

## Rewards of membership New members receive up to 3 months free

New members who join STMA in October, November or December, will receive those months of membership at no charge, plus a full year of membership starting January 1, 2010.

The benefits of STMA membership include access to the members-only side of the website, which has many in-depth technical bulletins, employment openings, résumé postings and career advancement tips. A link to Michigan State's Turfgrass Information File is provided to each member as part of the membership benefits package for quick access to research and industry information. Membership also includes a subscription to this magazine, an on-line newsletter, and discounts on education including registration fees to the national and regional conferences. Members can also take advantage of the STMA Field of the Year Awards program, Founders Awards,

and Scholarship and Grant programs. In addition to the award, recipients of these honors receive industry recognition, which can help advance their careers.

### Thank you for your support

When times are tough financially, many organizations cut professional development and membership expenditures. Although STMA has seen its 2009 membership numbers lag about 5% behind last year's numbers, overall this is a small percentage compared to the effects the economy is having on some businesses. STMA members are supporting their professional development by personally paying STMA membership fees. We appreciate your support! STMA strives to provide you with the tools and resources you need to do your job, and we welcome your thoughts on what we can do to provide more benefits and better serv-

ices to you. Please contact CEO Kim Heck with your ideas at [kheck@STMA.org](mailto:kheck@STMA.org) or 800-323-3875.

### Preparing for 2010

The value of belonging to an association becomes even more important when budgets are reduced. As 2010 rolls in, STMA will be sending out membership renewal invoices. We accept all major credit cards, purchase orders, personal and business checks, and can help you set up an individual payment plan, if you need one. We encourage you to renew online to avoid any disruption in membership benefits.

Remember to access your network. Peer-to-peer advice is invaluable and can provide timely solutions. STMA can help connect you with those in similar situations, so please contact headquarters if you need assistance. ■

## Y2K was a very good year; thanks to these members!

Congratulations to members who joined STMA in 2000! It is with sincere appreciation that STMA acknowledges your nine years of support and commitment to the association.

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Barry Arrington  
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Joseph Warner, CSFM  
Jim Welshans  
Parker Wood  
Steve Young ■

## STMA announces candidates for 2010

The 2010 Slate of Candidates are being presented this month to the STMA membership. Voting will close December 17, and those elected to the Board of Directors will take office at the Annual Meeting on January 14, 2010. Voting members can submit ballots electronically, via fax or by US mail. Instructions on how to prepare the ballot so that STMA can verify its authenticity, yet maintain the voters' confidentiality, are included on the ballot.

Abby McNeal, CSFM, STMA's 2009 President will ascend automatically to the office of Immediate Past President, and Chris Calcaterra, CSFM, the President Elect for 2009 is slated unopposed for President. The 2009 Secretary/Treasurer Troy Smith, CSFM also is slated unopposed for the President Elect.

### 2010 Slate:

<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Abby McNeal, CSFM, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO
<b>President:</b>	Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP, City of Peoria Sports Complex, Peoria, AZ
<b>President-Elect</b>	Troy Smith, CSFM, Denver Broncos Football Club, Denver, CO
<b>Commercial VP</b>	Chad Price, CSFM, Carolina Green Corp., Indian Trail, NC
<b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b>	Jody Gill, CSFM, Blue Valley School District, Overland Park, KS Mike Goatley, Ph.D., Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
<b>*Professional</b>	Larry DiVito, Minnesota Twins, Minneapolis, MN Facilities:
<b>Higher Education:</b>	Ron Hostick, CSFM, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA David Schlotthauer, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT
<b>*Schools K-12</b>	Martin Kaufman, CSFM, Ensworth Schools, Nashville, TN
<b>Academic:</b>	Pam Sherratt, The Ohio State University John Sorochan, Ph.D., University of Tennessee
<b>Parks and Recreation:</b>	Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale, Scottsdale, AZ David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP, Town of Lexington, Lexington, MA
<b>*Commercial</b>	Vacant (one year left in Chad Price's term) to be filled by Representative: appointment per Bylaws
<b>At-Large:</b>	Kevin Meredith, CSFM, National Soccer Hall of Fame, Oneonta, NY Mike Tarantino, Poway Unified School District, Poway, CA

\*Not up for election – in second year of two-year term

For complete biographies, photos, and to read about each candidate's vision for STMA, go to the STMA website, [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org) and click on the "About Us" tab, "STMA Election Information." ■

## Texas STMA helps Pop Warner league

Texas STMA board member Bob Marcotte and crew, in the spirit of service typical of the STMA and Texas A & M University, conducted a training seminar in late September at Henderson Park in Bryan on painting football fields for leaders of the Bryan Buccaneers Pop Warner League. As he watched the first field unfold, league president Joe Menares was heard to exclaim "It's a real football field!" The following week Menares and his assistants then completed two more fields on their own and were really excited about how professional the field painting looked as they prepared for the Buccaneer's next home game. Paint for the event was supplied by John Deere Landscapes and paint for the rest of the year was supplied by Pioneer Athletics.

Marcotte is the Athletic Field Maintenance Manager for Texas A & M's Recreational Sports Department at the Penberthy Intramural Sports Center. Assisting him were volunteers Justin Hale and Chris Prewitt, A & M student workers at Penberthy, and Joshua Morales, a sports management major at A & M. The Buccaneers were represented by Joe Menares, President, along with Kyle Rock, Nick Damon Sr. and Nick Damon, Jr. as volunteers. ■

## Have the perfect site for a regional conference?

STMA chapters have been invited to consider hosting a Summer Regional Conference in their area. STMA has developed a simple form to help chapters indicate their interest. Chapters that host an STMA Conference have no financial or administrative obligations. Through the Summer Regional Conferences, STMA is striving to bring the national conference experience to those areas that would not typically host an STMA National Conference. To access the form, visit [www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org) ■

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**STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information**

**Special Announcement:** The North Carolina and South Carolina Chapters are co-hosting a conference on November 17-18, in Myrtle Beach, SC, at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. The Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association is also holding their annual conference at the Center during this time. The NC/SC STMA Conference & Trade Show is hosting an Athletic Field Tours, Trade Show, and Social on Nov. 17, followed by Educational Sessions and the Trade Show on Nov. 18.

Featured speakers are Kim Heck, CEO of STMA and Larry DiVito, Head Groundskeeper, Minnesota Twins. For more information visit their websites noted in the list below.

- .....
- Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:** [www.azstma.com](http://www.azstma.com).
- Chesapeake Chapter STMA (formerly Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization – MAFMO Chapter STMA):** [www.ccstma.org](http://www.ccstma.org).
- Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.cstma.org](http://www.cstma.org).
- Florida #1 Chapter:** 954/782-2748
- Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.gatewaystma.org](http://www.gatewaystma.org).
- Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.gstma.org](http://www.gstma.org).
- The Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.stmalabasin.com](http://www.stmalabasin.com).
- Illinois Chapter STMA:** 847/263-7603.
- Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.imstma.org](http://www.imstma.org).
- Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.iowaturfgrass.org](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org).
- Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/STMA):** [www.kafmo.org](http://www.kafmo.org).
- Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.kystma.org](http://www.kystma.org).
- Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):** [www.mistma.org](http://www.mistma.org).
- Minnesota Chapter STMA:** [www.mstma.com](http://www.mstma.com).
- MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.mokanstma.com](http://www.mokanstma.com).
- New England STMA (NESTMA):** [www.nestma.org](http://www.nestma.org).
- Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:** 402/441-4425.
- North Carolina Chapter of STMA:** [www.ncsportsturf.org](http://www.ncsportsturf.org).
- North Florida STMA Chapter:** 850/580-4026.
- Northern California STMA:** [www.norcalstma.org](http://www.norcalstma.org).
- Ozarks STMA:** [www.ozarksstma.org](http://www.ozarksstma.org).
- Sports Turf Managers of New York:** [www.stmony.org](http://www.stmony.org).
- Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:** [www.sfmnj.org](http://www.sfmnj.org).
- Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):** [www.ostma.org](http://www.ostma.org).
- Oregon STMA Chapter:** 503/953-9406
- Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.pnwstma.org](http://www.pnwstma.org).
- Southern California Chapter:** [www.socalstma.com](http://www.socalstma.com).
- South Carolina Chapter of STMA:** [www.scastma.org](http://www.scastma.org).
- Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:** 866/897-8621.
- Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):** [www.tvstma.com](http://www.tvstma.com).
- Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.vstma.org](http://www.vstma.org).
- Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.wstma.org](http://www.wstma.org).
- Forming Chapters:**
  - Central Florida:** Contact George Lawson, 863-665-5800
  - Gulf Coast Chapter:** 225/757-9136.
  - Nevada STMA Chapter:** 702/884-2987.

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 H  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Which of the following best describes your title? (check ONLY ONE)**

- A  EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATOR — President, Owner, Partner, Director, General Manager, Chairman of the Board, Purchasing Agent, Athletic Director  
 B  MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT — Superintendent, Landscape/Ground Maintenance Manager, Foreman, Supervisor  
 C  GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL — Government Commissioner, Agent, Other Government Official  
 D  SPECIALIST — Architect, Designer, Consultant, Agronomist, Horticulturist, Certified Specialist  
 F  COACH      E  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**3 Do you have the authority to buy, specify or recommend products and/or services for your business or organization?**

Y  Yes      N  No

**4 Yearly operating expenditures (excluding salaries)**

- F  Over \$1 million      C  \$50,001 - \$100,000  
 E  \$500,001 - \$1 million      B  \$25,001 - \$50,000  
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**5 Please also send a free subscription to the following people at the same location**

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## Polystand vs. monostand

*What is wrong with a polystand of bermudagrass on an athletic field?*  
North Carolina

This was a question I was asked while standing in the back of a group while touring an athletic field complex. The field manager had just said, “As you can see we manage a polystand of bermudagrass. I like the fact that we have a polystand, I believe people have overemphasized having a monostand.” Then someone whispered that question in my ear.

Let’s start by defining “polystand.” It is an area, in this case an athletic field, made up of two or more cultivars and/or species. A bermudagrass polystand is typically characterized as having a finer textured hybrid bermudagrass cultivar with patches of a coarse-textured common-type of bermudagrass.

The field we were looking at when this topic was discussed happened to be a field originally planted with a coarse textured bermudagrass that had large patches of a slightly finer-textured contaminant. This situation is more commonly seen on old bermudagrass golf greens that have mutated over the years than on athletic fields. For taller-mowed turf mutations are very rare. The situation is almost always caused by contamination.

Turf managers often plant cool-season grasses in polystands to increase the genetic diversity. This helps to protect the overall turf area from damage caused by diseases, insects, and various environmental stresses. In some cases these are called turf communities. With multiple turfgrass cultivars/species in the community, if some plants are more susceptible to damaged by a stress, then the community still survives and the more resistant plants may grow to take the place of the dead or damaged plants

Polystands work well with many cool-season turfgrasses because they have compatibility—similar leaf texture, growth habit, growth rate, and color.

Different cultivars of warm-season species are typically competitive with each other. Their growth rate and leaf texture are often distinctly different. So they begin to segregate in patches. The spread of each is dependent on which is under the least stress in the current situation. For instance, if one is more drought-tolerant then it will out-compete the other grasses during dry times. Under severe drought, it may be the only grass that persists such that when water is more plentiful it quickly

responds and dominates with area. Often different strains of grass will green-up in the spring at different rates. So this gives the early-greening grass a competitive advantage until the other grasses green-up.

So, is this bad? In my opinion, yes it can be bad but not necessarily intolerable. I have seen fields that are a patchwork of lighter and darker colored bermudagrasses, but the grasses seem to have similar textures and growth rates. In this case the field may play consistent for much of the time so a baseball bounce or a player’s footing is predictable by the athlete. Also, in some cases a plant growth regulator can be applied to a polystand that may even out the growth rate of two dissimilar grasses allowing for a uniform height, although the color difference may remain.

But, if a field is not consistent in terms of density during the playing season, a polystand is undesirable. I want to emphasize “during the season” because some polystands may be less manageable during part of the year, but not cause an issue during the season. One of the ways they can be managed to this effect is by overseeding. I have seen a number of polystand bermudagrass baseball fields in the summer, but come fall, winter, and spring they have a nice covering of perennial ryegrass (a temporary polystand) and look and play very consistent. The bermudagrass is just holding the soil in place 6 months out of the year until the ryegrass is planted for a playing surface. In this case, a bermudagrass polystand (and the warm + cool-season polystand) can be tolerated because it is not disrupting the game.

On the other hand, if you are playing on non-overseeded turf and you have a polystand that results in tight bermudagrass in some areas and open canopy bermudagrass in other, then traction differences may influence the game. If one of the bermudagrasses is much more susceptible to a stress and dies during the season, the patchiness may even result in a safety issue. So, generally a monostand is preferred over a polystand.

To go back to the question, what is wrong with a polystand? If it works in your situation, nothing is wrong with them. If it does not work for you, everything is wrong with them. But I know very few sports field managers that grow bermudagrass that would desire a polystand. Most cannot stand them and will seek every means possible to prevent from having one. ■

# Drainage Product Evaluation

(Compiled 8.1.2009)

