

New Talstar XTRA eliminates fire ants in record time

FMC Professional Solutions has launched Talstar XTRA granular insecticide. For sports turf professionals, this means quick and long-term control of a wide range of surface feeding pests, including the red imported fire ant. "When used as directed, Talstar XTRA eliminates fire ant colonies in four hours or less, often in as little as minutes," said Adam Manwarren, FMC product manager for turf and ornamental products. "This means dangerous fire ants can be eliminated from athletic fields quickly. You can treat in the morning and play ball that afternoon, which is impressive since other products take days or weeks to work." Talstar XTRA is labeled for use against most ants, chinch bugs, fleas, ticks, mole crickets, crane flies and many other pests.

www.fmcprosolutions.com



STEC Equipment now selling ROTADAIRON

STEC is proud to welcome the legendary ROTADAIRON line to our line of specialized turf equipment. We will offer the entire range of turf products, including stone buriers, soil renovators, seeders, verticutters, and more. The ROTADAIRON Soil Renovators come in several models, from Compact to Super Heavy Duty, and everything in between. The ROTADAIRON Soil Renovator comes in models suited for tractors from 12-280hp, with working widths from 30" up to 158", and depths up to 10". It also comes in models to fit skid steer, and mini skid steer units.

www.steequipment.com



Pro League Heritage Red new from Turface Athletics

Turface Athletics introduces an exclusive new color to its popular lineup of infield conditioners called Pro League Heritage Red. The new color is a classic, rich cherry wood for skinned infields, while offering the same optimum moisture management professional groundskeepers have come to expect from Turface Pro League. The newest product provides excellent ball visibility, and the rich color is consistent on both wet and dry infields. It remains uniform throughout the game. Already being used on a number of Major League Baseball fields, Heritage Red is now available to turn any field into a signature diamond. The new color effectively matches many darker infield mixes and can be pre-blended into an infield mix or used as a topdressing.

www.profileproducts.com

SafeMark field layout system

Newstripe's SafeMark field layout system is the safest way to layout any athletic field and never have to measure again. There are no holes to catch cleats or plugs to trip over. Key layout points are measured out and the UV protected high-density foam locators are installed flush with the ground. The unique locators have no holes or plugs and are held permanently in place eliminating the need to re-measure each time the field is striped. The SafeMark locators match the surrounding turf density so they can be safely used even in the field of play. The locators can't be stolen, destroyed by aerators, vehicles or rust from sprinklers. Backed by a 36-month warranty, each SafeMark set comes complete with layout spikes, 600' of cord and the installation auger.

www.newstripe.com



New Kochek high-volume nozzle

Kochek's New NZ015-HV High Volume Nozzle provides flow at 100 GPM (using a 1" hose). Our high volume "jump" nozzles provide a 20-60 GPM flow rate, allowing selective water distribution for turf and infields. It comes equipped with the "JUMP" feature, providing a stream (at 60 GPM) or fog (at 20 GPM), making it the most versatile of all the "JUMP" nozzles. For the best results, use with 1" hose or larger. Kochek NZ027 Adjustable Fan Stream Nozzle, 1" NPSH and comes with a Reducer Bushing for 3/4" GHT: this Adjustable Fan Stream Nozzle (1" or 3/4" Hose) allows you to apply the widest fan or adjust to a smooth-bore stream reaching distances of up to 80 feet.

www.kochek.com





Kiscutter sod cutter to the sports turf market

Turfco now offers the Kiscutter Sod Cutter to sports turf managers. Lighter in weight, the simple-to-use Kiscutter weighs only 140 pounds. An inexpensive option, it is easier to operate and transport than traditional sod cutters. Four-wheel design, pneumatic tires and a rear-wheel drive are some features making it easier to operate and transport. It also features a 5.5 hp Honda engine, which can cut up to 150 feet per minute, but produces lower vibration reducing operator fatigue. Easier to understand than any other sod cutter on the market, operators just have to set the depth adjustment and then run simplified controls on the handle bar. Additionally, lightweight folding handles result in easy lifting, hauling and storage.

www.turfco.com



STEC now distributing TRILO products

STEC Equipment has announced that they will handle North American Distribution for TRILO professional outdoor clean up equipment. With a complete range of Blowers, Verticutters, and Vacuums, STEC has a TRILO to fit any need. The TRILO SG400 is a versatile turf vacuum with many options and features. With over a 5 cubic yard capacity, 33" fan, 80" tipping height, and turf tires, the TRILO makes clean up and collection a breeze. The options include: Verticutting head, so you can verticut and collect in ONE PASS. Hand Held Hose, for clean up around tight areas. Flail mower head, for simultaneous cutting and collection. Gully brush, for curbs and walls. The SG400 truly is a multi-function tool.

www.stecequipment.com



Renown fungicide receives registration for use on sports turf

Renown fungicide, a broad-spectrum product from Syngenta, has received EPA registration for use on professional turf sites. It is the only product to contain the active ingredients found in both Heritage and Daconil fungicides. By combining proprietary azoxystrobin from Syngenta and finely milled chlorothalonil, Renown provides both systemic and contact modes of action. Its preventive and curative properties help control key plant diseases including dollar spot, brown patch, gray leaf spot, algae, anthracnose and more. Renown is not currently registered for sale or use in all states. Please check with your state or local extension service before buying or using this product.

www.syngenta.com

Chapter Highlights

Iowa Chapter: Part of a Larger Network of Industry Professionals

THE IOWA STMA CHAPTER knows how to share. ISTMA shares office space and an

Executive Director with a group of green industry organizations. Executive Director Jeff Wendel, CGCS, manages the Iowa Turfgrass Institute (ITI), The Iowa Golf Course Superintendents Association (IGCSA) and the Iowa Professional Lawn Care Association (IPLCA), in addition to the Iowa STMA. The ITI is considered an umbrella organization that fosters research, education, and the dissemination of information on turfgrass.

This unique arrangement with one Executive Director allows these organizations to have professional management with phone and email contact during business hours. None could afford full-time staffing on an individual basis.

According to Wendel, managing all of these organizations is effective, especially in designing the annual Iowa Turfgrass Conference program. "Having a good understanding of how these professions are similar, and how they are different helps us really develop education for each group. We can also efficiently use speakers," says Wendel. Another economy is in using the same membership database program. ITI owns the program and Wendel is able to easily keep track of each organization's membership.

The groups share a website, www.iowaturfgrass.org. Check it out to see a great model of collaboration. ■



Dr. Dave Minner of Iowa State, a national turfgrass industry leader.

Benefits of certification verified

Editor's note: This is the last of six installments on how becoming a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) can benefit turf managers professionally as well as improve their facilities

How did you prepare for the CSFM Exam?

Frever: I studied notes, tests and books, preserved in my bookcase, from my turfgrass management courses at Michigan State University. Other study sources, saved in my bookcase, are conference proceedings and sports turf topics, both in periodical



"CSFM status facilitated sponsorship from my employer for continued professional development with the Great Lakes Leadership Academy. The 2-year program, coordinated by Michigan State's Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, finished with a capstone experience in Spain," says Frever, pictured here at Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza Bullring in Seville.

form. Looking over test guides and practicing math examples provided by the STMA and the State of Michigan, for the pesticide applicators test, was very helpful. In some cases, especially math, I searched for more material with the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) at the MSU Libraries. A quick link is provided on your STMA member page.

How did you approach your employer to support your certification, both financially and in the time needed to prepare for the exam?

Frever: The support for the STMA from my employer was my number one priority when I first interviewed and taking the CSFM exam was established as a mutual goal. It was never a matter of approaching my employer because my employer is engaged in my participation with the local STMA chapter and national conferences. My employer understands what I expect to learn at events when I requested financial support and would

receive a debriefing of my experiences shortly after I return. Even more employer engagement can be developed, if you can host a local STMA event and invite key people from your organization to attend.

Why did you decide to pursue certification?

Frever: The four letters, CSFM, identifies you as a member of an international community of professionals committed to a common goal. I wanted to be a part of that community and promote our profession.

How has certification helped your career?

Frever: The certification has opened up opportunities, like this, to share experiences. It has also identified me with local coaches, parents, faculty, administrators, and fellow groundskeepers as a person to call for advice. I enjoy spreading the gospel of safe athletic fields and I take every chance to speak with people willing to learn. ■

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:
Chris Walsh cwalsh@scottsdaleaz.org

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.cstma.org

Florida #1 Chapter (South): 305-235-5101 (Bruce Bates)

Florida #2 Chapter (North): 850/580-4026.

Florida #3 Chapter (Central): 863-665-5800

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.gatewaystma.org. (See Expanded Profile included in Chapter Highlights)

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

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

Illinois Chapter STMA: www.ILSTMA.org.

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

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

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

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

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

Mid Atlantic Sports Turf Managers Association (MASTMA) (formerly the Chesapeake Chapter STMA)
Ph. 410-704-2197 www.mastma.org

Minnesota Chapter STMA: www.mstma.com.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.mokanstma.com. (See Expanded Profile included in Chapter Highlights)

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

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

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

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

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

Northern California STMA: www.norcalstma.org.

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

Oregon STMA Chapter: 503/953-9406

Ozarks STMA: www.ozarksstma.org.

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

Southern California Chapter: www.socalstma.com.

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

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

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

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

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.wstma.org. (See Expanded Profile included in Chapter Highlights)

Forming Chapters:

Indiana Chapter: Joey Stevenson,
jstevenson@indyindians.com

STMA International Affiliate Organizations:

National Parks, Singapore: www.nparks.gov.sg
Sports Turf Association, ON, CANADA
www.sportsturfassociation.com

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Q&A

Green with envy



I read with great interest your article on evaluating green turf colorants in Applied Turfgrass Science. After reading your article, I may try using a colorant this year to green up common bermudagrass. Can you tell me about how irrigation practices influence the color? Does the colorant get mowed off very quickly?

BY DR. GRADY MILLER

Professor, North Carolina State University

Questions?

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

Or, send your
question to
David Minner at
Iowa State University, 106
Horticulture Hall, Ames, IA 50011
or email
dminner@iastate.edu.

Sports turf managers have been quietly using colorants/dyes/paints to provide green color and hide damaged turf areas for years. Recently, the foreclosure market in California encouraged companies to go out and paint drought-stricken abandoned yards green resulting in national attention. At the same time golf course superintendents in the Southeast were trying to save money and improve golf course conditions by painting rather than overseeding. All this attention has resulted in an increased interest among turf managers in “painting turf.” I guess one could say painting turf is currently in vogue.

I ran paint matching trials in Florida for a local paint company years ago and thought it had great potential—but there did not seem to be much interest. I think there were two or three companies back then that sold a turf colorant or green turf paint specifically for coating the entire turf surface (not paint for logos or other field markings). At last count there are about 10 companies that have a product for painting turf green. Most of these companies only have one product, but a few have several colors available. At least one company has a standard product line, as well as the capacity to custom blend shades of green.

With more interest among turf managers, comes more interest in product development. At the 2011 Sports Turf Managers Conference in Austin, I will be presenting a

detailed look at using modern turf colorants/paints on athletic fields. So, if the information in this article does not satisfy your curiosities, come hear the talk and ask questions. Accept this as my unsolicited advertisement for the Conference and a personal plug for my presentation!

Before answering your questions, some general comments on applying colorants use may be helpful. First question I often get is “Will it damage my turfgrass?” It has been my experience that the most common turf colorant products currently on the market cause no harm to the turfgrass plant when used at reasonable rates. In some cases, it may even increase turf growth rate (due to increased heat from darker color).

How does one apply a colorant? Well they may be applied using various types of equipment from a small pump-up single-nozzle sprayer, to airless paint machines, to a large boom sprayer designed to spray pesticides/fertilizers. One may use standard equipment, adapt equipment for more efficient colorant application, or purchase/build specialized equipment specifically for colorant applications. Most start with the equipment they already have in their shop with a few modifications.

If one does not want to figure everything out on their own, there are individuals/companies in some towns that have specialized equipment and extensive experience applying colorants to all sorts of turfgrass areas from small front lawns to expansive golf courses fairways. You may even want to pay someone to do it for you the first time before you invest time in developing your own equipment and techniques.

Something else you should know is that the products will make anything they touch green forever, from your spray equipment to the clothes

and shoes you wear while spraying. Pay particular attention to not get it on concrete surfaces or other semi-permeable surfaces near your fields. Consequently, I would not suggest application on windy days.

For adequate coverage, I would recommend colorant be applied at 80 gallons per acre (total paint + water volume) or greater. I have seen them go out as high as 250 gallons per acre, but I do not think that high a rate is necessary. While coverage and longevity can be related to application rate, I think the best balance is somewhere around 100 to 120 gallons per acre for most products. One may also have to play around with dilution rate for a particular product. Most companies suggest you dilute them between 1:6 and 1:10 (paint:water).

The paint has a better color if you can time its application just before the turf (bermudagrass) goes dormant. If you paint too early you just mow the colorant off. You may try putting out a plant growth regulator (PGR) before using colorants to slow down the turf growth if you want to spray before the turf goes dormant. If your turf is 100% dormant, it will take more colorant because dry turfgrass really soaks up the colorant. We found that a light irrigation before applying colorant on dormant turf can help.

So, to answer your questions about irrigation, once a colorant dries on the turfgrass surface, most do not come off very easily. Irrigation wetness may momentarily darken colors, but it should have no long term influence on color longevity. Once turf is dormant, there is not much need in irrigating the turf. The same is true for mowing. You may want to mow a few times for a little “cleaning,” but that would be an irregular practice. ■

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