



# JOHN MASCARO'S PHOTO QUIZ

## Answers from page 17

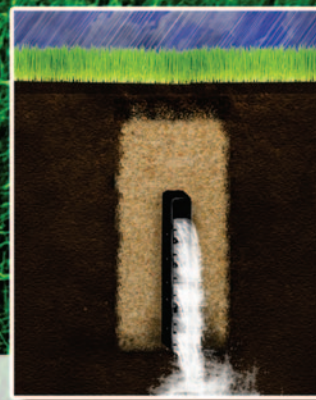
To be honest with you, the reason why the *Poa Annua* was only growing in the former paint lines on this university soccer field was a mystery to me when I first saw it. I knew it had to do with the paint as the entire dormant bermudagrass field was void of any *Poa Annua* with the exception of the former paint lines. After thinking about why this might occur, I guessed that the field might have been treated with a pre-emergence herbicide and the paint had protected the *Poa Annua* seeds that had fallen there during the previous season and been covered with paint. After the soccer season was over, the paint was allowed to degrade, and the *Poa Annua* seeds were exposed to the air, sunlight and water. Also by the time the paint had degraded, the pre-emergence herbicide had lost its efficacy and the *Poa Annua* was able to grow in the previously painted areas. After asking the sports turf manager for the university if a pre-emergence had been applied to the field, he confirmed my theory. This illustrates how well a good pre-emergence program works on *Poa Annua* prevention on bermudagrass in the South.

*Thanks to Robert Sample, Director of Sports Turf and Grounds at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL for allowing me to take this photo.*

If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Ste # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 call (850) 580-4026 or email to [john@turf-tec.com](mailto:john@turf-tec.com). If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of *SportsTurf* magazine and the Sports Turf Managers Association.

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# A GUIDE to outsourcing grounds management services

**G**ROUNDS MANAGEMENT is a delicate balance of managed timelines, limited resources and quality performance. The more a sport facility is used, the higher the expectations of the players, coaches, fans and financial supporters. Uncertain economic conditions, extreme weather or just plain bad luck challenge all of us. We adapt and survive by learning to do more with less.

Imagine this scenario; you are planning a renovation project. Traditionally, you have always done this kind of work in-house. This job is a little bit different. You must complete it quickly and while there is adequate funding, this is a high profile assignment. In order to complete the mission successfully (to specification, on-time, and on-budget), requires that you use specialized equipment (which you do not own). Purchasing new machinery is out of the question at this time. Renting or borrowing is not an option either. Besides that, you are under staffed, overtime pay is discouraged, and the routine work still has to get done. What to do!

Outsourcing certain grounds maintenance tasks to outside contractors is a tool that can give a manager an opportunity to save money, meet goals and provide timely service. Like many other

aspects of grounds management, this may not be for everyone; how and when you use it depends upon your specific circumstances.

The traditional in-house grounds department business model allows a grounds manager maximum flexibility and control. Tactical decisions such as when to mow or irrigate can be made quickly. Most in-house groundskeeping departments perform the basic grounds maintenance functions at their sites. The more sophisticated grounds operations are often capable of specialties such as arboriculture, fine horticulture, pesticide and nutrient application, earthworks and hardscaping to name a few. But over time, circumstances change and savvy grounds managers periodically review their strategic plans to eliminate problems, save money or improve results. Some grounds managers look beyond their organizations for solutions.

## WHAT ARE ADVANTAGES?

What advantages are there to outsourcing? You can continue to focus on work you do best (your brand). Many managers find that it simplifies operations because it reduces the investment in dedicated equipment, talent or technology for projects that are not part of their routine. You share risk by collaborating with a specialized company thus,

If you **know your costs** and have **good specifications** you will be able to make informed decisions whether outsourcing will work for you or not.



Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

helping to ensure the best results. For example, many grounds managers frequently contract out tree work or fertilizer and pesticide applications because the service provider possesses specific equipment, knowledge, licenses and experience. In addition, the contractor can save their client time by sourcing materials and because of their greater buying power, often they can pass along a cost savings.

Sounds great, doesn't it? But beware; there are some disadvantages you need to think about. First, you could become preoccupied with the contract administration, causing you to neglect other responsibilities. Second, your contractor could become distracted with other projects, resulting in poor service for you. Third, some managers have reported that their service provider changed their key personnel, were sold or went out of business in mid-project. Perhaps the biggest risk of all is the effect outsourcing will have on your valued staff. Think about how your team will feel if you contract out the work that your people enjoy and take pride in. Overcoming resentment and rebuilding trust takes a long time, and may never be completely restored.

Many operations outsource grounds maintenance services as a way to save money. To find out if outsourcing would be cost effective for your organization, you must conduct a thorough cost analysis. Examine all of the costs involved of performing the work in-house. This would include equipment costs (purchase, depreciation, interest, repairs, taxes and insurance), direct costs (fuel, transportation, storage, licensing and permits, costs of labor) and indirect costs (training, overhead, benefits etc). Add to this opportunity cost (the cost of performing a task compared to doing other tasks of greater or lesser importance). Compare these with the costs of the contract (be sure that your metrics are the same as the contractor's). By doing your homework, it will be clear whether or not it is cheaper to do the work in-house versus contracting the work out.

### FINDING QUALITY

The best way to find qualified contractors is by networking with people in your local STMA chapter, state turfgrass, nursery or landscape associations. Don't rule out service organizations and even the local Chamber of Commerce as contact sources for capable and professional service providers. If you are required to seek competitive bids, be sure that your bid documents clearly specify what contractor qualifications you require. Referrals from the owners sometimes can be helpful, but be careful. Their relationship (family, friend or benefactor) with the owner could jeopardize your position if there are conflicts.

We've all heard tales of road builders constructing sports fields that fail. Instead, seek out experienced contractors who specialize in the type of work you are trying accomplish. Do they have the right equipment in good working order, a stable and experienced workforce, appropriate licenses, insurance and a business philosophy similar to your own? Check references and visit sites where they have completed work.

The best way to begin the outsourcing relationship is by being well prepared. You will be in the strongest position if you know what you are doing. Provide clear, correct, concise, complete and consistent specifica-

tions. During contract negotiations, substitutions might be proposed. Know what you can and cannot accept. Use written contracts and change orders because they protect both parties. Once the contract begins, communicate directly with a designated contact per-

tool. If you know your costs and have good specifications you will be able to make informed decisions whether outsourcing will work for you or not. Above all, always surround yourself with good people, treat them well and communicate effectively. ■

## Outsourcing is a tool that can give a manager an opportunity to save money, meet goals and provide timely service.

son and avoid the temptation to micromanage. Most importantly, remember that prompt payments and being reasonable can move mountains for you.

The take-home message here is that outsourcing grounds maintenance services is a

*Don Savard, CSFM, CGM is the Athletic Facilities and Grounds Manager for the Salesianum School in Wilmington, DE and is the President of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.*

**Z-SPRAY VS. the COMPETITION**

|                                   | Z-SPRAY                             | Competitor A                        | Competitor B                        |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| True Zero Turn Maneuverability    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| By-Pass Agitation                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| All Stainless Steel Chassis       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 220 LB Hopper Capacity            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Optional Auxiliary Tank           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 50' Hose Reel for Spot Spraying   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| G.P.S. Speedometer                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 8 m.p.h Transport Speed           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 3 Section Independent Boom        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Hydraulic Drive Hopper            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 3' to 25' Variable Spread Width   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 4.0 GPM Pump                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Standard 18 Gallon Spray Capacity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Up to 1 Gallon per 1000 capacity  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Air Injection Low Drift Nozzles   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 16" Front Tires                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 20" Rear Tires                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 16 HP Electric Start Engine       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Locking Caster System             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 5 Gallon Gas Tank                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

Additional features for Z-SPRAY: **Z-Max & Intermediate**, **50 on Z-Max**, **not applicable** (for Competitor A and B).

Product models shown: Junior, Intermediate, Z-Max, Junior-36, Mini-Max, Z-Plug.

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## Field of the Year winner attests to sun's dangers

**WORK FOR A SMALL UNIVERSITY** in Central Florida where I have been employed for almost 10 years. Some of you may have heard of Stetson University in DeLand; we have won the STMA College Softball Field of the Year for the past 2 years. I am the Field Maintenance Tech/Turf manager for the field. Before working at the complex, I was the grounds coordinator for the entire 180-acre campus. Over the past 41 years of work, including 25 years with the fire department, I have owned both a foliage nursery and a lawn care business. I grew up in Florida, played sports and spent many hours outdoors.

This magazine asked me what the most important piece of clothing is that I put on

before going to work each day. Just as we don personal protection equipment (PPE) such as masks, protective suits, rubber gloves, and breathing protection before we apply herbicides and other pesticides and safety glasses, ear plugs and gloves before operating some of our equipment, those of us who work outside must also protect ourselves from the sun.

Experts recommend hats with 2-3 inch brims or larger; those with UV protection are even a more effective option. Dermatologists and the American Cancer Society suggest that ball caps do not offer enough protection since the tops of the ears, nose, and neck are highly susceptible to the sun.

There are many types of clothing on the market today including both pants and

shirts that offer some type of ultraviolet B rays (UVB) protection rating from 15 to 50 (UPF) ultraviolet protection factor. The higher the number is, the greater the protection. Darker colors offer more protection than lighter colors. Many larger department stores offer this line of clothing, as well as some of the large sporting goods stores and retailers of outdoor clothing. Protective gear of this type can be expensive, but it wears well, and certainly helps to protect us.

### Look for sunglasses that give both UVA and UVB protection from 99-100%.

Sunglasses are a very important part of our attire since we spend most of our time outdoors in daylight hours. Look for sunglasses that give both UVA and UVB protection from 99-100%. Sunglasses should have a listing of UV400 (400nm is the wavelength of UVA radiation.) All sunglasses block UVB radiation. Excessive exposure to the sun's rays unprotected can cause cataracts later in life. If you are blue-eyed like I am, your eyes will be even more light sensitive. Regardless of whether or not the sun is often visible where you live UV rays are still there. UV rays at their peak are found in high altitudes, snow-covered landscapes, or bodies of water.

I know that some of you are reading this wondering, what is the most important piece of clothing I wear to work? While all the items mentioned above are very important, the thing I put on that is most important to me is not clothing but SUN-SCREEN. The UV rays given off from the sun can be beneficial by giving us vitamin D which helps strengthen bone, and teeth, and aids in the prevention of Ricketts and colon cancer.

Unfortunately, the rays are invisible and we can easily absorb too many, too fast. Sunscreen with a minimum rating of SPF 15 is recommended by the American Cancer Society. Sunscreen can fight the early signs of skin cancer, and yes ladies, help prevent wrinkles from too much sun exposure. You are 12 times more likely to develop solar keratoses (SKs) skin damage when not using sunscreen. The peak hours of the sun which are from 10am-2pm are 10 times more damaging than any other time of the day.



Sun illustration courtesy of istockphoto.com

A rule of thumb is that if your shadow is longer than you, UV exposure is low, or if your shadow is shorter than you, UV exposure is high. I know that in our line of work we can not change the hours we're exposed to the peak time of UV rays, but we can change the protection we use.

I remember as a young person camping on the beach with the Boy Scouts. We had a beautiful full moon that night, with the most beautiful blue sky you have ever seen the next day. We fished and swam all day and had a great time not to mention the fish we caught and ate right there on the beach. I also remember the terrible sunburn I had, the trouble standing up because of the pain in my legs, not being able to wear clothes, and the pain while my mother rubbed me down with lotion for days. That was not the only sunburn I've had, or the problems sun exposure has given me since.

The dermatologists and cancer societies report that most of our sun damage occurs before our 18th birthday. It just happens to show up later in life and the older we get, the more problems we have. However this is not true in all cases, as melanoma cases are on the rise in young people.

I tell you this from experience; I have used topical creams to burn off sun damage on my arms. I have had basal cell cancer cut off my face, and had cancer frozen from my arms, shoulder, and legs. I have had squamous cell cancer removed from my nose by Moh's surgery and the skin grafted from my ear to my nose. (I can hear my food

now, ha, ha). Trust me, you do not want those 18 injections in your nose required by that procedure. I tell you this because of the melanoma I had removed from my temple this year and the 3 1/2-inch scar reminding me each day to put on the sunscreen. I tell you these things because it matters.

There are three types of skin cancer, all that I have mentioned. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) statistics from 2005 show that 54,000 people had melanoma cancer, and 8,345 people died from it that year. The largest population was Caucasian, but Hispanics, blacks, and Asians were also affected. They also say 1 in 5 people will develop skin cancer sometime during their life. Some newer statistics say 9,000 died from melanoma in 2009. As supervisors, employers, directors and foreman we should use sunscreen and preach to our employees about the importance of using it. Sunscreen comes in many forms such as lotions, creams, wipes, and sprays. Maybe sunscreen should be provided by management much as ear plugs, eye protection, and gloves are. At Stetson we use a wall mounted 2 liter refillable dispenser that I could tell you more about. Do yourself a favor, slap on the lotion and cover up with proper clothing. It may be expensive at first, but so is a plastic surgeon. ■

*Please forward comments and questions to [gmarshal@stetson.edu](mailto:gmarshal@stetson.edu) I would love to hear from you.*

*See more from George Marshall of Stetson University on page 38.*



## BLEC USA TO STEC: NEW NAME, SAME PHILOSOPHY

**F**ollowing up a conversation at the STMA Conference, we emailed Jason Sentell, business development manager for STEC, Inc. about the new company led by owner David Taylor.

**SportsTurf:** How does your business model differ from other equipment manufacturers'?

**Sentell:** First, we run a "lean" operation. We prefer to deal direct with many of our customers, instead of distributing through a dealer network. We do have dealers and independent reps, but we choose to not distribute through the larger equipment and tractor "houses."

When you deal direct, there is not a long chain of people for information to become misinformation. As the factory, we are accountable for how our machines are advertised; we state what they can do and then stand behind it. Also, we cut out the middleman. We only employ multi-talented people, a theory of more output with less input, and this greatly reduces overhead. We can maintain larger stocking levels and ultimately pass savings to the customer.

Secondly, we stick to the model we have set. We only deal in equipment that is specialized. If we cannot start with at least 33% market share, we have no business in it. We want to be pioneers and trend setters, not copycats. We are a specialized equipment company and that is what we stick to.

Lastly, we make everyone here accessible, even the owner. Our customers can speak with whoever they need to in order to get their questions answered and problems solved. We treat all customers equally, from major league teams to municipal groundskeepers.

**ST:** How does the process work when a customer comes to you asking for customized equipment?

**Sentell:** With any customized equipment comes a customized situation. We have no set process, other than that we are extremely receptive to the needs of the

customer and have a very hands on approach. We try to factor in all things before we produce equipment, but from time to time there are those who have a very specific need. When this happens, we can either fabricate here, or help coach them through what they can do. However, it isn't always an extra piece of metal that the customer needs. Many times they need flexibility or customization in other areas, like purchasing.

**ST:** Give some examples of the different types of equipment that STEC has

available and possible customizable features for them.

**Sentell:** Since We DO NOT have mowers or aerators. We DO have specialized drainage equipment, trenchers, dethatchers, sand injectors, surface strippers, stone barrier tillers, seeders, self-loading topdressers, and laser graders. We really like two phrases: "one pass" and "modular."

Most all of our machines have options that can be added, depending on need. We want to give you the choice to only pay for the features you need, but have as many add on features as possible. Usually we custom order machines set up to your requirements. We want to have equipment that no one else has, with every option you can think of. ■

## SCARBROUGH'S NEW FIRM INTRODUCES SILI-CAL SS

**SILI-CAL SS (Super Soluble)**, a new formulation designed to enhance turf resilience and upright growth, is now being offered through Silico Turf LLC. The company was launched this year by long-time turf industry marketer Sheree Scarbrough to fill the need for silicon-based supplements for sports turf, golf greens and fairways.

"The new SS formulation has been improved so that the pellets dissolve much more rapidly," said Scarbrough. "We're using a silicon source that is quite simply the most soluble form in the market. That means more is available to the plant more quickly. Our customers will really notice a big difference."

Scarbrough was most recently with Excell Minerals where she spearheaded introduction of another silicon-based product and gained experience in both the production and distribution aspects of that segment. Prior to that, she was sales and marketing manager for EarthWorks, Inc., and held other sales positions in turf distribution in Ohio.

"I'm delighted to be aligned with someone as energetic and experienced as Sheree to put our products into the hands of turf managers around the country,"

said Mark Elizer, the developer of SILI-CAL.

SILI-CAL SS is a 29-23-3 (Si-Ca-Mg) blend created to strengthen turf cell walls and improve nutrient uptake. On sports turf, SILI-CAL SS significantly increases wear tolerance, one of the toughest challenges for sports turf managers. In golf, superintendents are increasingly relying on it to enhance and maintain fast and firm conditions, particularly on greens under stress from low cutting heights, weather and disease.

A typical SS greens program consists of a 25-lbs/1,000 square feet springtime application followed by two 10-lbs/1,000 applications at 30-day intervals. The product is easily mixed with a fertilizer application and the calcium in the formulation both increases uptake and replaces the need for a separate Ca application.

"After 12 years of working with turf managers who struggle with building resilient turf, I've learned just how critical it is to replenish silicon on a regular basis," said Scarbrough. "There are volumes of research from places like the University of Florida, Penn State and Cal Poly that support the concept, but we just haven't had the right product in the market to do it quickly and effectively until now." ■



## New controller + ET system

Hunter Industries' Pro-C Conventional (PCC), the smart, fixed station controller, is now available prepackaged with the Solar Sync weather-based evapotranspiration (ET) system. Installation is simplified, as the Solar Sync module is prewired and mounted inside the PCC controller. Just affix the Solar Sync sensor to the roof to enjoy on-site schedule adjustments. The Pro-C and Solar Sync combined make an effective, economical, ET weather-based irrigation system that saves water.

[www.hunterindustries.com](http://www.hunterindustries.com)

## Cub Cadet CSV 050

Cub Cadet's all-in-one chipper, shredder, vacuum is powered by a 173cc Cub Cadet OHV Engine and features a 24-inch vacuum width, 1.5 inch chipping capacity, an 8:1 debris reduction ratio and a two bushel, felt-lined collection bag with turn locks. This multi-tasking machine also features a 7-foot on-board vacuum hose to efficiently collect leaves and any other lawn debris. The chipper consists of one hardened-steel blade while the shredder boasts six hardened-steel flail knives with a final stage shredding screen made of formed steel. Cub Cadet's CSV050 also comes complete with a 2-year residential warranty

[www.CubCadet.com](http://www.CubCadet.com)



## Gravely Turf Stadium 80

Gravely offers the Stadium 80 sprayer, part of the Gravely Turf line, to its ever-growing line of turf machinery.

The compact design of the Stadium 80 has an 80-gallon, low profile tank designed for maximum visibility. A lockable spill tank lid with anti-siphon fill and low center of gravity helps prevent chemical spills. Available with an engine-driven Silver Series roller or 12-volt electric diaphragm pump, the Stadium 80 also features a spray gun, 25-foot hose and a low-maintenance, 10-foot, three-way folding boom with electric on and off controls.

[www.ariens.com](http://www.ariens.com)

## Dirt Medic by Newstripe

Newstripe has added the Dirt Medic infield groomer specifically designed for use with garden tractors, light utility vehicles and ATV's to fill and level Little League to high school infields. Dirt Medic weighs only 200 pounds and has a 4-foot wide grooming path with 10-inch pneumatic wheels for easy transport. A single hand crank adjusts both the angle and depth of the harrow teeth and reversible cutting bar from the driver's seat without the need of tools or electrical connections. The optional broom kit creates a smooth, finished surface. Dirt Medic is backed by a 36-month warranty and costs less than \$1,600.

[www.newstripe.com](http://www.newstripe.com)



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# F.O.Y.

Field of the Year

## Stetson U celebrates back-to-back College Softball Field of the Year awards

**L**ED BY SPORTS TURF MANAGER GEORGE J. MARSHALL, Patricia Wilson Field at Stetson University in DeLand, FL was awarded its 2nd consecutive STMA College Softball Field of the Year Award in 2009.





Built in 2003, Patricia Wilson Field is named for Patricia Maxcy Wilson, Stetson Class of '47 who played nearly every intra-mural sport she could. Years later, Wilson became a champion of Stetson's Division I athletics program as a member of the Board of Trustees. The facility was renovated in 2008-09 to the tune of \$750,000, as additions were made to the complex as well as upgrading existing facilities to reduce long-term cost and maintenance.

George Marshall, a retired fireman turned turf pro, is the field maintenance tech and, as he did last year in winning this award, Marshall points to his "staff," which is head softball coach Frank Griffin, associate head coach Vanessa Bataille, and assistant coach Joanna "JJ" Payette.

Marshall says, "Construction began on the softball complex in 2002 when Coach Griffin designed and hand-built the back-stop and dugouts. He also hand-crafted the locker room and trophy case," he says. "Coach and his staff have added so much to the overall improvements to the facility."

Marshall reports the complex covers 2.8

acres, with 1.08 of it playing field, which sees nearly 600 hours of game and practice action, plus another 160+ for tournaments, camps, clinics, etc. The Tifton 410 bermudagrass gets overseeded in late November or early December after an application of pre-emergent, with 500 pounds of Eagle Supreme perennial ryegrass over the entire complex. The sand mix is composed of 80% coarse sand, 20% Canadian peat moss, with Turface on the infield. Drainage provided by slight valleys built into the terrain that empty into culverts and a retention area. Field itself has a 1% grade to outfield.

### NOTES FROM MARSHALL'S AWARD ENTRY

"Having a limited travel budget for the softball team is offset by our ability to host many invitational tournaments. We range from 1-3 weekend tournaments during our fall ball month and 6-7 during our spring championship season.

"The past 3 years we have hosted our dis-



trict high school softball tournament as well as our own conference (Atlantic Sun) tournament. All the games and practices create a challenge since the majority of play is February through May, when the bermudagrass is dormant.

"This is why we overseed with winter rye; it helps with the wear on the field and helps it look better. We work on the main wear areas, the outfield positions, throughout the season with additional seed and fertilizer.

But he's a real winner, week-in and week-out. Just ask the Dallas Cowboys coaching staff, trainers and players. You see, Chris takes care of two of the Cowboys most precious possessions - their two outdoor TifSport Bermudagrass practice fields. As Chris says, "Even though this is

a very young turf, the coaches and players like it a lot! There's better footing because of the healthy mat underneath, so it's much easier on the players and their joints." The TifSport growers are mighty proud that America's Team is now practicing on America's grass - TifSport.

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[www.tifsport.com](http://www.tifsport.com)  
 The TifSport Growers



“With drought conditions the past few years, we’ve had to use rationed reclaimed water from the City of DeLand because of high demand. During our season water was being turned off twice a week for 24-32 hours each time. This made it especially challenging to coordinate herbicide, insecticide, and fertilizer applications around practice and game schedules.

“We paint our infield so it must be wet; at times we had to wet the lines and batter’s boxes with a backpack sprayer.”

**SportsTurf:** How has the recession affected your maintenance plans for 2010?

**Marshall:** With new regulations on chemical use, fertilizing, and water restrictions we are always challenged in some way. We try and keep up with maintenance issues so we don’t get too far behind, and look for new ways of doing things. Large projects have to wait until funding is available. If you’d like to sponsor a new scoreboard, please contact us.

**ST:** How do you work with your coaches to give them what they want while keeping best practices alive?

**Marshall:** Fortunately for me they are

willing to work with me. It’s not unusual to see the players or coaches pulling weeds or raking. If we pull a weed, we won’t have to spray it. If we pick it up, we don’t have to blow it.

**ST:** What are the keys to finding and retaining good workers?

**Marshall:** We are a small operation and I am the worker. However, I’ve always preached to my kids, treat people how you want to be treated.

**ST:** What do you like to do to relax and refresh yourself away from the job?

**Marshall:** I like to spend time with my family. My wife and I have a grown son and two daughters and we like to get together as much as possible. We slip away for a few days when we can, and boat and fish.

**ST:** If you could have any turf manager job in the country for a week, what would it be and why?

**Marshall:** I already have the best turf job in the country and a great staff and a great athletic director. And remember, I said they rake and pull weeds. ■



## Maintenance Program

### Aeration

3x/year

Late spring, summer, early fall

### Fertilization

Monthly

Use various mixtures depending on desired growth and conditioning of grass. Use walk-behind rotary spreader; mixtures include 24-2-11; 15-3-15 with Ronstar; 21-0-0; and 22-2-11.

### Irrigation

Average 4-5x/week

Varies with weather and temperature conditions; average 30-60 minutes per zone using reclamation water. Repairs made in-house as necessary.

### Mowing

3x/week

Two times weekly in slower growing seasons.

### Overseeding

Annually

Usually late Nov to early Dec; approximately 500 pounds of Eagle Supreme perennial rye is used on entire complex, 275 pounds on the outfield. Use walk-behind drop spreader.

### Spraying

As needed for insects or worms; 2x/year with pre-emergent/post-emergent, middle fall before overseeding, late spring to eliminate rye for transition. Use 50-gallon pull-behind boom sprayer or 3-gallon backpack sprayer.

### Tilling & Laser Grading

Annually

1x in December, contracted out.

### Topdressing

Annually

1x in summer

### Verticutting

Annually

1x in summer