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STMA in action

The SAFE Foundation: philanthropy and fun

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE), STMA's philanthropic organization, has an important role at the association's annual conference. SAFE conducts the Live and Silent Auctions, and Raffles.

At the next conference, which will be held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center, January 12-16, 2010, SAFE will introduce a new Raffle: Pull-Tab Cash Cards. This raffle replaces the 50/50 Cash Raffle and provides opportunities for 130 people to win cash! Each card sells for \$2. One hundred people will win their \$2 investment back, 16 will win \$10 each, eight will win \$25 each, four will win \$50 each and two people will win \$100 each. SAFE will sell the cards at STMA's Registration counter, and winners can redeem their cash from there, too.

SAFE's highly attended Silent Auction will take place during the trade show on Thursday, January 14 and Friday 15th and the Live Auction and Raffle will take place during the Pre-banquet Awards reception on Friday. You can help make these three events successful by donating an item. Any donation is appreciated—team gear, sports turf equipment and products, tickets to sporting events, autographed items, wine, restaurant gift certificates—whatever you wish to donate will be a great addition to our fundraising efforts.

The annual Golf Tournament held in conjunction with the STMA Conference is also a fundraiser for SAFE. Tournament fees paid by participants go to SAFE, and Jacobsen, A Textron Company, covers the costs associated with the tournament. With the 2010 tournament, Jacobsen has been staunchly supporting SAFE for 10 years in row. The tournament will be held at Championsgate Golf Club in Orlando January 13.

SAFE is funding \$12,500 in scholarships for the 2010 school year and \$8,000 in awards to the two top Student Challenge teams. For the first time, SAFE is awarding a \$1,000 grant for continuing education, the Terry Mellor Continuing Education Grant, sponsored by Turface Athletics. The grant is to be used to help a chapter member with expenses to attend the STMA national conference. STMA will provide a complimentary conference registration to the Mellor recipient.

SAFE is also applying to receive grants from other foundations via a grant-writer to help generate funds for the development of educational resources and industry research. The Foundation does receive a generous grant annually from the Toro Company's Giving Program to help fund the SAFE scholarship program. In addition to scholarship, research and education are the primary functions of The Foundation. Although the three-year turfgrass tolerance and wear study SAFE was to fund through the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) was cancelled due to lack of turf trials, SAFE remains very focused on providing applied research to the industry. Sports turf research has been designated as a top priority by the SAFE Board of Trustees. SAFE's Board includes Chairman Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, The Toro Company; Vice Chairman Leo Goertz, Texas A&M University; Treasurer Jay Warnick, CSFM, World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc.; Matt Armbrister, John Deere; Tom Burns, Diamond Pro/TXI; Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP, City of Peoria Sports Complex; Ken Curry, Covermaster, Inc.; Amy Fouty, CSFM, Michigan State University; Jody Gill, CSFM, Blue Valley School District; and Gil Landry, Ph.D., University of Georgia/Griffin Campus.

Gifts to SAFE, a 501 c (3) charity, are tax deductible, as allowable by law. ■

Thank you, 10-Year Members!

Congratulations to members who joined STMA in 1999! It is with sincere appreciation that STMA acknowledges your support and commitment to the association.

Members Since 1999

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STMA members win turf manager awards

Tom Nielsen of the Louisville Bats has again been voted as the International League Sports Turf Manager of the Year. Voted on by International League field managers and pitching coaches, the award was established in 1992 to recognize outstanding effort and excellence in the care and maintenance of a baseball playing surface. Nielsen also won the award in 2003.

Dan "Dirt" Douglas of the Reading (PA) Phillies was named winner of the 2009 Eastern League Diamond Pro Sports Field Manager of the Year Award. This marks the fourth time in his career that Dan has been selected as the winner of the award, which is voted on by Eastern League field staff and umpires. Douglas is the long-time president of the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization and 2001 recipient of STMA's prestigious Harry C. Gill Memorial Award.

Corpus Christi Hooks field superintendent Garrett Reddehase has been named the Texas League's Turf Manager of the Year in voting by league managers and umpires. Reddehase, who has been involved with the grounds crew at Whataburger Field since the building of the facility in 2005, has been the club's head groundskeeper since October 2007.

Ed Attalla of the Southern League's Jacksonville Suns has been named its 2009 Groundskeeper of the Year, as selected by the league's field managers and umpires. The honor marks the fifth time Attalla has been named the circuit's top groundskeeper. Attalla joined the Suns in 2003 and won the award in each of his first four seasons with the club. He was also named the Double-A Field Turf Manager of the Year in 2003. ■

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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.

Chesapeake Chapter STMA (formerly Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization – MAFMO Chapter STMA): www.ccstma.org.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: www.cstma.org.

Florida #1 Chapter: 954/782-2748

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gatewaystma.org.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gstma.org.

The Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.stmalabasin.com.

Illinois Chapter STMA: 847/263-7603.

Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.imstma.org.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: www.iowaturfgrass.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/STMA): www.kafmo.org.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: www.kystma.org.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): www.mistma.org.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: www.mstma.com.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mokanstma.com.

New England STMA (NESTMA): www.nestma.org.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: 402/441-4425.

North Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.ncsportsturf.org.

North Florida STMA Chapter: 850/580-4026.

Northern California STMA: www.norcalstma.org.

Ozarks STMA: www.ozarksstma.org.

Sports Turf Managers of New York: www.stmony.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: www.sfinanj.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): www.ostma.org.

Oregon STMA Chapter: 503/953-9406

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: www.pnwstma.org.

Southern California Chapter: www.socalstma.com.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.scstma.org.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: 866/897-8621.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): www.tvstma.com.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.vstma.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: 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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2 Which of the following best describes your title? (check ONLY ONE)

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 B MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT — Superintendent, Landscape/Ground Maintenance Manager, Foreman, Supervisor
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Kentucky Orange Grass



BY DR. DAVID MINNER

Professor, Iowa State University

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North Carolina State University,
Box 7620, Raleigh, NC
27695-7620, or email
grady_miller@ncsu.edu.

RUST OCCURS EVERY YEAR on cool-season sport fields but as a general rule fungicide applications are not necessary. This year was the exception to that rule. Several calls from June through September with specific circumstances led me to recommend fungicides for rust control.

Before we get to the rest of the story let's review the normal approach to dealing with rust. As diseases go, rust can be easily identified by the yellow to orange flecks that develop on leaves and stems. As the disease progresses orange and cinnamon colored blisters and pustules form. Clouds of spores can turn shoes orange when walking through turf heavily infested with rust.

- Rust occurs on Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass, but we are even seeing it on tall fescue this year. Immature turf that was seeded in the spring or early summer has been especially impacted by rust this year.

- Rust is usually more severe in turf that is growing slowly. Low light intensity, inadequate fertilization (especially nitrogen), drought stress, and infrequent mowing encourage rust development. A little extra shot of nitrogen is usually all that is needed to stimulate leaf growth that allows mowing to remove infected tissue. Keep the grass growing fast enough so that grass clippings are generated each week. Sufficient nitrogen and irrigation are required to "out grow" the rate of rust infection. If the grass stays at the same height and mowing is not needed, then rust can eventually cover the entire plant. Our bluegrass turned to Kentucky Orange Grass this year.

- Excessive irrigation and irrigation practices that extend the period of free moisture on the leaf surface encourage rust. The best time to water is at dawn because the turf is usually already wet from dew. Avoid watering from 10 am through dusk, this only extends the period of leaf wetness. Night time irrigation, after dew has formed, would be the next best time for watering to reduce rust.

Those of you with actively growing turf and mild rust infestation may not have needed rust control. However, here are the circumstances from my university extension visits from June through September that resulted in fungicide recommendations to control rust in 2009. Remember, rust is not normally a major killer of turf, however, because it disrupts playing quality during summer baseball and weakens turf just before the fall football season, rust may warrant fungicide application.

- Rust calls started in June this year, but our peak season typically occurs in August and September. When practice football fields were covered in rust and not growing just before the start of August football practice, something needed to be done.

- Three calls had fields that were newly seeded in the spring and early summer. Germination and establishment

were going quite well with the mild summer temperatures this year. However, the establishing grass did not have substantial vertical growth so when the rust hit, it quickly covered the entire plant and growth completely stopped. Four lbs of N per 1000 sq. ft. had already been used on the native soil field during establishment so the manager was reluctant to use more nitrogen that could incite other summer turf diseases such as brown patch and pythium. "It is full of rust and they want to play football in 14 days ... I need to do something." I recommended a fungicide and another pound of nitrogen. At a separate spring seeded field they were using a rain train to irrigate. It takes three 8-hour sets to irrigate the entire field so the rain train was running 24-7 for over a month. That also means that leaves were wet for too long because half of the water was being applied during the day time. The field was covered with rust and turf growth had stopped. I recommended a half pound of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft., a rust control fungicide, and cutting back on irrigation by only watering for one 8-hour set during the night from 10 pm to 6 am.

- Another field had no means of irrigation and was intended for practice only. The worn field was overseeded in May and the grass was establishing nicely with the mild summer, but again the new turf was stunted and covered with rust. For this field I recommended a pound of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft., but did not recommend a fungicide. It just didn't seem logical to apply fungicides when turf was not irrigated.

- Fungicide treatments. It is unlikely that fungicides would reduce the blemishes on plants that were already infected. New growth is very important to recovery from existing rust. The fungicide applications were intended to reduce infection on new growth. Some of the fungicides that I recommended for this control strategy were: azoxystrobin (Heritage), chlorothalonil (Daconil Ultrex), propiconazole (Banner MAXX), and triadimefon (Bayleton).

It has been a cooler than normal year with little pressure from our typical warm weather turfgrass diseases. This year I found myself recommending fungicides to control, the normally non-destructive, rust on athletic fields where the disease pressure was turning baseballs orange and making football turf weaker just before the start of the season. ■



Drainage Product Evaluation

(Compiled 8.1.2009)

