Bluegrass in Oregon

During my visit to Eugene before my internship, I noticed that some fields were covered with tarp. I later discovered they were growth blankets, which are needed to grow Kentucky bluegrass in the Willamette Valley of Oregon.

Kentucky bluegrass does not generally grow well here. It stays dormant a long time and is more prone to diseases due to the low light levels in the fall, winter, and spring. These factors cause headaches for most grounds managers in the region. To keep the turf healthy and ready for play, it needs help from the blankets to keep the soil temperatures warm enough in the early spring to bring it out of dormancy.

The benefits of using Kentucky bluegrass is that it forms a mat layer which assists in structuring a sturdy playing surface, even in areas of heavy wear. The traditional grass grown on most fields in the area is perennial ryegrass, which does not form that thick mat layer, resulting in areas with large divots and no plant material.

As I learned all this, I realized the reason for Tom’s concern towards my working with Kentucky bluegrass. As the weather got warmer, there did not seem to be any problems with the fields related to dormancy as a result of the growth blankets. The fields ended up looking great and playing even better.

— Jonathan Garrett

Artificial Intelligence

A new range of professional artificial turf care machines have been developed by Redexim Charterhouse. Known worldwide for their reliable and effective range of natural turf care equipment such as the Verti-Drain®, Redexim Charterhouse has produced a complete range of equipment to meet the challenging needs of the artificial turf market.

Verti-Brush
The Verti-Brush quickly and effectively levels and distributes applied or existing infill with powerful hydraulic brushes.

Verti-Top
The Verti-Top employs a highly effective synthetic rotary brush to remove debris and top layer infill from the turf, then sifts the debris out in a unique vibratory shaker which redistributes the clean infill back on the field.

Verti-Groom
To brush, loosen and decompact the hardest infill, the Verti-Groom is equipped with a variety of interchangeable tools.

Verti-Air
The Verti-Air utilizes a rotary brush and turbine compressed air to lift all material out of the turf, dry and filter the material, sift out the debris and return the clean, dry and decompacted infill back into the turf.

Verti-Broom
For brushing and striping of artificial turf, nothing beats the proven Verti-Broom. The highly effective triangular arrangement of the brushes will straighten and groom each grass blade for an attractive and realistic finish.

Redexim Charterhouse
Breaking barriers to better turf

1-800-597-5664 Fax: 570-602-3060 www.redexim.com

Fill in 127 on reader service form or visit http://oners.hotims.com/14675-127

www.stma.org
Internship began to change. I learned that it's the quality of the work, not necessarily quantity of the work that is important in an internship. Interns should want to learn the "why" of what they are doing, not just that it needs to be done.

On my first turf internship I was advised to, "learn more what not to do, than what to do." Luckily for me, my job at Oregon did not provide me with an overwhelming amount of opportunities to learn from mistakes. Rather, I learned largely from the responsibilities given me. I am glad that Eric was able to assess my abilities and give me tasks that I could handle, setting me up to succeed.

One of my favorite times was when Eric would take me out to lunch. It was a great time for me to talk to him about things going on at work and how he would handle certain situations. Another great opportunity for these conversations was toward the end of the day when the crew had a few minutes to spare.

As far as the maintenance aspects went, it could be pretty routine. Working on the athletic fields with assistant groundskeeper Steve "Dino" DiNatale, I was doing a lot of mowing, edging, raking, and painting of lines and logos. I enjoyed each time I got practice on the painter, and savored every moment in the seat of the mower.

The other great part of the internship was working on the landscaping with the other assistant groundskeeper, Kenny Hoffman. Interesting stories follow Kenny around, whether it's cutting down trees, digging 2-foot deep trenches with a mattock and shovel, or dealing with 25-foot quick coupler geyers, along with other irrigation troubles.

Lessons learned
One important thing I was exposed to was the administrative side of grounds management. If Eric was doing something in his office he was more than willing to let me step in and see what he was doing. Scheduling staff, double-checking invoices, and e-mailing coaches the weather forecasts for their up-coming games were some of the things I had not thought about before. Learning this side of the job was very interesting to me, and helped me get a better understanding of what all it entails to be a manager.

I was exposed to a large range of athletic field management. Eric and his crew maintain multiple kinds of turf, such as the grass football practice fields, the synthetic game field, the grass soccer field that is shared with the lacrosse team, the softball field, putting green, and track infield that was being renovated. And I was also exposed to what it's like to be a lone Beaver in a flock of Ducks.

Jonathan Garrett is back in Beaverton at Oregon State and is a student member of the Sports Turf Managers Association.
ren·o·vate *vb*,
1: to make like new again 2: put in good condition 3: to restore

**Delta Bluegrass Company**
is The Leader in “Cutting Edge” Technology for Renovation Services.

**1ST DOWN** - The Koro Topmaker® is ideal for removing and leveling damaged or worn turf areas, verticutting and dethatching your athletic fields.

**2ND DOWN** - Install our Tifway 419, 50-50 Blue Rye, or our exclusive Baby Bermuda all grown on peat soil or sand, and ideal for all your sports turf needs.

**TOUCHDOWN!** - Our Sports Turf Division also offers a wide range of other services:
- Complimentary Consulting
- Custom Laser Grading
- Big Roll Installation
- Bermuda Sprig Planting
- Soil Reliever Aeration
- Slit Seeding and Fertilizing
- Field Top Dressing

Call Today To Score The Winning Combination For Your Team!
Steve Abella (866) 825-4200 or Joe Gardemeyer (209) 993-6555

Fill in 128 on reader service form or visit http://oners.hotims.com/14675-128
C-27 783734
Your résumé is your calling card. It should provide enough information about you to persuade the prospective employer to invite you for an interview. That's it—the total purpose of your résumé is to get your foot in the door for an interview, where you can sell yourself to the interviewer. To make your résumé a most effective tool for your job search, consider these Top 5 Tips:

1. Customize your résumé for the position to which you are applying. The easiest way to do this is in the “Objective,” which should be at the top of your first page. For example, let’s say your objective is “To be employed by a sports facility that is committed to providing the highest quality fields for its athletes.” You find out through the STMA Career Center that a position becomes available at a soccer complex. Then you would change your objective to “...be employed at a soccer complex that is committed...”

2. Use white space. It is okay to have your résumé go to two pages. Two pages is standard, especially if you have any experience. Do not use small type and all available space to present your résumé on one page. You want the prospective employer to read it, so make it easy to read. Be sure to also use an easy-to-read type style, too. There are hundreds of fun fonts available, but don’t use them on your résumé. Again, you want the prospective employer to spend time reading about you, not trying to figure out the words.

3. When describing your previous job responsibilities write in an active voice, showing how your work provided value, and use bullets. For example, don’t say, “I was responsible for mowing the football field prior to weekend games.” Instead, say, “Improved football field conditions by implementing a consistent mowing program.”

4. Do include your community and professional organizational involvement, but do not include personal information, such as marital status, number of children, religious affiliation, or other information that is not relevant to the job.

5. Think about what qualifies you for the job and include it in your résumé, typically under a heading called “Summary of Qualifications.” This section can change to meet the requirements that the employer is seeking. It can also be more global and highlight the overall qualities that make you a top sports turf manager and a desirable employee. For example, you might list:

- Certified Sports Field Manager, the credential that validates experience and knowledge, and the commitment to continuing education
- Highly experienced in field renovation
- Strong team management skills
- Bilingual in English and Spanish

Don't confuse your “Qualifications” with your “Accomplishments,” which should be another section that highlights the noteworthy activities that you successfully completed.
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 reincorporate 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. FOB Indianapolis, IN USA
Fill in 129 on reader service form or visit hotims.com/14675-129
Lightning safety has been little studied and less practiced. In ancient times thunder and lightning were audible and visible signs of the gods' displeasure: there was no defense whatsoever. Today more than 45 different USA lightning protection codes exist that promulgate ambiguity and confusion concerning reduction of the hazard. There is no Utopia in lightning safety. The dearth of objective data about lightning safety contributes to accidents and injuries. Common misconceptions include: "Lightning never strikes twice in the same place" and "Lightning rods prevent lightning strikes." The ignorance and misinformation about lightning safety increase lightning's social cost in deaths and injuries and economic cost. A disciplined and systematic approach to lightning safety may result in better management of the hazard and reduced costs.

Editor's note: The following information first appeared in the Sports Turf Managers Association's October 2007 electronic newsletter and was provided to them courtesy of the Middletown (PA) Area School District's athletic department.

Lightning strikes to people are rare but often fatal when they do occur. Lightning is the most consistent and significant weather hazard affecting athletic participation. In an effort to protect the student athletes, coaching staff, fans and officials from the possibility of a lightning strike, this policy has been designed for the safety of all those involved with Middletown Athletics.

The National Severe Storms Laboratory recommends that athletic participation cease when lightning is detected within 6 miles. For our purposes, this will be indicated by the flash to bang method as assessed by the game official, ATC or Athletic Director.

Designated chain of command

During an athletic competition, it will be the responsibility of the game event administrator in conjunction with the athletic director and athletic trainer to decide if the event needs to be delayed or cancelled due to the possibility of a lightning strike occurring. Prior to the start of an athletic competition the decision rests with the Athletic Director. During practices the athletic trainer and athletic director will determine if the team needs to be removed from outdoor facilities. If the trainer is not present, the head coaches or their designated assistant in charge will be responsible for removing a team from an outdoor athletic site. It is recommended that coaches check the weather report before going outside every day, as storms often move very quickly.

Methods for detecting lightning

1. Flash-to-Bang: This is the easiest way to estimate how far away lightning is. Count the seconds from the time the lightning is sighted to the time that thunder is heard. Divide this number by five to figure out how
far away the lightning is in miles. Example: If there is 30 seconds between
the flash of lightning and hearing the thunder, the lightning is approxi-
mately 6 miles away.
It is the policy of Middletown Area High School that if the lightning
is 6 miles away or less, athletes must be taken indoors and practice sus-
Incepted.
2. Strike Alert: This is an electronic portable device used to detect light-
ning in the area; it detects an approximate distance of lightning. The
athletic director and athletic trainer have strike alert devices. If the strike
alert detects lightning within a 6-mile range, all athletes must seek shelter
indoors immediately.
It is considered safe to return to play 30 minutes after the last flash of
lightning or sound of thunder, or as determined by game official, athletic
director, and athletic trainer.
If a game or practice has been delayed or cancelled, athletes must report to
a designated safe shelter. A safe shelter is defined as "any building normally
occupied or frequently used by people, i.e., a building with plumbing and
or electrical wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure." Athletes
should remain in their assigned shelter until told it is safe to move.

Facts regarding lightning safety

* Blue sky and no rain are not protection from lightning. Lightning can
strike as far as 10 miles away from rain. It does not have to be raining for

- Avoid using a land line telephone except in emergency situations. A cell
phone is a safe alternative.
- Avoid using showers in a safe facility, the water and plumbing can be
conductors of electricity.
- Minimize your body's surface area and minimize contact with the
ground if caught far from a safe shelter. DO NOT LAY FLAT. Lightning
current often enters through the ground.
- If unable to reach a safe shelter stay away from tall trees or objects (light
poles, flag poles, etc), standing pools of water, open fields, or individual
trees. Do not be the tallest object in a field. Crouch down with only the
balls of your feet touching the ground. Try to minimize your body's surface
area and minimize contact with the ground.
- People who have been struck by lightning don't carry an electrical charge,
administering first aid and/or CPR is safe for the responder.

---

You can't win the game, if you can't play the game.

Don't let a rain soaked field prevent you from playing. Pro's Choice® soil conditioners eliminate rain outs, saving you time, money, and cancellation
headaches. Make winning simple - let Pro's Choice sports field products be a part of your regular field maintenance program. Never again be at the mercy
of Mother Nature.

Call Pro's Choice today to learn how we can help your
field stand up to pounding rain - 800.648.1186

pro's choice
SPORTS FIELD PRODUCTS

Pro's Choice Sports Field Products • 410 N. Michigan Avenue Suite 400, Chicago IL 60611 • www.proschoice1.com • proschoice@oitdri.com

FACILITY & OPERATIONS

Fill in 130 on reader service form or visit http://oners.hotims.com/14675-130

www.stma.org

SportsTurf 37
Once we were weighed against the field. Now we are the field.
In 2008, Beijing will showcase Olympic baseball to the world on Riviera Bermudagrass

For baseball fans from across the world, 2008 Olympics baseball is the absolute must-see. Excitement for the sport is growing worldwide — and the Beijing Olympics will showcase it to billions on Riviera seeded bermudagrass.

Like baseball, Riviera's born and raised in America. And it earned its place in the Olympics by first proving itself across the U.S. and on five continents.

Top-ranked for turf quality and color, winter hardiness, spring green-up, drought tolerance — plus extraordinary wear tolerance and quick recovery rate — Riviera so impressed Olympics decision-makers, that it was off to China like a homer out of Yankee Stadium.

Speaking of which, since Beijing's weather is a lot like New York's, that tells you how well Riviera can perform beyond the "average" bermuda's traditional growing zone.

Good enough for your sports field yet? Call and talk to us. Or any of thousands of professionals ardent about Riviera. And counting.

Riviera Makes the Field for the 2008 Beijing Olympics

Visit Us At Booth 519

JOHNSTON SEED COMPANY
The Cold-Tolerant Bermudagrass Experts

P.O. Box 1392 Enid, OK 73702, USA
800-375-4613 FAX: 580-249-5324
e-mail: johnseed@johnstonseed.com
web: www.johnstonseed.com

Fill in 131 on reader service form or visit
http://oners.hotims.com/14675-131
Nobody has a bigger, looser budget than they did a few years ago. Turf managers need to cut costs everywhere they can. One of the best places to start might be at the fuel pump out behind the barn. Forget about diesel or gas. Look at equipment that uses other fuels.

This is not blue sky. Some of the technology is already in use at places like Niagara Falls State Park (NFSP) and on sports fields around the nation. Other technology is a few years out, but test units already are operational.

“There is a big industry demand for more electrification to eliminate hydraulics in both sports turf and golf turf,” says Brad Aldridge, product manager for John Deere Golf and Turf. This has to do both with saving fuel and keeping hydraulic fluid leaks from blemishing turf.

“The industry is calling for more in that area,” Aldridge continues. “Colleges and major league fields are looking for perfect turf. Nobody wants to see a fluid leak mar the field.”

While products like Bio-HyGard, a biodegradable hydraulic fluid, have been around for years, hybrid technology can greatly reduce the number of places leaks can occur.

When it comes to fuel savings and lower operating cost, Brian Melka, director of product management at Jacobsen says electrically powered or hybrid technology is the way to go. Although most electrics and hybrids are smaller units today, he sees the technology moving up to larger equipment.

“Fuel savings with hybrids are huge,” he says. “We typically see a 50% to 70% reduction in fuel consumption.

“In the world of grounds maintenance equipment, electrically powered or hybrid technology will give huge fuel savings,” Melka says.

Since the variable cost of operating a machine throughout its productive lifetime will typically exceed the capital cost of purchasing the equipment, it will pay to push a pencil on new equipment.

Fuel cells

The Toro Company is working a partnership with the State of New York to provide the next generation of turf maintenance equipment powered by hydrogen fuel cells. The project, kicked off this winter, supports New York’s Executive Order 111 to adopt “Green and Clean” State buildings and vehicles.

“Toro is excited to partner with the State of New York on its initiative to adopt clean-energy technologies,” says Dana Lonn, director of Toro’s Center for Advanced Turf Technology. “This project is a logical extension of our strategy and ongoing innovation, and provides us with an opportunity to gain greater operational