

Small CUTs

Power: < 20 hp.

Lift Capacity: < 1,000 lbs.

Attachment Compatibility: Residential-size blades, box scrapers, loaders, mowers, posthole diggers, rotary brooms, and snow blowers.

These 20-horsepower or less models are designed primarily for residential use and light commercial mowing applications. Weekend farmers and other homeowners whose estates are too large for a lawn and garden tractor find CUTs in this power range a good alternative for their gardening, lawn care, and snow-removal needs. For grounds care professionals with relatively light-duty jobs, small CUTs usually fit the bill. A 20-horsepower CUT traveling at a typical speed of four miles per hour with a 60-inch mower attachment takes about nine hours to trim 20 acres of grass.

Mid-Sized CUTs

Power: 20-30 hp.

Lift Capacity: 1,000-1,400 lbs.

Attachment Compatibility: Small commercial-size blades, box scrapers, posthole diggers, rotary brooms, mowers, and snow blowers.

These models are typically used by small-scale landscapers, farmers, contractors, and grounds care managers. They are great for building fences, tilling small gardens, removing sand, and installing lawns. Mid-sized CUTs also do a great job on rough-cut and medium-size mowing jobs. A 30-horsepower model with a six-foot mower traveling at four miles per hour can trim 20 acres in about seven hours. The added horsepower allows operators to handle light commercial snow-removal applications.

Large CUTs

Power: 30-40 hp.

Lift Capacity: 1,600-2,000 lbs.

Attachment Compatibility: Large commercial-size blades, box scrapers, posthole diggers, rotary brooms, snow blowers, and turf aerators.

These models are built to meet the needs of large-scale landscapers, farmers, contractors, golf course superintendents, and grounds care professionals. They are great for trenching pipe lines, leveling small lots and installing commercial lawns. The additional power and narrow dimensions of these models allow them to handle heavier snow-removal attachments. They can clear large institutional areas of snow much more efficiently.

This material originally appeared in Landscape & Irrigation September 1998. Bob Tracinski is business communications manager for John Deere in Raleigh, NC. He is public relations co-chair for the national STMA.

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In the News



MSU Endowment Honors Turfgrass Researcher

James and Harriet Beard are known and respected throughout the U.S. turfgrass development and management arena. Their contributions in education and research helped boost the industry to the success it enjoys today.

Recently, the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Michigan State University (MSU) established an endowment to honor their accomplishments. The money will support students who are pursuing doctorates in turfgrass research and management.

Beard is considered one of the industry's pioneers. He retired in 1992 after 30 years of teaching and research at MSU and Texas A&M. He has written three definitive textbooks on turfgrass research, production, and development.

For information about making a contribution to the James B. and Harriet Beard Endowment Fund, write to James Obear, associate director of development, 101 Agriculture Hall, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824, or call: (517) 432-5179.

Lofts Presents Royalty Check

Lofts Seed recently presented a check for \$3,883.30 to Virginia Polytechnic Institute. The check represented 1997 sales of Georgetown Kentucky bluegrass.

Dr. Richard Schmidt was on hand to accept the royalty check from John Brader, branch manager for Lofts Seed in Maryland. "I look forward to presenting the Lofts Seed royalty check to Dr. Schmidt each fall," said Brader, "Virginia Tech's research and the performance of our varieties in Virginia are very important to Lofts. I am glad our customers put us into a position to give back to Virginia Tech."

Since 1984, Lofts has paid a total of \$41,195.68 to Virginia Polytech for the bluegrass variety.



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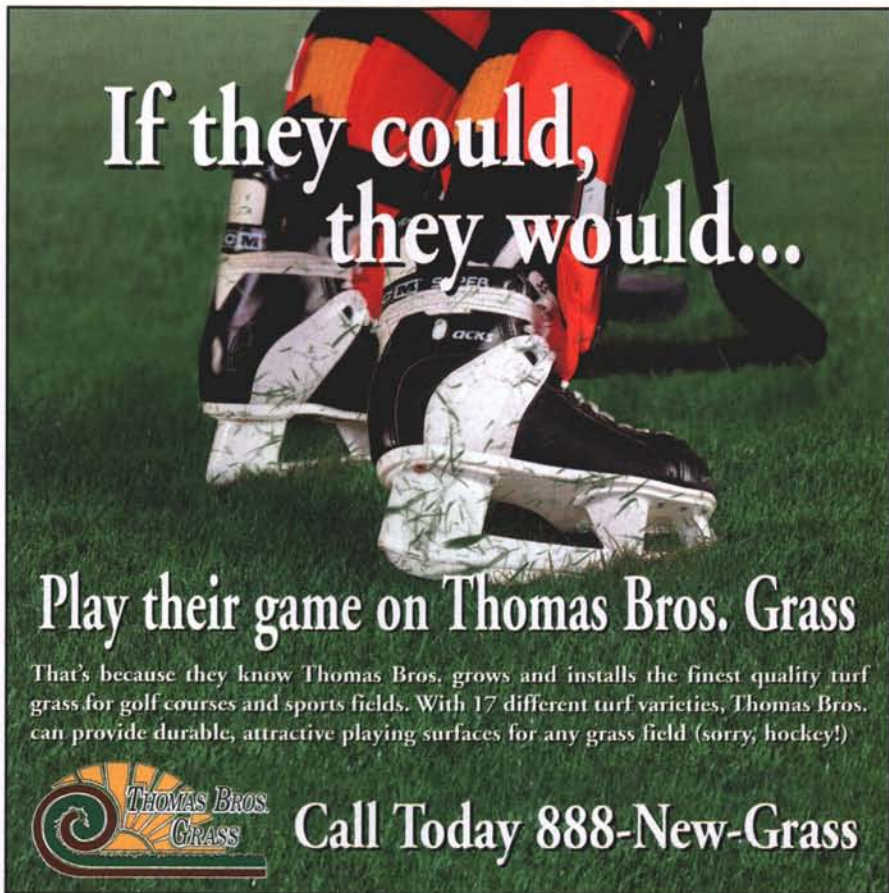


A six-foot, octagonal artificial surface gives a neat appearance and sufficient hitting surface.



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Floyd Perry is author of three books: *The Pictorial Guides to Quality Groundskeeping: I - Covering the Bases; II - There Ain't No Rules; and III - Maintain It Easy, Keep It Safe.* He also produces two videos: *The ABC's of Grounds Maintenance: Vol. 1, Softball; and Vol. 2, Baseball.* For more information, call: (800) 227-9381, or visit his web site: <http://gms.simplenet.com>.



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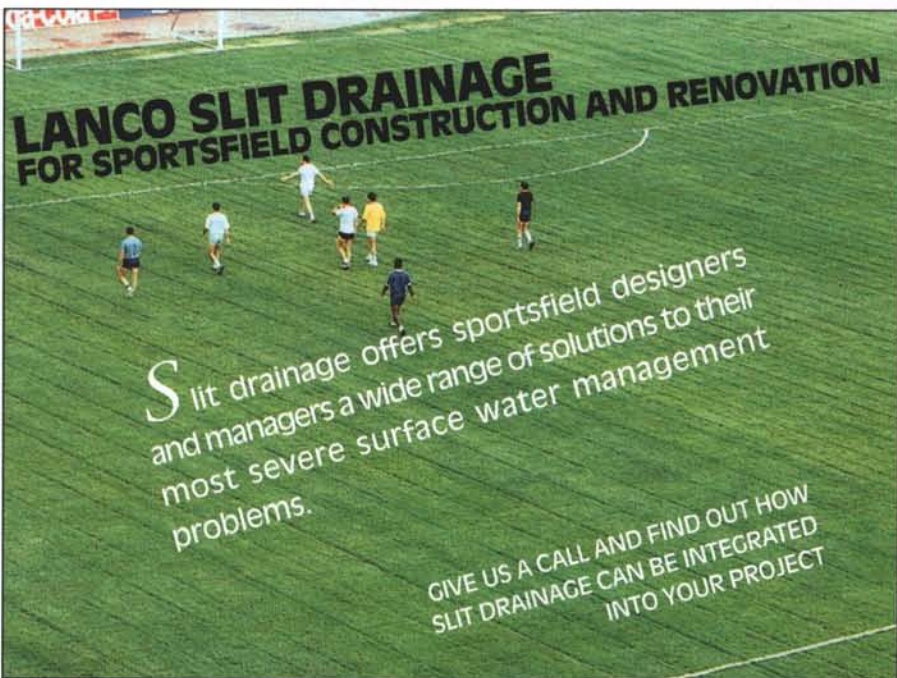
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ADVERTISERS' INDEX

Adams Fertilizer Equipment	35
AerWay/Holland Equipment	34
Aimcor	23
Aquatrols	14
Beacon Ballfields	17
Becker Underwood	11
Befco	26
Cherokee Sanford Brick Co.	39
Covermaster, Inc.	41
Cygnat Turf	27
Delta Bluegrass	47
First Products	37
Goossen Industries	36
Gordon Bannerman LTD.	13
John Deere Company, The	24-25
Lanco	43
Loft's Seed	48
National Mower	40
Partac / Beam Clay	36
Pennington Seed Co.	3
Pro's Choice	17
Roots	15
Southern Laser, Inc.	38
Southern Turf Nurseries	33
Spartan Industries / Tru Mark	39
Thomas Brothers Grass	43
Toro, Commercial Products Div., The	2,5
Turfco	42
West Coast Turf	9
World Class Athletic Surfaces	33



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How much is too much...



Round II

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

by Dr. Dave Minner

Is there an acceptable rest interval between activities/events? Should there be "X" hours of rest between game intervals? This type of parameter would help us the most. It would help us define an acceptable level of rotation that we do not currently have.

— Mark Richwine
Parks and Recreation Administrator
City of Tempe Community Services
Tempe, AZ

Mark's situation is difficult, but typical of intense use and scheduling problems. He oversees the Phoenix metropolitan area, with 51 lighted fields and just as many unlighted fields. Sports consist of soccer, pop Warner football, flag football, softball, Little League, ultimate Frisbee, rugby, NFL air-it-out, and the list goes on.

Many of the fields are just beaten to death. The greatest damage occurs during fall/winter/spring when bermudagrass is dormant. They close many of the fields in summer to renovate and regrow grass, but they deteriorate again by January.

Hot topic

October's question, "How many games can our field take before there is too much damage?" generated an enormous response. Obviously, this topic needs several more rounds of discussion.

I'm still answering your e-mail messages from last month, so be patient. In the mean time, send me your response by filling in your information for the two most-asked questions from October:

• With my current management practices and event schedule, my field will wear out after ___ events.

• With my current management practices and event

schedule, I could maintain a good _____ (soccer, baseball, softball, football, etc.) field condition if I were able to rest the field for _____ days following every _____ events.

Give me your response and look for a tally in a future issue.

It's in the turf

The answer is not with me or any other turf expert. It can be found by periodically rating the field and accurately determining all field activities.

If you don't keep records of field events, send me your best guess and start keeping a written record immediately. It's important to use this information to rate your field performance on a routine schedule. You can determine the point at which your field begins to decline from too much traffic.

Rate your field on a simple scale from one to five. Five represents the best field condition, and one the worst. Have the same person perform the evaluations each time.

Evaluate turf on the most intensely trafficked areas. Your evaluations should be simple and consistent.

Remember, you're customizing the rating system based on your own resources, facility, and level of activity. Be prepared to have your process scrutinized, and be willing to make reasonable

changes in your assessment.

Count your activities in any format that you want, but be consistent. I consider an event any game, practice, or other activity that contributes to compaction, wear, or degradation of the field.

You may not get it all figured out the first year, but this exercise will certainly give you a keen understanding of which activities truly damage your field and when the fields should be rested.

Administrators and user groups will respond to documented field conditions, field activity, and input resources. Once you define field performance based on use activities, you're likely to have more influence over field use scheduling. □

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.

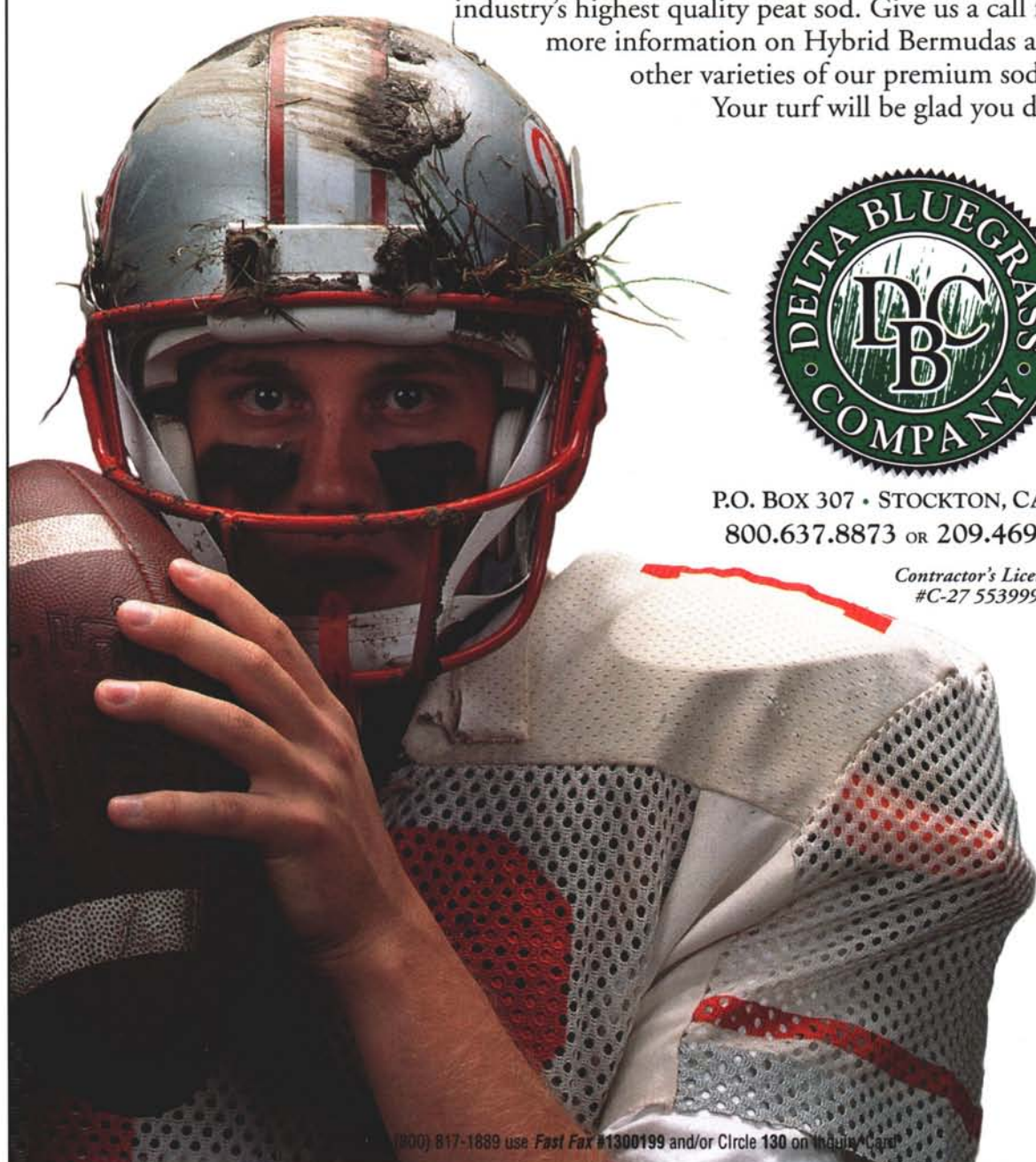
Numeric field rating	% living green turf cover	Overall assessment	Breakthru	Hardness	Softness
5, Best	90-100	Excellent	No breakthru or thatch, mat intact	Good cleat penetration and cushion	Good cleat penetration, stiffness, traction, and fast surface
4	70-89	Good	No breakthru, grass blades and thatch beginning to wear	Good cleat penetration, moderate cushion	Good footing, moderately stiff surface
3	50-69	Fair	Some breakthru, thatch beginning to wear, soil exposed	Adequate cleat penetration, no effect on player performance	Adequate stiffness, no effect on player performance
2	30-49	Poor	Substantial breakthru, thatch/mat worn away, exposed soil	Too hard for falling	Poor grip and little resistance on foot plant, unstable, slow surface
1, Worst	0-29	Not acceptable	Very little vegetation, mostly exposed soil surface	Poor cleat penetration, cleat skating on surface, hard like concrete	Noticeable depressions and foot divots, player leg fatigue, unstable surface

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