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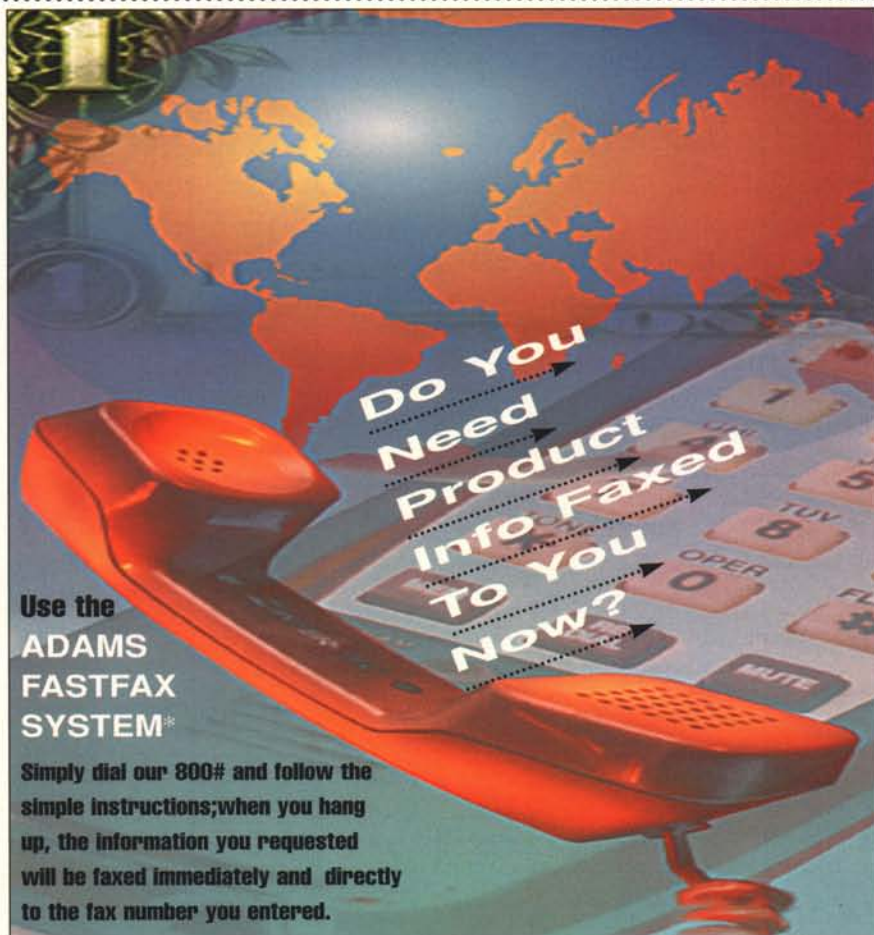
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# Spring Seminar

# A Great Success

by Terry Updike

**M**ay 25, 32 people gathered at the University of Notre Dame for the STMA Indiana Chapter Spring Seminar. Terry Updike officially opened the session, and invited attendees to take part in the day's full schedule.

• Dr. Zach Reicher, professor of turf science at Purdue University, presented information on the effects of Gray Leaf Spot on perennial ryegrass. This potentially devastating problem has impacted broad sections of golf courses and athletic turf across regions of the Northeast and parts of the Midwest. It appears to be spreading into new areas.

Dr. Reicher alerted attendees to its symptoms, and recommended cultural practices to help avoid infesta-

tion and to cope with one if it occurs. He provided information on upcoming turfgrass programs, and fielded questions from the group.

• Janet Kelly, superintendent of grounds for IPFW University of Fort Wayne, described the process of building nine new native-soil soccer fields on the campus this past spring. She explained soil-sampling procedures used to control the make-up of the soil profile and insure field uniformity. She went on to discuss details of installation, seeding, grow-in, and ongoing maintenance. Kelly hopes to have the fields ready for play this fall.

• After lunch in the Notre Dame Stadium Press Box, Athletic Facilities Manager Dale Getz con-

ducted tours of the stadium's football field, one of the lacrosse fields, and the baseball field. The sand-based football field had weathered its first season of play the previous year, and had come through in good shape.

Notre Dame had just been selected to host the NCAA regional baseball competition leading up to the College World Series, so Getz explained the extra steps they were taking to prepare for the weekend games.

• The day's events ended with a demonstration of athletic field painting by Mark Whitlam of Pro-Stripe Athletic Field Paint. Whitlam showed proper operation of a paint machine, how to work with stencils, and how to lay out field lines.

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## Chapter news

**Colorado Chapter:** An August event in Grand Junction and a Sept. 15 Fall Football and Soccer Seminar at Jackie Robinson Field of Lawry Air Force Base are in the planning stages.

For information, call the chapter hotline: (303) 346-8954, or check out the Web site: [www.cstma.org](http://www.cstma.org).

**Iowa Chapter:** ISTMA will again participate in the ITI/IGCSA Benefit Golf Tournament Aug. 30 at the Wakonda Club in Des Moines.

ISTMA members will gather for a tailgate party before attending the ISU/Iowa football game in Ames Sat., Sept. 11.

For information, contact Lori Westrum at the Turf Office: (515) 232-8222, or fax: (515) 232-8228.

**Wisconsin Chapter:** Sept. 14, WSTMA will meet at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Field Supervisor Pete Bemis will conduct a tour of his facility.

For more information, contact Rich Riggs, R. H. Rettler & Associates, Inc.: (715) 341-2633.

**Great Lakes Chapter:** A Fall Field Day at Sylvania Pacesetter Park, 9 am-3 pm, Sept. 14, will feature equipment manufacturers, turf product manufacturers, and speakers.

GLSTMA has introduced a \$250 scholarship program for students pursuing a career in turf. For application materials, call: (419) 885-1982.

In cooperation with Profile Products, GLSTMA will again sponsor Field of the Year awards. Members can obtain application materials at the Web site, or by calling (419) 885-1982.

For general information, contact Joe Zelinko: (800) 897-9714, or Boyd Montgomery: (419) 885-1982, or visit the Web site: <http://members.tri-pod.com/~glstma>.

**Indiana Chapter:** A September event is in the planning stages. More details will be announced soon.

For information, contact Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer: (219) 356-8424, or Pat Hickner: (800) 672-4273.

**KAFMO Chapter:** The Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization will team up with Penn State Cooperative Extension to host four on-field, one-day clinics in western Pennsylvania this fall: Sept. 20, Allegheny College, Meadville; Sept. 21, Cranberry, PA; Sept. 22, Washington, PA; and Sept. 23, Johnston/Altoona. Specific sites will

be announced soon.

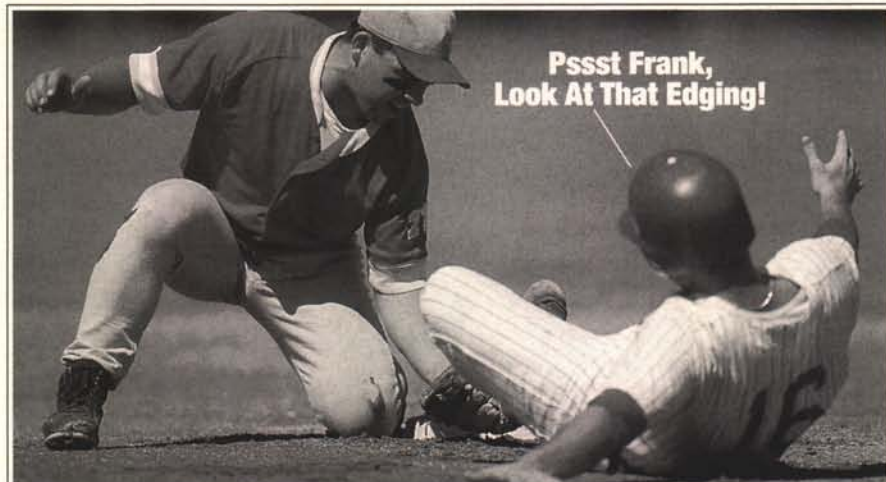
Each clinic will open with registration at 9:30 am, and will wrap up at 2:30 pm. Topics include: communications between ADs, coaches, associations, and parents; development of a turf maintenance program; managing volunteers; managing turf areas of an athletic field; fall renovation tips; and post-game field tips.

For information, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball

Club: (610) 375-8469, ext. 212.

**Florida Chapter #1:** The Florida Chapter will hold its 8th annual Turf Rodeo Sept. 22 at Lake Ida Park in Delray. Events include educational sessions, Bobcat Basketball, and mower relays.

Nov. 19, the Chapter will hold a meeting in Ft. Lauderdale. The meeting will focus on "Sports Turf Equipment Demonstrations for Maintaining Athletic Fields."



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For information, contact John Mascaro: (954) 341-3115.

**MAFMO Chapter:** The Mid-Atlantic Field Managers Organization will hold a Design and Spec Workshop in Annapolis, MD, in late September. Featured speakers will include Don Campbell of French & Assoc., Columbus, GA; and Paul Zwaska, head groundskeeper for the Baltimore Orioles at Camden Yards.

For information, contact the hotline: (410) 290-5652.

**North Texas Chapter:** The Chapter is planning a Sept. 2 meeting. Details will be announced soon.

For information, contact Rene Asprion, Diamond Pro: (800) 228-2987; Tom Welch, CSM, Central Garden and Pet: (800) 788-9581; or visit the Web site: [www.nstma.org](http://www.nstma.org).

**Michigan Chapter:** For information, contact Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools: (616) 395-2364.

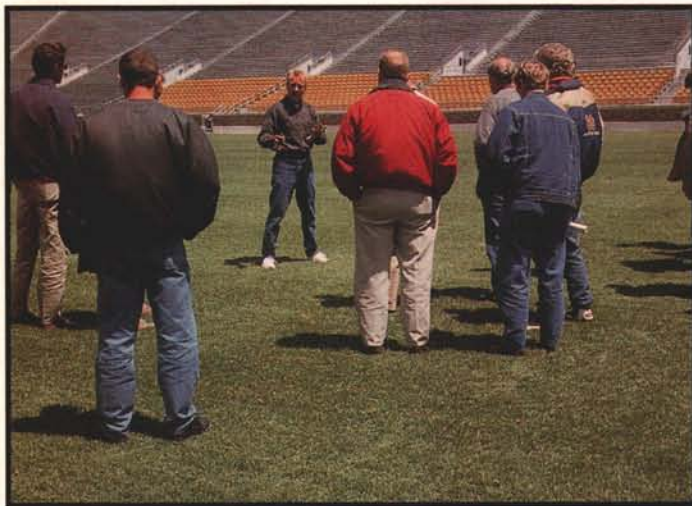
**Midwest Chapter:** For information, call the chap-

ter hotline: (847) 622-3517.

**Mid-South Chapter:** For information, contact Jim Calhoun: (901) 755-1305, or Robert Bodi: (901) 383-2414.

**Minnesota Chapter:** For information, contact Connie Rudolph: (651) 646-1679.

**Nor-Cal Chapter:** Contact Janet Gift: (530) 758-4200.



**Dale Getz conducts tours of the University of Notre Dame athletic facilities.** Courtesy: Terry Updike

**So-Cal Chapter:** Contact the chapter hotline: (888) 578-STMA.

**Tennessee Valley Chapter:** Contact Tom McAfee, Nashville Sounds: (615) 242-4371, or Bob Hogan: (888) 224-6426.

### Chapters on the grow

**Arizona Chapter:** The Chapter will join forces with the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association for a Sept. 8 workshop at Doubletree Resort. The program opens at 8:15 am with a presentation by Dr. Tony Koski of Colorado State University on "Grounds Maintenance - How We Affect Playability." Next, Dr. Jack Handly of Dow Agri Sciences addresses, "The How and Why of Successful Preemergent Chemicals." The agenda also includes the following: Dr. Dean Mosdell of Novartis Crop Protection, "Fertility and Fertilizer Types;" Dr. Chip Howard of Turf Science Inc., "Problems Facing the

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Grounds Manager Today and into the Millennium;" Dr. Tony Koski, "Is That Turf Product Real or Snake Oil;" Arizona Diamondbacks Head Groundskeeper Grant Trenbeath, "The Daily Challenges At A Major League Ballpark;" and Dr. David Kopec of the University of Arizona Karsten Turf Facility, "Successful Overseeding Preparation in the Southwest."

Lunch will be held in the Exhibit Hall, giving attendees the opportunity to visit with vendors.

The Chapter's Annual Meeting will be held 3:30-4:30 pm in conjunction with this event.

Contact Bill Murphy, City of Scottsdale Parks & Recreation Department: (602) 312-7954; or Kris Kircher, City of Chandler Parks & Recreation Department: (602) 786-2728.

**Nevada Chapter:** Contact Ibsen Dow: (702) 649-1551; or Alan Paulson, Clark County School District: (702) 799-8724.



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# Does Tarp Color Matter



**Have questions? Send them to Dave at: ISU, Hort. Dept., Ames, IA 50011.**

by Dr. Dave Minner

*I am doing a science fair project on the effects of colored tarps when they are used to cover grass. Do you have any information on this subject?*

-Andrew Denner

Algona, IA

This is not the first time someone has mentioned tarp color to me. Four years ago, Baltimore Ravens Head Grounds Manager Vince Patterozzi told me he had noticed a difference in turf performance depending on which color tarp he was using. Working with M. Putterman & Company, he arranged to send us several different samples of tarp colors. The study below is what developed from his very astute observation.

## Study

The Putterman Rain Buster athletic field tarps used in this study were designed to keep rain and snow off fields. Respectively constructed of six-ounce polyethylene and 10-ounce vinyl, these tarps are generally placed on the field temporarily and then removed when the rain event ends.

Fields are generally covered for only a few hours, but in some cases a tarp may

be left on the field for three days or longer. Three different studies have been conducted since spring 1998 on a mature stand of Midnight Kentucky bluegrass. The studies pinned five-foot by five-foot tarps of each color to the ground in a randomized block design with three replications.

Tarps placed on April 9 were removed April 24 in study A. Study B placed the tarps on the field November 3 and removed them the following March 23. In study C, tarps placed March 23 were removed April 20.

The studies rated turf color on a scale of 1-10. The darkest green turf earned a 10 rating, while a 1 rating was given to white/brown turf with no green color. A 6 rating reflected the lowest acceptable color.

## Results

Studies A and C were similar because they covered the field only during spring green-up. Study B covered the field during the entire winter, and then removed the tarp just before any green-up or growth occurred.

In each of the studies, tarp color had a dramatic effect on turf color. Yellow, orange, red, and white tarps produced the best turf color. Their ratings ranged between 6.5 and 10. Tarps with these col-

ors generally enhanced turf color when compared to the control.

Tarp colors light blue, blue, and purple produced some yellowing of the turf that made them inferior to tarp colors yellow, orange, red, and white. Tarp colors gray, light-green, dark-green, and black produce the greatest decrease in turf color, and they were considered unacceptable.

It's clear that tarp color affects turf performance. More investigation will be needed to evaluate duration of tarp cover, season of tarp cover, heat load under tarps, potential for disease, sliminess under tarps, and light penetration. But for now, it looks like tarps bearing team colors yellow, orange, white, and red may have an advantage when it comes to growing grass.



*David D. Minner, Ph.D., is an associate professor with the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State University. He serves on STMA's Certification Committee. Send your questions to Dave at: ISU, Hort. Dept., Ames, IA 50011; or call: (515) 294-2751, fax: (515) 294-0730, or e-mail: dminner@iastate.edu.*

**Figure 1. The effect of tarp color on turf color**

|                   | Study A   | Study B  |         | Study C   |
|-------------------|---|--|---------|---|
|                   | Turf covered for 16 consecutive days in April 4-28-98 | Turf covered for 140 consecutive days Nov. to Mar. |         | Turf covered for 29 consecutive days Mar. to Apr. 4-20-99 |
|                   |   | 12-04-98   | 3-23-99 |   |
| Orange            | 7.5   | 9.5  | 9.0     | 8.5   |
| Red               | 6.5   | 8.3  | 9.7     | 8.7   |
| Yellow            | 8.0   | 8.7  | 9.0     | 9.0   |
| White             | 9.0   | 8.0  | 6.0     | 10  |
| Light blue        | 5.0   | 5.0  | 6.0     | 6.0   |
| Blue              | 5.5   | 6.5  | 7.0     | 6.0   |
| Purple            | 5.0   | 5.7  | 5.0     | 4.0   |
| Gray              | 2.0   | 4.0  | 4.0     | 2.5   |
| Light green       | 3.0   | 3.7  | 4.0     | 3.7   |
| Dark green        | 1.0   | 2.7  | 1.0     | 1.0   |
| Black/white       | 1.0   | 3.0  | 1.0     | 1.0   |
| White/black       |   |  | 1.0     | 8.0   |
| Control (no tarp) | 7.5   | 6.0  | 1.0     | 6.3   |



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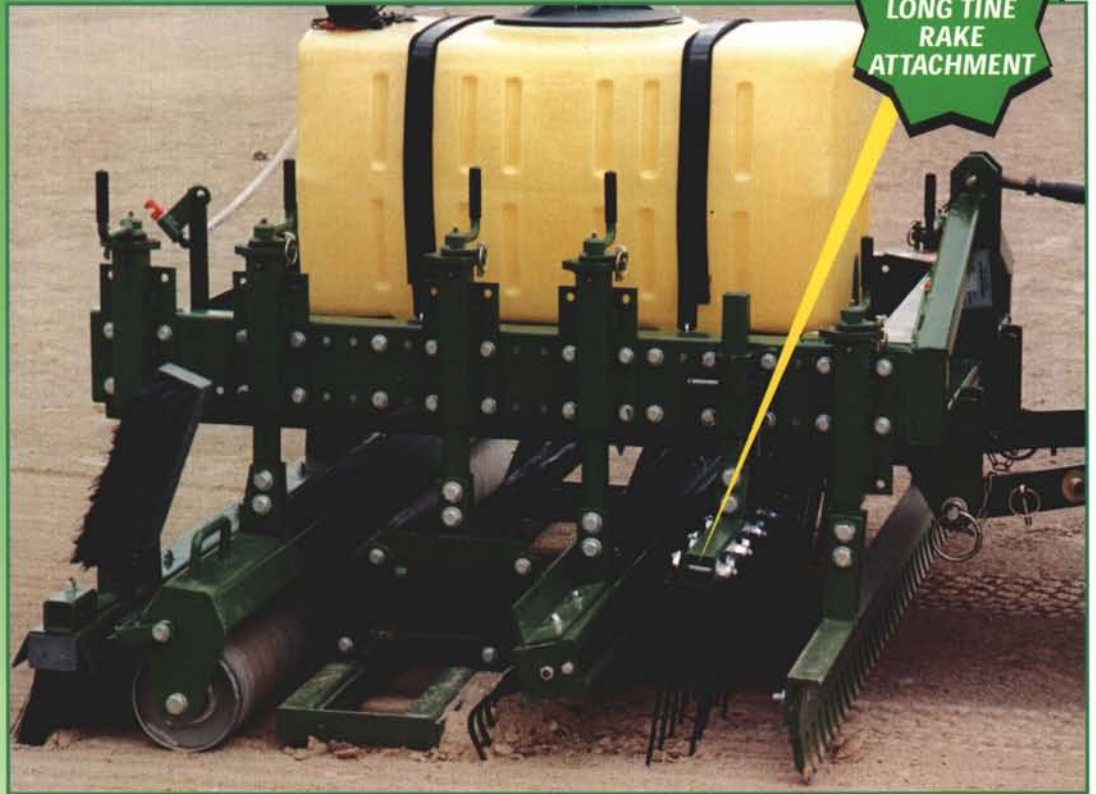
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- ROLLER
- BRUSH

We have added the option of the

- **LONG TINE FLUFF RAKE**



**NEW!  
LONG TINE  
RAKE  
ATTACHMENT**

Now you can fluff up wet ball diamond surfaces and dry them out quickly, then go back and groom the area ready for play. Avoid disappointing game cancellations due to wet conditions.

Use the Fluff Rake to:

- stir in new surface materials and calcined clays to the desired depth
- break through hard crusted surfaces along with the other five standard grooms tools daily.

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