snows we must have the parking lot cleared before 6 AM so our teams can still practice and our administration doesn't slip on the ice. After that we remove the snow from our two synthetic fields.

Collecting trash is what I dislike most. I receive the most negative comments from my supervisors regarding trash. We must have all trash removed before 9 AM when the administration gets into work. If not, I usually get a call that morning. We have now started tracking our hours specifically for trash so if I am questioned I can produce how many man-hours that week and amount of trash collected. — *Josh from the Atlantic Coast*

We do not mind hauling trashcans full of sticky, stinking garbage; that comes with the territory. However, we are extremely resentful of having to pick trash up off of the ground, thrown away by parents, adult players, and children when trashcans are nearby, clean, empty, and waiting.

The disrespect shown by these cretins and the lack of parenting skills, lack of respect for property of others, and a general "I do not give a damn about anything but me" attitude will continue to pull us into a black hole cesspool of civilization, if you can call it civilization, at an alarming rate. — *Dave from the Midwest*

Picking the trash off the ground, around the empty trash barrels that are located every 100 feet, never mind the recycling that has trash throughout it. — *Peter from New England*

The least favorite job for us is inventorying old computer equipment for the entire athletic department and palletizing them to be recycled. It's not a strenuous job but it is hard to figure out why we ended up with that responsibility. It's a huge waste of time for us. — *Jason from Rocky Mountains*

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President's Message

Working for you

It's a privilege to update you on the recent STMA Board of Directors meeting. The Board took an oath of transparency a couple of years ago. We, along with CEO Kim Heck, feel that there is so much good happening with STMA that it is important to share the challenges, the successes, and the disappointments. Having members educated on what this association is doing for them and for the profession helps us all feel ownership, and helps provide a mechanism for getting involved.

The meeting was in San José, California. First, we met in joint session with the SAFE Board of Directors. SAFE is STMA's Foundation that has been providing funding for scholarships and educational resources. This joint meeting allowed us to learn about each organization's goals and to develop ways we can work together to advance both organizations. For starters, SAFE will be visible at this year's annual conference in many new ways.

The meeting was the first chance for many Board members to see San José. We toured the hotels, convention center, and off-site venues for the 2009 conference. You will love how the convention center is attached to both the Hilton and the Marriott hotels. There are more than 150 restaurants and nightspots within a mile of the hotels. San José is perfect for an extended stay as it lies an hour from San Francisco, an hour from Napa, and 70 minutes from Monterey. San José will prove to be an awesome host for STMA!

We also selected San Diego as a potential 2012 conference site. Our members have wanted to return to southern California and the opportunity for us to secure this city is promising. If we can make it work, we'll do it!

The Board reviewed and approved the STMA/SAFE Audit, which was conducted by an independent firm with oversight from the STMA Finance and Audit Committee. This audit showed STMA is financially very sound. An annual report is being produced by Headquarters, which will appear this fall in this magazine.

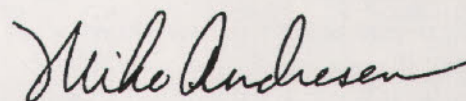
The Board also determined that we will support the National Turfgrass Federation, which is seeking increased federal funding for turf research. STMA will have a seat on the NTF's Board, held by Chris Calcaterra, CSFM. Chris will do a wonderful job representing us on important issues, such as water quality and turf genetics.

Being able to serve with each person on the Board team is truly a pleasure. Not a day goes by that each of them doesn't spend at least a little time (sometimes a lot of time) on STMA work. It's not really work though. Our profession and members make any time we spend very gratifying. I can tell you that this Board is selfless and has great vision. I thank each of them for volunteering to work so passionately on your behalf. They're quietly making a difference – the same as you are doing in your own way.



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Tackling the challenges of overseeding and transitioning

By Dr. Shawn D. Askew

Who is the most unruly taskmaster in the athletic complex? Is it the athletic director, the coach, the fans, or the players? The correct answer is time. Time never yields and is always demanding. It never gives you enough and takes from you constantly. It demands pinpoint accuracy from you and does not care that you dodge things like weather, sporting events, and sickness.

Much is asked of the sports field manager and, unfortunately, much of what you do has little to do with taking care of grass. So when you are doing things to keep the field green, it is of utmost importance that your actions count; that you make a difference. Of all the things done to keep a playing surface in great shape, few are more important than overseeding; especially for fields including warm-season grasses like bermudagrass. On warm-season fields, your success as a field manager is measured in large part by your success in establishing and managing overseeded grass.

We often talk about “the transition” as if there were only one transition associated with overseeded game fields: the spring transition. In fact, there are two transitions, one in the spring and one in the fall. When you are trying to establish an overseeded grass in the fall, you are transitioning from a bermudagrass monoculture to an overseeded stand. In the spring, you want to eliminate the overseeded grass to preserve the health of the bermudagrass underneath. Unfortunately most game fields experience use during at least one of these transitions.

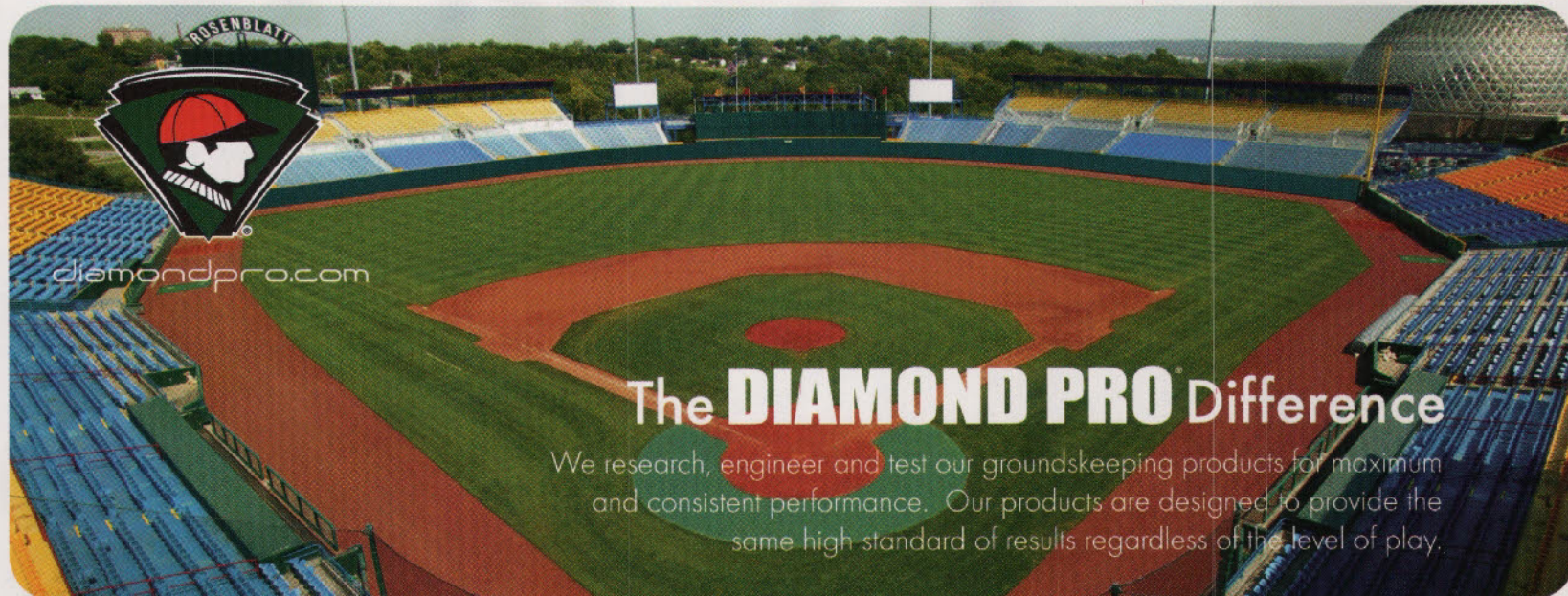
Into dense bermuda

In years past, establishing ryegrass or other appropriate grasses in the fall was not very difficult. It seems now that our quest to select bermudagrasses with extreme wear tolerance and increased density is



[Figure 2] Patriot bermudagrass canopy showing mass of stolons and thin layer of leaves on top.

Continued on page 11



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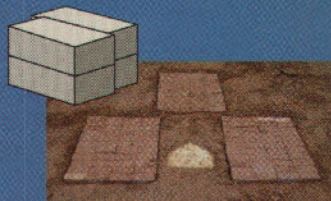
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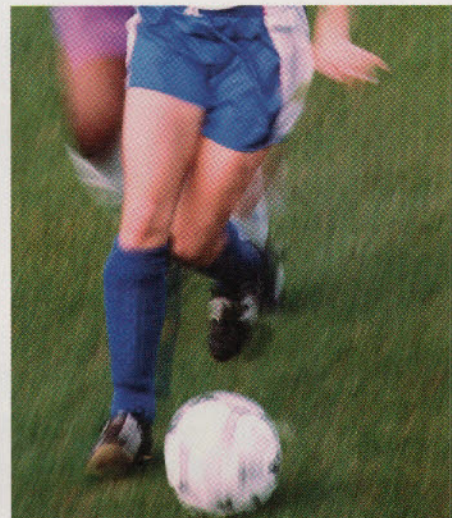


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