

### BEACON TARP CART WITH TARP PIN HOLDERS

This cart is a great addition to your grounds crew. Designed to store and transport up to four area tarps and your field weights or tarp pins. Conveniently keep rolled up tarps and pins together for easy transport and storage. Perfect for stowing area rain tarps, weighted tarps, infield protectors, sideline turf protectors, track protectors and growth covers. The cart may be manually pushed along in wheelbarrow fashion or towed by a utility vehicle

**Beacon Athletics**



### SWEeper CUTS MAINTENANCE TIME ON SYNTHETICS

The 3-three-wheel Broce Turf Boss sweeper can groom a typical turf field in a single pass, with full 8' brush contact, reducing field maintenance time by up to two-thirds. Its reversible brush rotation, included as standard equipment, can double productivity by allowing the operator to sweep in both directions without turning around. Turf Boss sweeper's hydraulics are engineered to deliver more power to the brush, which enables full brush-turf contact for faster field maintenance. To combat overheating issues on turf fields, its radiator is designed to operate in 140°F ambient temperatures. It is the only sweeper of its kind to incorporate a hydraulic oil cooler as standard equipment. Comes standard with turf-specific 12-inch wide tires that tread lightly on turf.

**Broce Manufacturing Co.**



### SELF-PRIMING CENTRIFUGAL PUMPS

Griswold Pump Company says that its H Series high head self-priming centrifugal pumps have been designed with key features and options that make them ideally suited for a wide variety of water applications, including turf irrigation where greater flows and higher heads are needed. Unlike standard end suction centrifugal pumps, the H Series is able to maintain its prime even when check valves or foot valves have failed. Since the suction line on the H Series is located higher on the pump housing than conventional centrifugal pumps, it keeps the impeller and mechanical seal covered with water at all times eliminating the need to re-prime the pump and protects the seal from running dry resulting in costly replacements.

**Griswold Pump Company**



### KATANA HERBICIDE EARLY ORDER AND BUNDLE BONUS PROGRAM

Professional sports turf managers can get a head start on next year's maintenance plans while conserving valuable budgets with an early order incentive and product bundle bonus program, available from PBI-Gordon Corporation, for its Katana Turf Herbicide. The program includes different opportunities to save: Katana Incentive, with a minimum purchase of eight bottles or two cases of Katana, you can receive a \$100-per-case rebate. Katana is packaged with four 3-ounce bottles per case (receive \$100 per case with each additional case after minimum is met). Also Bundle Bonus Rebate, add 10 gallons of SpeedZone and/or SpeedZone Southern to each case of Katana ordered and earn an additional \$2.50 per gallon rebate on the SpeedZone products. Early delivery bonus also available.

**PBI Gordon**



### BAYER CROPSOURCE INTRODUCES SPECTICLE PLUS FERTILIZER

Environmental Science, a division of Bayer CropScience LP, has launched Specticle plus Fertilizer, an herbicide that provides warm-season turf managers up to 8 months of residual control at low use rates. The characteristics of Specticle deliver excellent weed prevention and fertility. Specticle plus Fertilizer is available in two different concentrations and a variety of fertilizer blends to provide for increased flexibility that meets the needs of warm-season turfgrass professionals. Specticle is a unique class of chemistry that offers an environmentally responsible solution and helps address weed resistance. Specticle plus Fertilizer delivers extended residual pre-emergent control of more than 75 broadleaf and grassy weeds, including annual bluegrass, goosegrass, crabgrass and annual sedge. The easy-to-use Specticle plus Fertilizer helps streamline turf management practices and simplify application.

**Bayer**

**Spect(i)cle<sup>®</sup>**  
+ FERTILIZER

### GET RID OF GEESE

Canada Goose deterrent company Away With Geese has a new product: the Sports Cage. The Sports Cage protects the Sports Unit, a unit designed to avert theft in public spaces, from vandalism. The two together get rid of Canada Geese from any public area, while also averting theft and vandalism of the unit. All Away With Geese products feature a solar-powered light that is scarcely noticeable to humans but is very disruptive to the sleep of the geese, causing them to find another habitat after just a few restless nights. Like all Away With Geese units, they are maintenance free; once placed and secured, they require no upkeep and are guaranteed to rid the area of Canada Geese.

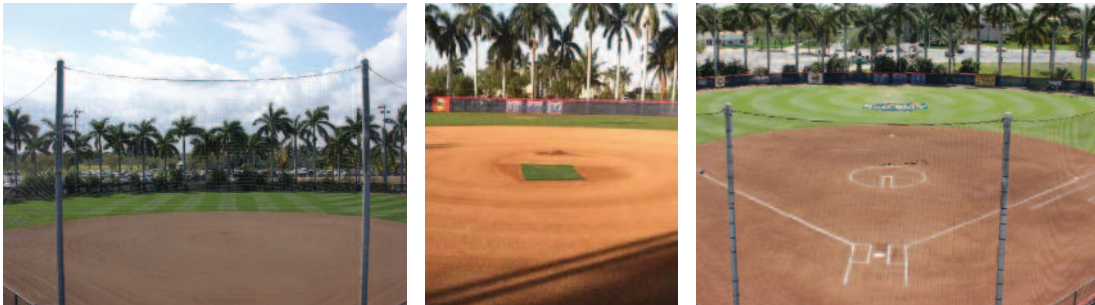
**Away With Geese**



# FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY Softball Stadium

Boca Raton, FL

Located in south Florida, FAU is a premier location to host collegiate invitational tournaments including the 2012 Sunbelt Conference Championship tournament and upcoming 2014 Conference USA Championship tournament. With our conference games, invitational tournaments, fall softball games and fall Lady Gator Softball Tournament the field hosts 80-100 games a year. In addition to FAU daily practices, the field is also used for two winter softball camps and as a practice facility for the Phoenix travel softball team.





- ◉ **Level of Submission:** College
- ◉ **Category of Submission:** Softball
- ◉ **Head Sports Turf Manager:** Ken Czerniak
- ◉ **Title:** Sports Turf Manager
- ◉ **Education:** High School
- ◉ **Experience:** Worked 10 years at the Texas Rangers spring training facility in Port Charlotte, FL

starting as a laborer and working to the assistant field supervisor. In 2003 became the head sports turf manager for sports field management taking over the supervision of 30 acres at Florida Atlantic University.

- ◉ **Full-time staff:** Phillip Bathalon, Casey Myers, and Micah Bennett

- ◉ **Original construction:** 1999
- ◉ **Turfgrass variety:** Celebration bermudagrass
- ◉ **Overseed:** Double Eagle Blend perennial ryegrass seeded at 7 pounds per thousand with an extra 200 pounds to spot seed position spots and sidelines during the months of January and February.

#### WHY STMA SHOULD CONSIDER YOUR FIELD A WINNER?

This softball field is home of the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Owls and maintained by sports field management with a crew of four. Spring at FAU is a challenge with competing schedules of NCAA Division I baseball and softball programs. Located in south Florida, FAU is a premier location

to host collegiate invitational tournaments including the 2012 Sunbelt Conference Championship tournament and upcoming 2014 Conference USA Championship tournament. With our conference games, invitational tournaments, fall softball games and fall Lady Gator Softball Tournament the field hosts 80-100 games a year. In addition to FAU daily practices, the field is also used for two winter softball camps and as a practice facility for the Phoenix travel softball team.

Before the 2013 season, the infield was considered hard and caused balls to bounce high. The hard infield was a result of brick dust topdressing as it



## FAU Softball Stadium

tends to not hold water. A softer infield was wanted to produce more ground balls. FAU coaches and administrators verbalized their concerns regarding the infield including the poor drainage associated with it. However to produce immediate results the field would have to be renovated, a project the budget could not support. Maintenance to minimize this problem involved multiple daily watering that became very inefficient for the crew. This year our crew made a positive impact as our challenge was to address this long-standing issue.

In order to mitigate the hard infield we softened the home plate area out to where ground balls would be hit. Our strategy was to add quick dry as it retains moisture, thereby creating the desired softer surface. Once the quick dry was incorporated we were able to dramatically shorten our watering regime.

A result of hosting 79 games in two months is that position spots become a real concern. Multiple strategies were incorporated from the previous year to minimize damage done to these spots. Specifically we raised our height of cut and stretched out mowing days to keep the grass blade longer. We also aerified the field twice during the season to control compaction.

Our crew was able to take a problematic hard infield and with creative practices make a softer infield that was better for the coaches and players. With unpredictable weather we were able to maintain a quality safe playable field throughout the season.

**SportsTurf:** What channels of communication do you use to reach coaches, administrators, and users of your facility? Any tips for communicating well?

**Czerniak:** I believe face to face is the best way to communicate, but most of the time communication is done by email or by phone. I try to speak with coaches and administrators on a weekly basis to see if anything has deviated from the previously provided schedules. My assistants speak to the coaches daily just to touch base. The tip I would give is to talk to every coach and listen to their concerns and ask them if there is anything you can do to benefit them and help make things better.

**ST:** What are your specific responsibilities?

**Czerniak:** As the Sports Turf Manager at FAU for Sports Field Management, my responsibilities include maintaining 29 acres of bermudagrass, one synthetic field, and overseeing the day to day operations of all our fields. The operations include but are not limited to the mowing schedules, painting schedules and fertilization program. The scheduling helps provide direction to my five employees (Phil Bathalon, Casey Myers, Micah Bennett, Tyler Cornish, and Danny Bradley), and allow us to complete our work at a professional level.

**ST:** What tasks do you find most enjoyable?

**Czerniak:** Creating and mowing patterns is most enjoyable to me. While burning patterns in for periods of time helps with the aesthetics, I also rotate my patterns. Rotating patterns prevents ruts from the mower which helps with both safety and playability.

### Equipment List

- Toro Reel Master 5510
- Graco Line Lazer 3400
- McLane (edger)
- Kubota M5040 (tractor)
- Wiedenmann Super 500 (vertical mowing machine)
- Toro ProCore 864
- Toro Workman HD
- Toro GreensMaster 3100 with vertical mowing reels
- Kubota LA211 (front end loader)
- John Deere 1200A (infield drag)
- Stihl BR550 (blower)
- Tycrop (topdresser)
- Toro Low Profile 175 (spray rig)
- GreensGroomer (turf brush)
- Lesco backpack sprayer
- Scotts Turf Builder Classic (drop spreader)
- Lesco Commercial Plus (rotary spreader)
- GEHL 6635 SXT (front end loader)
- Volvo DD14 (5 ton roller - rental)
- Ryan (sod cutter)

**ST:** What task is your least favorite and why?

**Czerniak:** My least favorite task has to be pulling the tarp for softball and baseball and then getting the field back in a safe and playable condition. Our small staff at games makes these situations more stressful and challenging. Due to the heavy rains in south Florida, we have our fair share of downpours throughout the year.

**ST:** How did you get your start in turf management? What was your first job?

**Czerniak:** My father was a golf course superintendent and my love for baseball influenced me toward this career. I was lucky to have a spring training home in Port Charlotte with the Texas Rangers. One day I was playing golf with Tom Burns and Tom Vida, the

sports turf managers with the Rangers, and asked if they needed help. I started as a laborer in 1993 and worked my way up to assistant sports turf manager in 2000. I was very lucky to have them both take me under their wing and share their knowledge and past experiences. They both helped shape me into who I am today. I started at FAU in 2004 and I'm still here today.

**ST:** What practices do you use to keep your infield skin in peak condition?

**Czerniak:** Our practices include nail dragging, dragging, and watering. We also re-level position spots and the lead off areas around the bases with infield clay. On a regular basis, we assess our conditioner coverage and correct it if needed by adding or removing material. We are consistently maintaining the pitching circle and home plate area to achieve our professional standard.

**ST:** What changes if any are you considering or implementing for the winning field in 2014?

**Czerniak:** We are continuing the strategy started last year of incorporating calcined clay by recycling the clay from our recent baseball field renovation. We will be raising our bullpens and laser grading our infield to prevent runoff water from sitting in those areas. We will also move four heads to help get better coverage over the entire field. We will be putting up barriers along parts of our warning track to prevent any material from washing away.

**ST:** How do you see the Sports Turf Manager's job changing in the future?

**Czerniak:** With an increase in pesticide and fertilization application laws, there will be more training required to apply such products. Also, as our field usage and the number of events increase each year, cultural practices and time management will become much more important. ■





## CSFM program nearly eclipses record

In 2013, the STMA Certified Sports Field Managers (CSFM) Program added 19 members to its rolls. This is the second highest number of members certified in one year. In 2010, there were 22 members who attained this designation, which is the highest in the program's history. The CSFM program began in 2000, and it currently has 169 certified members.

The program was established to validate the experience and qualifications of a sports turf manager. Those seeking certification must attain 40 points before being able to take the exam. Points are gained through a combination of formal education and work experience. The four-part exam covers agronomics, sports specific management, pest management and administration. Those testing may elect to take the test at the annual STMA conference or at a location and time convenient to them by using a proctor. Continuing education and service to the industry are also required to maintain the CSFM designation.

Consider adding value to your employer and to your personal marketability by becoming certified. CSFMs also are paid more. On average, a CSFM makes \$7,500 annually more than a non-certified member.

To find out more about the certification program and what it can do for you, go to [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org), and click on Certification under the Professionalism Tab.

### Congratulations to the Class of 2013!

**Weston Appelfeller, CSFM**, Columbus Crew  
**James Bergdoll, CSFM**, City of Elizabethtown  
**Jeff Bosworth, CSFM**, Drake University  
**Noel Brusius, CSFM**, Waukegan Park District  
**Jason Demink, CSFM**, University of Michigan Athletic Department  
**Michael Flowers, CSFM**, Championship Turf Services  
**James Gish, CSFM**, Brigham Young University  
**Shane Hohlbein, CSFM**, Precision Turf LLC  
**Chris Hohnstrater, CSFM**, The Principia School  
**Michael Hrivnak, CSFM**, Town of Cary  
**David Iannicello, CSFM**, Sodexo Campus Services at Hobart & William Smith College  
**Shane Johnson, CSFM**, City of Clinton Parks & Rec  
**Ryan McCaughey, CSFM**, The Pennsylvania State University  
**Kevin Mercer, CSFM**, Vassar College  
**Allen Reed, CSFM**, FC Dallas  
**Kyle Slaton, CSFM**, Georgia State University  
**Robert Standing, CSFM**, Carolina Green Corp.  
**Brett Tanner, CSFM**, DePauw University  
**Scott Thompson, CSFM**, Duke University

*Continued from page 7*

I will leave you with this story about a group of people who made a difference. I am fortunate to work in Lexington, where more than 200 years ago an unlikely collection of farmers, shopkeepers and tradesmen decided to make a difference and take a stand. Little did they know that it would lead to independence and a new country. Although what we do is not on the same scale, we do make a difference in the lives of the people using our facilities. By providing well-maintained, safe, aesthetically pleasing athletic fields we show our commitment for the betterment of others.

Let's work together to make a difference in the sports turf industry and make 2014 a great year. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to the author of the article.



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# Membership Application

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### New Members\*

As a new members, you receive a FREE conference registration, value \$375, to be used within 3 years! Just indicate your status on the conference registration form.

Did someone refer you to STMA? We would like to thank them, and reward them with an STMA \$100 voucher.

Person who referred you:

\_\_\_\_\_

Facility name:

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Not been an STMA national member since 2000. New student and affiliate memberships do not qualify for the free conference registration. However, all members are eligible to receive the \$100 voucher for referring a new qualifying member.

### Membership Category:

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Turf Manager  | \$110 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Turf Manager Associate* (Additional member(s) from the same facility) | \$75  |

Please select the primary facility type where you are employed:

- ☐ Professional Sports ☐ Higher Education ☐ Schools K-12 ☐ Parks and Recreation

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic  | \$95  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (verification of enrollment)  | \$25  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial  | \$295 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Associate* (Additional member(s) from the same commercial company)   | \$75  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate (Person who is indirectly or on a part-time basis, involved in the maintenance/management of sports fields) | \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retired   | \$50  |

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Dues (contact headquarters for amount)                         |          |
| Chapter name) _____   | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contribution To SAFE Foundation (research, education and scholarship): | \$ _____ |

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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\*There must already be a national sports turf member from your facility or commercial member from your company before you may sign up in the Associate category.

Phone: 800-323-3875

www.STMA.org



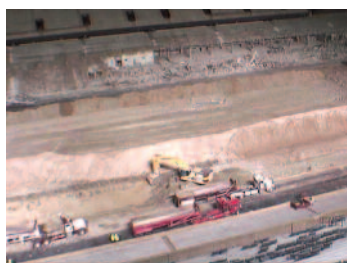
## Goertz at Texas A&M sells Kyle Field turf



▲ **At left** is Leo Goertz, Texas A&M's athletic fields maintenance manager, being interviewed about selling the old turf from Kyle Field.



▲ **Above Left:** Venerable Kyle Field is being enlarged to accommodate more than 102,000 "12th men" on football Saturdays. The renovation plans include dropping the playing surface 8 feet and pushing it south 16 feet to add more seats. **Above Right:** Goertz & Company decided on 110 pallets at \$400 each plus 1,000 blocks at \$20 apiece, all the while wondering how much demand there really might be.



▲ **Above Left:** Almost hurts to look at the field during renovation process! **Above Right:** One Aggies fan bought enough turf to surround his house; the white marks are left over hash mark paint.



## STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

**Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:** [www.azstma.org](http://www.azstma.org)

**Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.cstma.org](http://www.cstma.org)

**Florida #1 Chapter (South):**  
305-235-5101 (Bruce Bates) or Tom Curran  
CTomSell@aol.com

**Florida #2 Chapter (North):** 850-580-4026,  
John Mascaro, [john@turf-tec.com](mailto:john@turf-tec.com)

**Florida #3 Chapter (Central):** 407-518-2347,  
Scott Grace, [scott@sundome.org](mailto:scott@sundome.org)

**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)

**Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.stmalabasin.com](http://www.stmalabasin.com)

**Illinois Chapter STMA:** [www.ILSTMA.org](http://www.ILSTMA.org)

**Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
<http://imstma.blogspot.com/>

**Indiana - FORMING -** Contact Clayton Dame, [ClaytonDame@hotmail.com](mailto:ClaytonDame@hotmail.com) or Brian Bornino, [bornino@purdue.edu](mailto:bornino@purdue.edu) or Contact Joey Stevenson, [jstevenson@indyindians.com](mailto:jstevenson@indyindians.com)

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.iowaturfgrass.org](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org)

**Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.kystma.org](http://www.kystma.org)

**Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/STMA):** [www.kafmo.org](http://www.kafmo.org)

**Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):** [www.mistma.org](http://www.mistma.org)

**Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.mpstma.org](http://www.mpstma.org)

**MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.mokanstma.com](http://www.mokanstma.com)

**Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:** [sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu)

**New England STMA (NESTMA):** [www.nestma.org](http://www.nestma.org)

**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:** [www.sfmnj.org](http://www.sfmnj.org)

**Sports Turf Managers of New York:** [www.stmony.org](http://www.stmony.org)

**North Carolina Chapter of STMA:** [www.ncsportsturf.org](http://www.ncsportsturf.org)

**Northern California STMA:** [www.norcalstma.org](http://www.norcalstma.org)

**Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):** [www.ostma.org](http://www.ostma.org)

**Oklahoma Chapter STMA:** 405-744-5729;  
Contact: Dr. Justin Moss [okstma@gmail.com](mailto:okstma@gmail.com)

**Oregon STMA Chapter:**  
[www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org](http://www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org)  
[oregonstma@gmail.com](mailto:oregonstma@gmail.com)

**Ozarks STMA:** [www.ozarksstma.org](http://www.ozarksstma.org)

**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.sc-stma.org](http://www.sc-stma.org)

**Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):** [www.tvstma.com](http://www.tvstma.com)

**Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.txstma.org](http://www.txstma.org)

**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.vstma.org](http://www.vstma.org)

**Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.wstma.org](http://www.wstma.org)

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- F ☐ Sports Complex G ☐ Athletic Field and/or Park Architect/Designer  
T ☐ School, College or University P ☐ Park  
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  
D ☐ \$100,001 - \$500,000 A ☐ \$25,000 and under

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Beam Clay	48	<a href="http://www.beamclay.com">www.beamclay.com</a>
Broyhill	48	<a href="http://www.broyhill.com">www.broyhill.com</a>
CoverSports USA	15	<a href="http://www.coversports.com">www.coversports.com</a>
Ecolawn	48	<a href="http://www.ecolawnapplicator.com">www.ecolawnapplicator.com</a>
GreensGroomer	3	<a href="http://www.greensgroomer.com">www.greensgroomer.com</a>
Hydraway Drainage Systems	33	<a href="http://www.hydraway.net">www.hydraway.net</a>
John Deere	51	<a href="http://www.JohnDeere.com/SportsTurf">www.JohnDeere.com/SportsTurf</a>
Kromer Company	29	<a href="http://www.kromerco.com">www.kromerco.com</a>
Kubota	2	<a href="http://www.kubota.com">www.kubota.com</a>
PBI Gordon	19	<a href="http://www.GordonsProfessional.com">www.GordonsProfessional.com</a>
Redexim North America, Inc.	5	<a href="http://www.redexim.com">www.redexim.com</a>
Southern Athletic Fields	25	<a href="http://www.safdir.com">www.safdir.com</a>
SportsTurf Managers Association	46	<a href="http://www.stma.org">www.stma.org</a>
Stabilizer Solutions	17	<a href="http://www.stabilizersolutions.com">www.stabilizersolutions.com</a>
STEC Equipment	37	<a href="http://www.steequipment.com">www.steequipment.com</a>
The Toro Company	13	<a href="http://www.toro.com">www.toro.com</a>
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TifSport Growers Association	11	<a href="http://www.tifsport.com">www.tifsport.com</a>
Turfco Manufacturing	21	<a href="http://www.turfco.com">www.turfco.com</a>
TurfTime Equipment, LLC	48	<a href="http://www.TurfTimeEq.com">www.TurfTimeEq.com</a>
World Class Athletic Surfaces	27	<a href="http://www.worldclasspaints.com">www.worldclasspaints.com</a>

# SportsTurf

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# Q&A



BY DR. DAVID MINNER

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## Questions?

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## Too wet, too dry, too bad?

*We have a variety of athletic fields including native soil fields, sand-based fields, and some that have been sand topdressed over native soil for several years. I have started using some wetting agents to help manage dry spots and we are experiencing some benefits. I'm hearing about using them to improve drainage also. How can this be and could you explain how a wetting agent can help when it is too dry and too wet?*

*Joe Wagner, Iowa City Parks and Recreation*

I can usually shoot from the hip on most of my sports turf topics but I'm glad I took the time to research Mr. Wagner's question because newer products have been developed with specific benefits to manage water. The late USGA agronomist Stan Zontek put together a comprehensive review article on wetting agents in 2012 that is really helpful and applies for sports turf managers. In general wetting agents are compounds that help water to spread across or penetrate into the surface of a solid by reducing the surface tension (surfactant) of the water. Soap is a common wetting agent that acts as a surfactant to reduce the surface tension of water allowing it to easily disperse and spread as we wash our hands.

First, ask yourself am I dealing with an anionic or non-anionic wetting agent? Anionic wetting agents have a negative charge and can cause dispersion of clay particles that negatively impacts fine-textured native soils by allowing them to pack tighter. This older type of chemistry was developed in the 1950's and commercially available blends are available as AquaAid, Naiad, Pen-terra, and Prevade.

Nonionic surfactants can be broken down into two general groups. Those also developed in the 1950's POE—Polyoxyethylene (some examples include E-ZWet, FloThru, Injector, PenMaxx, Surfcide, Wet-Sol,

LescoWet), and a newer group of nonionic compounds developed in the 1990's called block co-polymer compounds. The anionic and non-ionic products developed in the 1950's were developed to remedy localized dry spot but they were subject to phytotoxicity depending on the application rate and turfgrass species.

Block co-polymer surfactants are the most commonly used class of wetting agents applied today. They are safer to use on fine turf, reduce water repellency of soil and thatch, and have the unique feature of improving soil water content and plant-available water. Two categories exist in block co-polymer technology. Straight block co-polymers that enhance water movement in the soil and can be helpful in leaching programs include: Brilliance, Capacity, Cascade Plus, Conduit 90, Hydro-Wet, LescoFlo Ultra, Remain, and Sixteen90. Reverse block co-polymers enhance moisture retention in chronically dry soils and are sometimes called "retention-type surfactants." Introduced in 1995 they include: Primer Select, Magnus, ReLoad, Rely II, Respond 3, Retain, TriCure AD, and TriCure Micro.

Blends of the "straight and reverse" block co-polymers have been developed to capture the best of both worlds; correct dry spots and enhance water movement. Commercially available products include Aqueduct, Resurge, and ReWet. Turf managers are always trying to field mix wetting agent/soil surfactant products to achieve rewetting, moisture retention, and moving excess water through the soil profile and this is what leads directly to answer Joe's question. Yes, the technology of wetting agents has advanced in such a way that blended or mixed products use similar water tension forces to reduce hydrophobicity (water repelling) and dry spots while at the same time allowing for better water penetration and movement through soils.

Alkyl Polyglucoside surfactants are another category of water managing products that uses a sugar molecule reacted with a fatty acid to reduce water repellency. Their claim to fame targets improved water availability and enhanced irrigation efficiency. Mixed with straight block co-polymers these products are available as Dispatch Injectable and Sprayable, TournamentReady.

Just when you thought it was safe to come out, here is another twist on these designer compounds. By replacing -OH groups with -CH<sub>3</sub> it creates thinner films of water that attach to the soil particle in a way that keeps it from completely drying out. The film of water allows for faster rewetting and quick penetration into the ground. Obviously this helps with dry spot, but it also helps by reducing puddles from a brief shower. This modified methyl capped block co-polymer is commercially available as Revolution.

Okay, I don't want to know any more about wetting agents. After researching it I know the newer products won't burn my grass, will allow water to penetrate the soil faster, and may improve turf quality through preventing extremely dry or wet conditions. I'm gonna give it a shot but I will keep in mind that while these rather chic components do help manage water they do not turn a slow draining puddly native soil situation into a rapid draining sand base system; it does not make your drainage go from less than an inch an hour to more than 6 inches per hour. They are not substitutions for proper soil mixtures, drainage, and irrigation systems. Using the right combination of wetting agents/surfactants can help you reduce dry spot, use water more efficiently, and at the same time remove excess water from the surface of a playing field. These are all good reasons to try a wetting agent on fields that are too often too wet or too dry. ■