

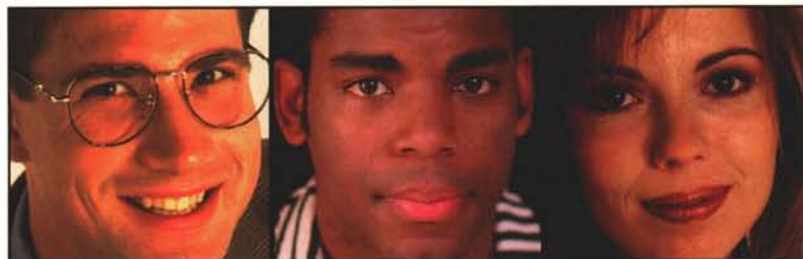
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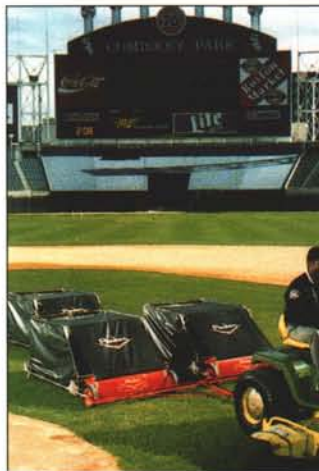
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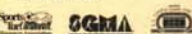
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Application for Membership

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STMA provides members with a variety of benefits, including: Education through regional institutes and conferences; support for sports turf research; facilities tours; a national awards program; access to the STMA National Conference and Exhibition; complimentary subscriptions to Sports Turf Manager and sportsTURF Magazine; and much more.

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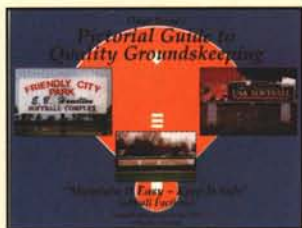
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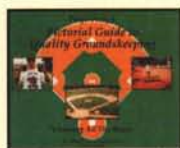
Sports Turf Management Program-Maintenance & Renovation Planning Guide, by Ashman & Associates
This manual was developed to provide a coherent plan for the management of the baseball field playing surface and provides operational guidelines for the grounds crew to use as part of the maintenance plan. Enhances the "playing conditions" of the field by elevating the maintenance standards to the highest level possible. Complete descriptions of the maintenance protocol and identification of key issues to be discussed before starting objective maintenance procedures. This book provides a plan of action outlining the tasks to be completed and benchmarks to measure the progress of the program. 160 pgs.

4024 \$105.00



Maintain It Easy/Keep It Safe, by Grounds Maintenance Services Learn from hundreds of instructional photos featuring all aspects of softball field groundskeeping. Explains: Lip reduction; setting of multiple bases and pitching plates; dragging equipment and patterns; base line options; unique complex ideas; dugout design; batting cage and hitting station; layout; water removal and much more. Unique field ideas from across the country.

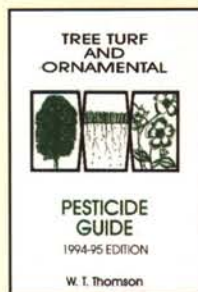
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Pictorial Guides to Quality Groundskeeping Book I and Book II, by Floyd Perry The only textbooks on the market for the grounds supervisor, athletic coach, little league volunteer, or baseball purist. Over 500 photos in each text with many in color. Book One, "Covering All The Bases" (100 pgs) covers Mound and Home Plate Repair; Edging, Dragging, Lip Reduction; Water Removal; Homemade Equipment and Tricks of the Trade. Book Two, "There Ain't No Rules", (108 pgs.) covers Football, Soccer, Softball, Little League, Minor League, College and High School Facilities. Also covers Curbside Appeal; Tricks of the Trade, New Ideas for Easy Maintenance; Professional Research from Higher Learning Centers and much more.

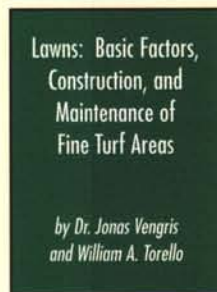
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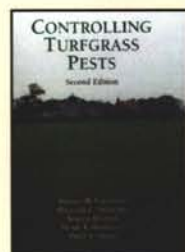
Tree, Turf, and Ornamental Pesticide Guide, by W.T. Tomson This is one of the few references today designed as a guideline to pesticide usage in the specialized ornamental field. It lists the major ornamentals grown either in the home or garden, in nurseries, in greenhouses, or in commercial production with a cross reference as to what pesticide may be used on them. Insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and growth regulators are listed along with what each will control. This is a valuable tool for PCO's, nurserymen, greenhouse operators, grounds superintendents, turf specialists, etc. 200 pgs.

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Lawns: Basic Factors, Construction, and Maintenance of Fine Turf Areas, by Dr. Jonas Vengris and William A. Torello Designed as a textbook or a practical usage manual, this book has been completely brought up-to-date. Care of lawns and turfgrass, from selection of varieties to maintenance of established grass is completely covered. A needed tool for gardeners, nurserymen, county agents, landscape designers, and a text for college turfgrass courses. This is the most up-to-date book on turf management available today. 195 pgs.

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Controlling Turfgrass Pests, by Malcolm C. Shurtleff, Thomas W. Ferman & Roscoe Randell This book is an up-to-date account of the current state of the art and science of turfgrass pest management. It is designed as a comprehensive reference for the professional turfgrass manager which includes golf course superintendents, lawn care company personnel, park and cemetery officials, those responsible for maintaining turf on sports fields, at airports, and along highways, seed and sod growers, and landscapers. 448 pgs.

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by Dr. Dave Minner

My new job is groundskeeper of an 18-acre sports complex. We just completed renovation with an 11-zone automated irrigation system and booster pump. On fields without automatic irrigation, we are using water cannons. What would be the best way to get the fields irrigated outside of having a system professionally designed?

—Bryan Ryan

I certainly advocate automatic irrigation systems for all sports fields. Too many times I hear the comment, "My yard grows just fine, and I only water it once all summer — I don't need a fancy automatic irrigation system." I respond, "Can we schedule football practice in your yard?" This usually ends the conversation.

Even in high-rainfall areas of the United States, an automated irrigation system provides many benefits. Let's face it, we will always have to deal with worn-out sections of fields that need to be re-established. Seed, sod, and sprig establishment require light and frequent irrigation that can only be applied by an automatic system.

We need grass, and we need it fast. Forcing establishment and growth during the short time when the field is not being used requires precise placement of the correct amount of water. Occasional rain may be fine for the home lawn or field crop, but it just doesn't cut it for sports turf.

Watering cannons are often used to help a facility get by until it can purchase an automatic irrigation system. For \$3,000 to \$6,000 you can purchase a single unit that can be moved from field to field to water established grass. A buried service line or booster pump will be needed to supply 70 to

130 psi to the machine. Flow rates range from 50 to 130 gallons per minute.

These units typically require one full day to water a football field, so one unit will usually be needed for every seven fields. They are sufficient for watering established grass, but they don't work very well for the light and frequent watering required to establish grass from seed.

Watering cannons are better than no watering system at all. At least they allow for some turf growth and ground softening during dry conditions. However, your goal should be to install an automatic irrigation system with pop-up sprinklers and a controller.

What's the best way to get fields irrigated without having a system professionally designed?

Proper design is a must with irrigation systems. If you don't know what you're doing, get some help.

On large, complicated jobs, you should have a certified irrigation specialist design your system. Questions that involve water source size, pump size, flow loss from elevation change, and similar issues usually require a design specialist to put together an entire system.

On the other hand, I have completed a number of smaller jobs by using the expertise of companies selling irrigation equipment. Many of the reputable irrigation suppliers provide some design expertise. Their irrigation literature will have several schematic drawings for specific irrigation layout of all types of sports fields.

As the field manager, you will certainly want to customize the system to fit your needs. Here's how I customize

a football field layout:

1) I don't place any heads in the center of the field; that's where they rut it out.


2) I zone a block system to match traffic patterns, i.e. special zones for the field center and bench areas.

3) I prefer Hunter I-42 fast rotor heads for syringe cycle on seedling turf in wear areas.

4) I maintain a direct line of sight between the field and the controller.

The designer will need a few other pieces of information, like pipe size at tap on location, flow rate gpm, and water pressure psi. From this information, the irrigation supplier/designer can come up with the materials list and system layout.

Irrigation companies are very competitive. Those with a good reputation will not only supply quality equipment, they will also help design small projects at minimal or no cost.

Even if you're going to install the system yourself, you'll need an irrigation plan and parts list. Let the irrigation supplier provide this service. And don't forget to appreciate good service when the next job rolls around. 

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.

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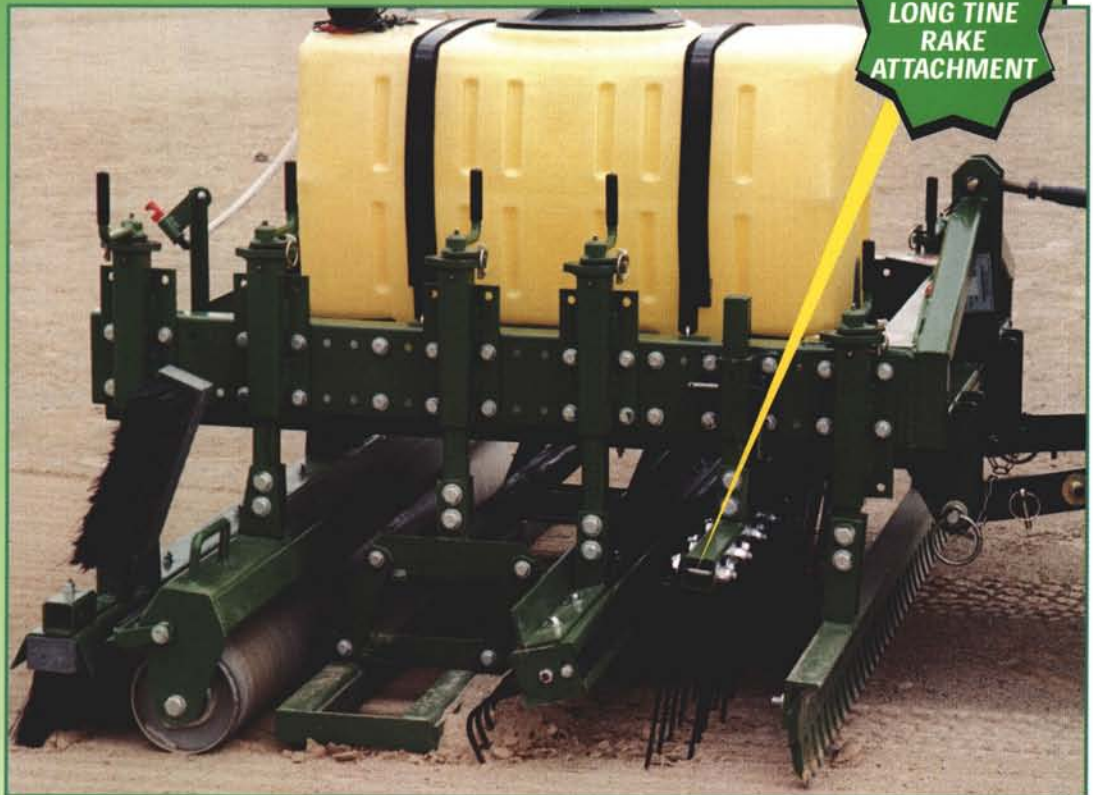
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