

Opti-Gro
PBI - Gordon Corporation
Regal Chemical Co.
Resource One
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
Soil Technologies Corp.
United Horticultural Supply
W.A. Cleary Chemical Corp.
Western Farm Service
Wilbur-Ellis co.

Traps-Animal, Rodent, Insect

Bird Barrier America
Lesco, Inc.
Resource One
Vandermolen Corp.
Western Farm Service
Wilbur-Ellis co.

Turf Colorants

Andersons Lawn Products, The
Becker-Underwood Inc.
Floratine Products Group, Inc.
Grow More Inc.
Harrell's, Inc.
Lesco, Inc.
Monterey Chemical Co.
Opti-Gro
Partac Peat Corporation
(Beam Clay)
PBI - Gordon
Regal Chemical Co.
Resource One
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
United Horticultural Supply
W.A. Cleary Chemical Corp.
Western Farm Service
Wilbur-Ellis co.
Zekes Paint

Wetting Agents/Soil Penetrants

Aquatrols
Becker-Underwood, Inc.
Finn Corporation
Floratine Products Group, Inc.
Gro-Power, Inc.
Grow More Inc.
Harrell's, Inc.
Kalo, Inc.
Karsten Turf, Inc.
Lebanon Turf Products
Lesco, Inc.
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Monterey Chemical Co.
Opti-Gro/Roots Inc.
PBI - Gordon Corporation
Regal Chemical Co.
Resource One
Scotts Co., The
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
Soil Technologies Corp.
Tri-C Enterprises
Tri-Star Soil, Inc.
United Horticultural Supply
W.A. Cleary Chemical Corp.
Western Farm Service
Wilbur-Ellis co.

Irrigation & Drainage

Aerators-Pond

Aquamaster Fountains & Aerators
Hector Turf
Otterbine Barebo, Inc.
Regal Chemical Co.
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply

Backflow Preventers

Buckner Turf Irrigation

Lesco, Inc.
Nibco Irrigation Systems
Rain Bird Sales, Inc. - Com. Div.
Soil Air Technology
United Green Mark
V.I.T. Products Inc.
Zurn Industries, Inc./Wilkins
Operation

Drainage & Erosion Control/Supplies

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.
Alliza Sports Turf
American Excelsior Company
American Rubber Technology
Cantex Inc.
Colbond Inc.
Contech Construction Products
Diamond Pro
Hancor, Inc.
Huffman SportScape, Inc.
Hummer Sports Turf
Jonathon Green, Inc.
Motz Group, The
Multi Use Designs, Inc.
Nature - Gro Corp.
Normandy Products
North American Green
Sand Channel Greens
Seed Research
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
Synthetic Industries - Construction
Products Div.
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Tri-Star Soil, Inc.
United Green Mark

Electrical Components/Supplies

Buckner by Storm

Lesco, Inc.
United Green Mark

ETo Gauges

Davis Instruments
Hector Turf
Moisture Smart Inc.
Rain Bird Sales, Inc. - Com. Div.
Systematic Irrigation Controls, Inc.

Fertigation/Chemigation Equipment

Flowtronex PSI Ltd.
Kalo, Inc.
Karsten Turf, Inc.
Lake Company
Lesco, Inc.
Toro Company, The
Toro Company, Irrigation Division
Western Farm Service
Yardney Water Management Systems

Filtration Equipment

Conwed Environmental
Filtomat, Inc.
Flowtronex PSI Ltd.
Lake Company
Nibco Irrigation Systems
Orival Water Filters
RGF Environmental Systems Inc.
Spears Manufacturing Company
Synthetic Industries - Construction
Products Div.
United Green Mark
Wilbur-Ellis co.
Yardney Water Management Systems

Flow Meters

Buckner by Storm

PRODUCT SHOWCASE

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Karsten Turf, Inc.
Master Manufacturing Co./KOL, Ltd.
Rain Bird Sales, Inc.
United Green Mark

Irrigation Control Supplies

Buckner by Storm
Hit Products Corp.
Hunter Industries
L.R. Nelson Corporation
Motorola - Irrigation Control Systems
Rain Bird Sales, Inc. - Com. Div.
Rain Master Irrigation
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
Superior Controls Co. Inc.
Toro Company, The
Toro Company, Irrigation Division
United Green Mark

Irrigation System Enclosures

ABI Irrigation
Buckner Turf Irrigation
Hancor, Inc.
Hunter Industries
L.R. Nelson Corporation
Lesco, Inc.
Normandy Products
Rain Bird Sales, Inc. - Com. Div.
Rain Master Irrigation
Rainman/Div. Electrorack Products Co.
United Green Mark
V.I.T. Products Inc.

Moisture Sensors-In Ground

Irrrometer Co., Inc.

Rain Bird Sales, Inc. - Com. Div.
Rain Master Irrigation
Systematic Irrigation Controls, Inc.
United Green Mark

Pipe Fittings & Connectors

ABI Irrigation
Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.
Bowsmith, Inc.
Dura Plastic Products Inc.
Hancor, Inc.
Harco Fittings
Hunter Industries
Nibco Irrigation Systems
Normandy Products
Rain Bird Sales, Inc. - Com. Div.
Soil Air Technology
Spears Manufacturing Company
United Green Mark

Pressure Regulators

Buckner by Storm
Lake Company
Nelson Irrigation Corporation
Nibco Irrigation Systems
Rain Bird Sales, Inc. - Com. Div.
Toro Company Irrigation Division
United Green Mark
Zurn Industries, Inc./Wilkins Operation

Pumping Equipment

ABI Irrigation
Buckner by Storm
Flowtronex PSI Ltd.
Goulds Pumps/ITT Industries
Griswold Controls
Grounds Maintenance Services
Hunter Industries

Hydro Turf Inc.
Kifco Inc.
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Toro Company, The

Rain Gauges/Sensors

Davis Instruments
Hunter Industries
Rain Bird Sales, Inc. - Com. Div.
Systematic Irrigation Controls, Inc.
Toro Company, Irrigation Division
United Green Mark

Reclaimed Water Systems

Hunter Industries
RGF Environmental Systems Inc.
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
United Green Mark
Yardney Water Management Systems

Root Zone Heating Systems

Biotherm Hydronic Inc.
Soil Air Technology
Rehau, Inc.
SubAir Inc.

Sprinkler Heads

Bowsmith, Inc.
Buckner by Storm
Hector Turf
Hit Products Corp.
Hunter Industries
Lesco, Inc.
K-Rain Manufacturing Corp.
L.R. Nelson Corporation
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Nelson Irrigation Corporation
Nibco Irrigation Systems

Rain Bird Sales, Inc. - Com. Div.
Roberts Irrigation Products, Inc.
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
Toro Company, The
Toro Company, Irrigation Division
United Green Mark

Sprinkler Systems-Portable

ABI Irrigation
Buckner by Storm
Calmar Industries
Kifco Inc.

Sprinklers-Big Gun

Calmar Industries

Turf Drainage Systems

Carolina Green Corp.
Colbond Inc.
Hancor, Inc.
Lanco Drainage
Motz Group, The
Sand Channel Greens
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply, Inc.
Soil Air Technology
Southern Turf Nurseries - STN Sports
TLI-Poligras International Inc.
Tri-Star Soil, Inc.

Valves & Valve Components

Buckner by Storm
Dura Plastic Products Inc.
Hector Turf
Hit Products Corp.
Hunter Industries
Karsten Turf, Inc.
L.R. Nelson Corporation
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PRODUCT SHOWCASE

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Save time and money with these patented, poured red polyurethane, permanent outdoor **Pitcher's Mound and Batter's Box Pads**. Great for recreational fields! Bury 2" below surface and eliminate deep holes! Safe, long-lasting and provides the feel of properly packed clay. On-Deck Circles and Fungo Pads also available with non-skid granular surface. Some of the over 200 baseball and softball products available from "Your One-Stop Source for America's leading sports surfaces and supplies."

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 Rain Master Irrigation
 Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
 Spears Manufacturing Company
 Superior Controls Co. Inc.
 Toro Company, Irrigation Division
 United Green Mark
 Zurn Industries, Inc./
 Wilkins Operation

Weather Stations

Buckner by Storm
 Davis Instruments
 Hunter Industries
 Rain Bird Sales, Inc.

Wetting Forks

Sierra Pacific Turf Supply

Seed & Sod

Turf Seed

A-G Sod Farms, Inc. (Corporate)
 Advanta Seeds West, Inc.
 AgriBioTech
 Ampac Seed Company
 Barenbrug USA
 Cascade International Seed Co.
 Ferry-Morse Seed Co.
 FineLawn Research Inc.
 Harrell's, Inc.
 Hydro Turf Inc.
 International Seeds, Inc.
 Jonathon Green Turf Products
 Lebanon Turf Products
 Lesco, Inc.

Medalist America
 Moyer & Son, Inc.
 Opti-Gro
 Pennington Seed Inc.
 Resource One
 Roberts Seed Co.
 S&S Seeds
 Scotts Co., The
 Seed Research
 Sharp Brothers Seed Co.
 Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
 Simplot Turf & Horticulture/
 Jacklin Seed
 Stover Seed Company
 Thomas Brothers Grass
 Tri-Star Soil, Inc.
 Turf Merchants, Inc. - TMI
 Turf Seed Inc.
 United Horticultural Supply
 Western Farm Service
 Wilbur-Ellis co.

Seed-Flower

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 Independent Seeds
 Lesco, Inc.
 Pennington Seed Inc.
 S&S Seeds, Inc.
 United Horticultural Supply

Sod

A-G Sod Farms, Inc. (Corporate)
 AgriBioTech
 Alliza Sports Turf
 Cygnet Turf & Equipment
 Delta BlueGrass Company
 Dura Plastic Products Inc.

Duraturf Service Corp.
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 Greg Norman Turf Co.
 Haverland Turf Farms Inc.
 Independent Seeds
 Magic Carpet Turf Farms
 Nutri-Turf Inc.
 Plant Wise Biostimulant Company
 Seed Research of Oregon
 Select Turf, Inc.
 Southern Turf Nurseries - STN Sports
 Sports Turf Company, Inc.
 Superior Sod
 Thomas Brothers Grass
 Turfgrass America
 Turfgrass Producers International
 West Coast Turf
 Wilbur-Ellis co.

Sportfield Equipment & Supplies

Artificial Turf

GreenTech, Inc.
 M.A.S.A. Inc.
 Motz Group, The
 Novagrass International Inc.
 Partac Peat Corporation
 (Beam Clay)
 Rainbow Turf Products
 Southwest Recreational
 Industries/S.W. Franks Division
 Sportgrass Inc.
 TLI-Poligras International Inc.
 Tomark Sports, Inc.
 Tour True Turf Technologies

Basepath/Infield Mixes

4 Sports Inc.

Alliza Sports Turf
 American Rubber Technology
 Beacon Ballfields
 BSN Sports
 Carolina Green Corp.
 Harrell's, Inc.
 M.A.S.A. Inc.
 Moyer & Son, Inc.
 Partac Peat Corporation
 (Beam Clay)
 Pro's Choice
 S.P.O.R.T.S.
 Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
 Southern Athletic Fields, Inc.
 Southwest Recreational
 Industries/S.W. Franks Division
 Tomark Sports, Inc.
 Tri-Star Soil, Inc.
 Turface/Profile Products
 Van's Enterprises Ltd.

Bases

Beacon Ballfields
 BSN Sports
 CH Driver & Anchor Products
 M.A.S.A. Inc.
 Partac Peat Corporation (Beam Clay)
 Pro's Choice, Inc.
 S.P.O.R.T.S.
 TLI-Poligras International Inc.
 Tomark Sports, Inc.

Basketball Backstops/Hoops

BSN Sports
 Diamond Pro
 Gold Medal Recreational Products
 M.A.S.A. Inc.
 TLI-Poligras International Inc.
 Tomark Sports, Inc.

PRODUCT SHOWCASE

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The Tru Mark Athletic Field Marker is designed for convenience, safety and economy. Uses efficient 12-volt Shurflo pump to deliver field paint at 45 p.s.i. Folding or removable handles for transport or storage. Powder coated finish, zinc plating, and stainless steel fasteners provide maintenance free life.

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Website: stabilizersolutions.com

E-mail: lphubbs@stabilizersolutions.com

Circle 126 on Inquiry Card

Batting Cages/Backstops

Beacon Ballfields/Div.
Lodestar LLC
BSN Sports
Gold Medal Recreational Products
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Markers, Inc.
Partac Peat Corporation
(Beam Clay)
TLI-Poligras International Inc.
Tomark Sports, Inc.

Benches & Seating

Beacon Ballfields
BSN Sports
M.A.S.A. Inc.
TLI-Poligras International Inc.

Court Maintenance Equipment

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Contech Construction Products
M. Putterman & Co., Inc.
Partac Peat Corporation
(Beam Clay)
Pioneer Mfg.
S.P.O.R.T.S.
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
Tomark Sports, Inc.
Van's Enterprises
World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc.

Covers-Turf/Field

Beacon Ballfields
BSN Sports
Contech Construction Products
Cover Sports USA
Covermaster, Inc.
GreenTech, Inc.
Griffolyn, Div. of Reef
Industries, Inc.
Grounds Maintenance Services
M. Putterman & Company
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Partac Peat Corporation
(Beam Clay)
Pioneer Mfg.
PortaFloor
Promats, Inc.
S.P.O.R.T.S.
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
Southern Turf Nurseries -
STN Sports
Southwest Recreational
Industries/S.W. Franks Division
TLI-Poligras International Inc.
Tomark Sports, Inc.
Tri-Star Soil, Inc.
Typar Turf Blankets
World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc.

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Beacon Ballfields
BSN Sports
Columbia Car Inc.
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Markers, Inc.
Milburn's E-Z Right
Partac Peat Corporation
(Beam Clay)
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
Stackhouse Athletic Equipment
Tomark Sports, Inc.

Fencing

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Contech Construction Products
Gold Medal Recreational Products
M. Putterman & Company
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Partac Peat Corporation
(Beam Clay)
S.P.O.R.T.S.
Tomark Sports, Inc.
Van's Enterprises

Field Drying Materials

4 Sports Inc.
Alliza Sports Turf
Andersons Lawn Products, The
Beacon Ballfields
BSN Sports
Diamond Pro
Floratine Products Group, Inc.
Grounds Maintenance Services
Harrell's, Inc.
Lesco, Inc.
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Partac Peat Corporation
(Beam Clay)
Pioneer Mfg.
Pro's Choice, Inc.
S.P.O.R.T.S.
Sand Channel Greens
Southern Athletic Fields, Inc.
Tomark Sports, Inc.
Tri-Star Soil, Inc.
Turface/Profile Products

Field Lines- Permanent

4 Sports Inc.
Beacon Ballfields
BSN Sports
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Markers, Inc.
Novagrass International Inc.
Partac Peat Corporation
(Beam Clay)
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
Southwest Recreational
Industries/S.W. Franks Division
Stackhouse Athletic Equipment
Tomark Sports, Inc.
US Specialty Coatings

Foul Poles

Beacon Ballfields
BSN Sports
CH Driver & Anchor Products
Contech Construction Products
M.A.S.A. Inc.
S.P.O.R.T.S.
Stackhouse Athletic Equipment

Goals & Goal Posts

Beacon Ballfields
BSN Sports
Gold Medal Recreational Products
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Partac Peat Corporation
(Beam Clay)
Pioneer Mfg.
S.P.O.R.T.S.
Stackhouse Athletic Equipment
Tomark Sports, Inc.
US Specialty Coatings

Line Markers/Stripers

Bannerman Ltd.
Beacon Ballfields
Broyhill Co.
BSN Sports
EZ-Liner Industries
Fleet (Line Markers) Limited
Hydro Turf Inc.
Jaydee Equipment Co.
Jiffy Line Stripers
Kromer Co.
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Milburn's E-Z Right
Moyer & Son, Inc.
Newstripe, Inc.
Opti-Gro
Partac Peat Corporation
(Beam Clay)
Pioneer Mfg.
Pro's Choice, Inc.
Revere Products
S.P.O.R.T.S.
Stackhouse Athletic Equipment
Suntec Paint, Inc.

Tomark Sports, Inc.
US Specialty Coatings
Wagner Industries (Tru Mark)
Whitlam Paint Company
World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc.
Zekes Paint

Marking Flags/Pennants/Banners

American Marking Corp.
Beacon Ballfields
Markers, Inc.
Pioneer Mfg.
Regal Chemical Co.
Revere Products
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply, Inc.
Stackhouse Athletic Equipment
Tomark Sports, Inc.
US Specialty Coatings
World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc.

Nets

Beacon Ballfields
Bird Barrier America, Inc.
BSN Sports
Columbia Car Inc.
Gold Medal Recreational Products
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M.A.S.A. Inc.
Markers, Inc.
S.P.O.R.T.S.
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
TLI-Poligras International Inc.
Tomark Sports, Inc.
World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc.

Padding-Backstop/

Railing/Wall
Beacon Ballfields
BSN Sports
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M.A.S.A. Inc.
Partac Peat Corporation
(Beam Clay)
Pioneer Mfg.
Promats, Inc.
S.P.O.R.T.S.
Stackhouse Athletic Equipment
TLI-Poligras International Inc.

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EZ-Liner Industries
Fleet (Line Markers) Limited
Future Supply
Jaydee Equipment Co.
Lesco, Inc.
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Milburn's E-Z Right
Moyer & Son, Inc.
Partac Peat Corporation
(Beam Clay)
Pioneer Mfg.
Pro's Choice, Inc.
Revere Products
S.P.O.R.T.S.
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply
Southdown, Inc.
Stackhouse Athletic Equipment
Suntec Paint, Inc.
Tomark Sports, Inc.
Tri-C Enterprises
US Specialty Coatings
Whitlam Paint Company
World Class Athletic Surfaces
Zekes Paint

Safety Supplies & Equipment

American Marking Corp.
Beacon Ballfields
Bird Barrier America

Diamond ProMoyer & Son, Inc.
Direct Safety Company
Multi Use Designs, Inc.
Palmer Products, Inc.
Rainbow Turf Products
Sierra Pacific Turf Supply, Inc.
Tomark Sports, Inc.
United Horticultural Supply

Scoreboards & Timing Systems

All American Scoreboards, A
Product of Everbrite, Inc.
Beacon Ballfields
BSN Sports
Daktronics, Inc.
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Tomark Sports, Inc.

Stencils

Beacon Ballfields
BSN Sports
Fleet (Line Markers) Limited
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Markers, Inc.
Milburn's E-Z Right
Newstripe, Inc.
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Pioneer Mfg.
Pro's Choice, Inc.
Stackhouse Athletic Equipment
Tomark Sports, Inc.
Whitlam Paint Company
World Class Athletic Surfaces
Zekes Paint

Surfaces & Equipment

Court/Playground
4 Sports Inc.
BSN Sports
Multi Use Designs, Inc.
Novagrass International Inc.
Partac Peat Corporation
(Beam Clay)
PortaFloor
Rainbow Turf Products
Southwest Recreational
Industries/S.W. Franks Division
Surface General
TLI-Poligras International Inc.
World Class Athletic Surfaces, Inc.

Turf Growth Blankets

Covermaster Inc.

Turf & Soil Reinforcement Systems

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American Excelsior Co.
American Rubber Technology
Bird-X Inc.
Carolina Green Corp.
Colbond Inc.
Glenn Rehbein Companies
Grass Road Pavers / Barton Group
GreenTech, Inc.
Hummer Sports Turf
Landscape Products/Grass-Cel
M.A.S.A. Inc.
Motz Group, The
Multi Use Designs, Inc.
Partac Peat Corporation
(Beam Clay)
Pro's Choice, Inc.
Rainbow Turf Products
Southwest Recreational
Industries/S.W. Franks Division
Sportgrass Inc.
Stabilizer Solutions, Inc.
Synthetic Industries - Construction
Products Div.
TLI-Poligras International Inc.
Tomark Sports, Inc.
Turface/Profile Products
Wilbur-Ellis Co.



Application for Membership

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) is an organization of professionals representing all segments of the sports turf industry. Our members work to combine the science of growing turfgrasses and the art of maintaining sports turf to produce playing fields that are both safe and aesthetically pleasing.

STMA provides members with a variety of benefits, including: educational opportunities; support for sports turf research; facilities tours; a national awards program; job hotline; access to the STMA National Conference & Exhibition; complimentary subscriptions to Sports Turf Manager and sportsTURF Magazine; and MUCH more!

If you're serious about the sports turf industry, then it's time to become a member of STMA. Join today!

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 Referred by _____
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Total amount enclosed \$ _____

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Sports Turf Managers Association, PO Box 3480, Omaha, NE 68103-0480

For more information, contact STMA Headquarters at 800/323-3875, 712/366-2669, fax: 712/366-9119 or e-mail: SportsTMgr@aol.com

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Rebecca Nelson

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 (949) 455-1219 (949) 455-0449 (fax)
 rnelson@mail.aip.com

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Deanna Morgan

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 (770) 333-0994 (770) 333-8700 (fax)
 dmorgan@mail.aip.com

IA, IL, MN, WI

Colleen Murphy

Millennium Marketing Group, Ltd.
 306 E. Sunset Dr., Arlington Heights, IL 60004
 (847) 590-1162 (847) 590-1163 (fax)
 cmmurphy@earthlink.net

Jeff Boulden

Group Publisher
 2101 S. Arlington Heights Rd., Suite 150, Arlington Heights, IL 60005
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 (847) 427-2006 (fax)
 jboulden@mail.aip.com

Ellen Norton

Marketing Research Manager
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 (847) 427-2006 (fax)
 enorton@mail.aip.com

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Considering a New Field? Ask Yourself These Questions.

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



by Dr. Dave Minner

1. What is wrong with the field you have? This sounds like a stupid question but actually you are trying to find out what has gone wrong with the current situation and what are the clients expectations. If you don't know what's broken then it is difficult to know how to fix it. Perhaps a new field is not the answer. Does the existing field simply receive too much traffic or is there inadequate personnel and resources to manage a grass field. If you are switching from a synthetic surface to a grass field, be sure that the grass system is suitable for the specific sport and total number of events. See the Q & A's for October 98 and January 99 concerning "how much is too much traffic."

2. How many events are scheduled for the field? If you ask how many games are played on the field then you may grossly underestimate the true level of activity on the field. Instead, ask for the number of events and consider an event to be any game or activity that contributes to the decline of the field. An "event" should include all games and practices, band, physical education classes, concerts, ceremonies, etc. The goal in asking this question is to help the client think about the type and amount of activities proposed for the field. Prioritizing activities on the new field may serve to reduce the total amount of traffic that the field receives. Are there any special events like rock concerts, motor cross, or tractor pull?

3. What are the expectations? Athletic directors, coaches, players, grounds managers, sports commentators and fans all want the same thing—a safe and attractive field that maximizes player performance and fan enjoyment. Let's face it, we're in the entertainment business and the field is the stage. What you need to find out is what are they willing to tolerate when the field begins to decline. Here are two undeniable truths that clients need to know when building fields. Most native soil fields provide a very acceptable surface except when excessively dry or wet. Irrigation can take care of the dry conditions but native soil fields, even those with drains installed, will experience muddy games during heavy rain. Sand-based systems reduce muddy conditions but they usual-

ly have periods of instability when heavily worn or during the first year after construction. Increasing the amount of clay in the root zone mix can increase the stability and growing potential for sand-based fields. This will certainly require soil testing and a rootzone quality control program to achieve the proper soil mixture that maximizes stability yet still allows for adequate drainage. The client should be informed of all the advantages and disadvantages for a particular type of field construction. Materials and workmanship are usually under warranty; however, the performance of the playing surface is usually not an item that can be guaranteed by the contractor.

4. Are there mandatory donations? Find out if there are any donations that are expected to be used in the project to reduce cost. Some examples include sand, topsoil, and gravel; irrigation and drainage equipment; earth moving and grading; and labor of all sorts. Don't compromise on tight specifications with donated items. There should still be a written contract for donated items. Often times when things are donated there is no accountability on materials or scheduling of construction. Cash is the best donation; it always works and is never late.

5. Are there acceptable local materials? Field materials that can vary by geographical location are sand, gravel, topsoil, and sod. To accurately estimate field cost these items must be specified, located, tested, and approved.

6. Funding? Is the funding secure for the project and if so, how much is allocated for field construction. The fund raising strategy may combine several separate parts of a facility; that is, maintenance area, service track, security system, stadium, landscaping, etc., in order to attract large donations. This is a good strategy for fund raising, however, the budget and bid process for the field should be separate from all other facility improvements. You don't want the athletic director forced into making a decision between better soil for the field or remodeling in the press box—the field usually loses.

7. Putting together the team. In most cases the owner will not have the necessary expertise to design and build an athletic field. Consultants, design firms, and construction companies specializing

in sports fields are readily available. Check references to make sure that they actually have experience building fields. Even though the field was built properly, a simple phone call to the current sports field manager can provide a great deal of insight on necessary care and field performance. Do your homework. As the owner be sure that you have an agent looking out specifically for your interests in the field design, construction, and grow-in process.

8. Develop a schedule of events that includes design, bid, construction, grow-in, and all other activities on the field for the first year. Failure to plan is planning to fail. The design phase could take from one to four months to complete. Taking bids and awarding the job can proceed rather quickly, from 15 to 30 days. Thorough development of the field specification will greatly facilitate the bid process. For example, the specifications for rootzone materials and gravel are usually stated in the design document. Different contractors may use different rootzone materials to satisfy the same specification. Because of the competitive bid process an inferior rootzone material may be used even though it meets a specification. It would be better if the owner designates the supplier for the rootzone materials prior to the bid process so that all contractors can bid on the same material rather than just the same specification. A consultant, design company, or design/build construction company can help with this process.

These are some of the considerations when developing a new field. Be sure to assess what you already have and how you want it to be improved. When substantial funds are used to build something new, you certainly expect to see an improvement in the facility. It is an easy process to develop a field that looks nice for the first game, but it is a real accomplishment to build one that plays good through out the season. With proper planning and allocation of resources you can have both.



David D. Minner, PhD, 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 or call: (515) 294-2751, fax: (515) 294-0730, or e-mail: dminner@iastate.edu.

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