



Stencil example.

Courtesy: Steve Wightman

container (usually a five-gallon bucket), and sends it through a special hose to a triggered gun for application. Air pressure can be regulated for large, fast applications or small, intricate applications. The gun's spray tip can also be adjusted to suit the size and speed of the job. For small areas, such as lines and numbers, a template should be used to prevent any overspray.

- **Striping machines** can create lines without templates. They are fairly fast and convenient for basic line painting. However, the quality is generally less than that of a line created with a template.

Some striping machines supply paint through a pumping system, and others use a pure pressure generated by a pressure pot system. Both allow users to adjust pressure.

The machines can be either self-propelled or push-type. Some come with a spray gun attachment for painting numbers and logos.

- **Small-capacity hand-pump sprayers** are effective for small jobs, such as logos and touch-ups. They require very little pressure.

Each type of machine should be thoroughly cleaned and flushed after each use. It's important to clean all components, including the pumps, filters, hoses, guns, and spray tips.

At the end of an entire paint job, protect the inside housing of your pump and hose by running a special oil through the machine. Contact your local paint equipment supplier to obtain the proper oil.

Tools

You can paint a field without having access to all of the tools mentioned here, but they make the job a lot easier:

- **Stringline:** Your stringline should be strong enough to stretch tight to make a straight line. #18 mason-line works well. Two to four 400-foot lengths for the long lines and three to five 200-foot lengths for the cross lines will allow you to always have a stringline in position while another is being moved to the next location.

- **Roll-up reels:** Each string should have a roll-up reel that is marked with length. These will save you hours of untangling and cutting knotted-up line. You can find them at your local hardware store.

- **Six-inch nails:** These hold the stings in place tem-

Product Showcase

Green Lawnger™ green turf paint



Green Lawnger™ from Becker-Underwood is the professional way to restore the natural appearance to turf which is dormant, damaged, or discolored due to fertilizer burn or other such problems. It is ideal for sports turf, golf course greens, tees and fairways, commercial and residential lawns...any place where healthy-looking turf is required.

Becker-Underwood, Inc.

801-Dayton Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50010
(800) 232-5907 • (515) 232-5907

Circle 106 on Inquiry Card

For Everything Between the Lines

field protection
water removal
batter's box solutions
soil additives
grooming tools
standard bases
protective bases
double first bases
pitchers & home plates
base accessories
baiting cages & tunnels
pitching mounds

practice mats
backstops
practice protection
field maintenance
dry line markers
field layout
paint & markers
paint strippers
fencing
scoreboards & racks
pads & nets
storage lockers



Call for a FREE catalog
1-800-747-5985
FAX: 608-836-0724



Beacon highlight of the month at www.ballfields.com

Portable Pitching Mounds

Circle 107 on Inquiry Card



Splashboards help create endzone decorations.

Courtesy: Steve Wightman

porarily when you're marking various locations. You'll need 25 to 50 nails to complete a full painting task.

- **Hammers:** Have one or two hammers handy for hammering the nails into the ground. Have one at either end of the field and you'll avoid a lot of running back and forth.

- **Templates:** These are manufactured replicas of objects to be created on the field. Templates with both four- and eight-inch

widths will help you paint lines, numbers, arrows, and hash marks.

- **Splashboards:** Splashboards prevent overspray between colors to create a sharp boarder. Large, rigid splashboards help create straight lines; while thinner, more flexible boards (bender boards) help you paint curves.

- **Stencils:** Usually made from polyethylene plastic sheeting or visqueen, stencils help create logos and decorations that give any field a professional look.

- **Rags:** You'll need rags to wipe off the templates and equipment, and to fix any mistakes on the spot. Keep plenty of rags available, and have a bucket of warm water on hand for those inadvertent errors.

- **Water hose:** You'll need water to mix the paint.

- **Electric drill:** With a paint-mixing bit and an extension cord, these make life a lot easier.

- **Five-gallon buckets:** Keep two or three clean spare buckets on hand for diluting and transporting paint. Additional buckets will become available as painting progresses.



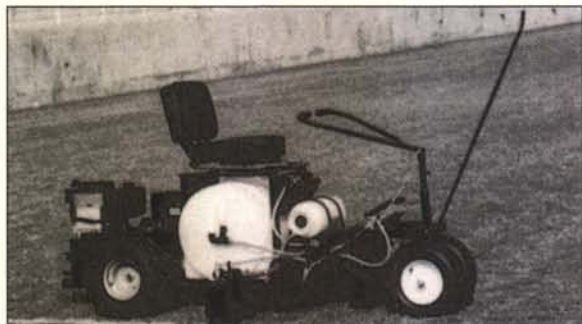
Pressure pot striping machine.

Courtesy: Steve Wightman

A well-painted field enhances the overall appeal of your facility. It shows that you care enough to go the extra mile. Good luck with your next masterpiece!

Steve Wightman is turf manager for Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, CA.

Jaydee Drive Liner

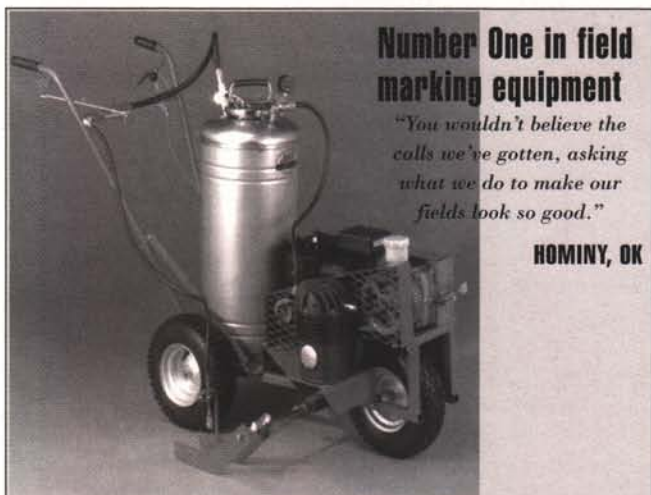


The Jaydee Drive Liner is a self-propelled riding line marker. The 35-gallon paint tank carries enough marking material for a complete game field, or several practice fields. The 2-gallon flush tank cleans the discharge lines for work breaks, travel, or overnight. The center or side-mark spray shields are always operator-visible. A nearly zero turning radius reduces or eliminates back and turn maneuvers.

Jaydee Equipment Company

202 East Joliet Highway, Box 278
New Lenox, IL 60451-0278
TOLL FREE: 1-800-443-3268

Circle 108 on Inquiry Card



Number One in field marking equipment

"You wouldn't believe the calls we've gotten, asking what we do to make our fields look so good."

HOMINY, OK

Model 8000, self-propelled

Outstanding features:

- 38 years of service.
- Stainless steel tanks, heavy-duty welded frames
- Large pneumatic wheels
- Same day order processing
- Equipment guaranteed

Manufactured by
Laurie Carlson & Assoc., LTD
P.O. Box 35, Waunakee, WI 53597
(608) 849-4770 or 849-5166

Call 1-800-844-5002



Circle 109 on Inquiry Card

From Turf-Seed, Inc.

Tall Fescues

Wear-resistant wonder grass for home lawns, parks, athletic fields, golf course roughs and roadsides in sun or shade

Confederate blend

For use on home lawns and sod farms in the south. Formulated to resist pressures of high heat, humidity and high nighttime temperatures.

Mowless blend

Ideal for sod farms, golf course roughs and home lawns in the north. Includes lower-growing, dark, dense varieties that reduce clipping removal and fertilizer costs!

Triathalawn blend

Wear-resistant turf for parks and athletic fields! A blend of Tomahawk, Eldorado and other intermediate types to provide dense, high traffic tolerant turf.

Apache II

Lower-growing, dark green variety with improved disease resistance and good summer performance in the east.

Coronado

A dark green, moderately low growing cultivar with improved summer performance due to its excellent drought tolerance.

Coronado Gold

Combines the excellent turf quality of Coronado with improved brown patch tolerance.

Endeavor

Brown patch resistant. Medium dark green color. Good turf quality with excellent summer performance.

Matador

Very dwarf growth habit and dark green color for use in arid regions. A component of MowLess.

Olympic Gold

Improved turf quality over Olympic II. Brown Patch resistant. Good traffic tolerance.

Pure Gold

Pure Gold, tested as PST-5DU, was selected specifically for glyphosate tolerance, a characteristic useful for producing weed-free commercial sod and turf. Dark green color. Widely adapted. Dwarf, low-growing turf-type tall fescue.

Safari

A dark-green variety with improved Brown Patch resistance and summer performance due to inherent drought tolerance. Ideal for sod production, home lawns and inclusion in blends.

Tar Heel

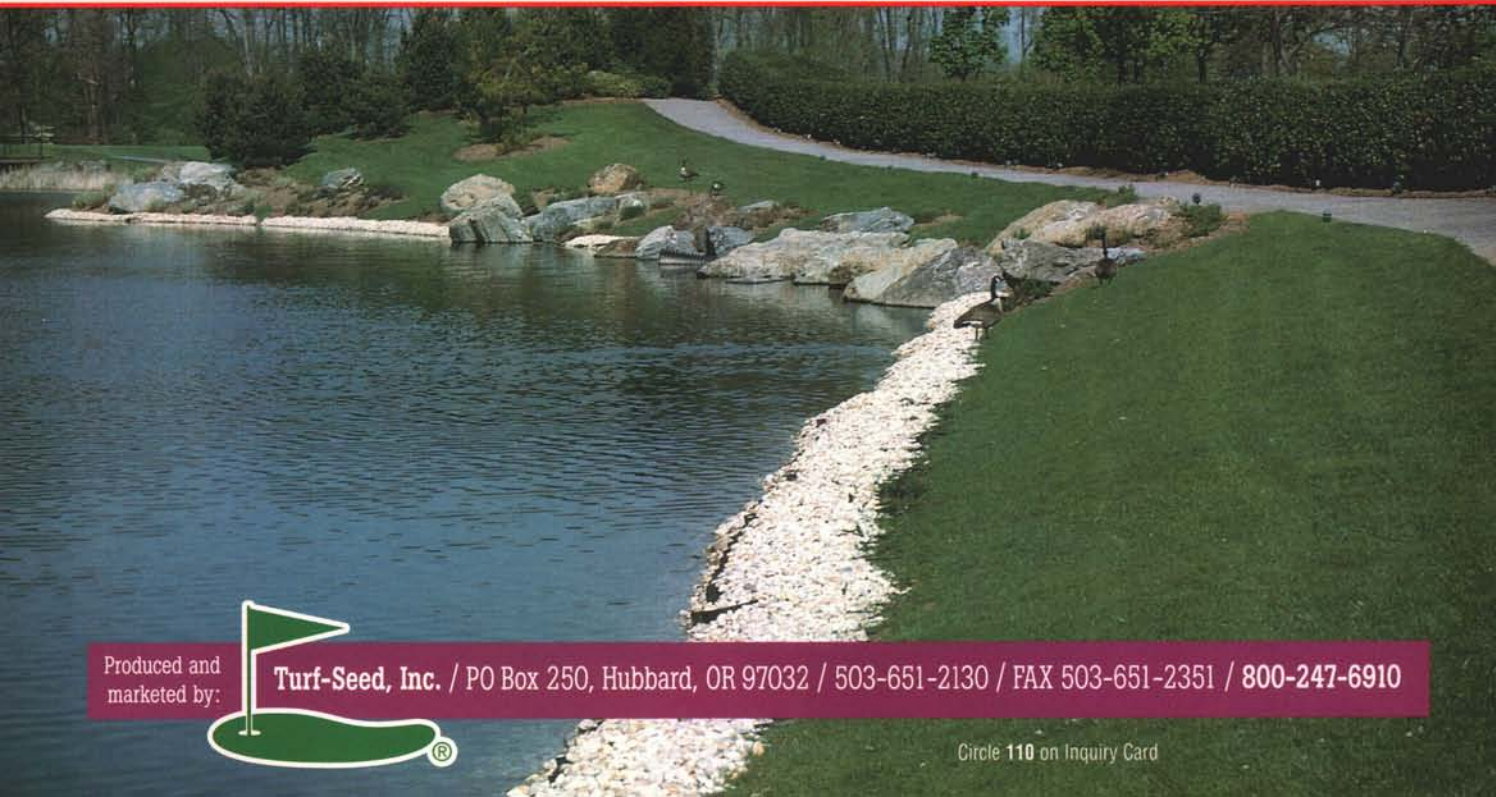
Unprecedented Brown Patch resistance for southeast lawns and landscapes. Contains endophyte for insect resistance. An excellent addition to Confederate brand blend.

Tomahawk

Low-growing, dark green variety with good heat and drought tolerance.

Wolfpack

Upright, dense growth habit make Wolfpack ideal for sod farms and home lawns in the south. Has excellent brown patch tolerance.



Produced and marketed by:



Turf-Seed, Inc. / PO Box 250, Hubbard, OR 97032 / 503-651-2130 / FAX 503-651-2351 / 800-247-6910

Circle 110 on Inquiry Card

YOU HAVE A GREAT TEAM.



Of course you want the most playable field. A field that is perfectly smooth, with just the right firmness, without infield ridges or compaction, that plays great and looks great. With conditions applauded by your players, their coaches, officials - and spectators, as well. Maybe it's time for you to team up with Smithco to make your field one of the best in your league.

NOW HAVE A GREAT FIELD.

Our Super Star AFC Field Conditioner. The latest addition to our family of great sports field maintenance equipment. It is hydraulically controlled all the way - power system, braking, all of its implements. Choose from two-wheel or three-wheel drive. Its high performance, quiet, air-cooled gasoline engine requires little maintenance and our "step-through" chassis design is an exclusive feature. Only from Smithco.



SUPER STAR AFC
Field conditioner



SUPREME AFC
Field Conditioner

Our Supreme AFC Field Conditioner. Here is the field conditioner which gives you a choice of either liquid-cooled or air-cooled gasoline engines - and features two-wheel or three-wheel drive selective at its operator's option. Hydraulic systems control its power, braking and implement lift/lower. Only from Smithco.

Our Super Rake AFC Field Conditioner.

One of the most popular conditioners of all for sports field maintenance. It is available in four different models, offering either two-wheel or three-wheel drive and air-cooled gasoline or water-cooled diesel engines - all with hydraulic power for smooth, reliable performance. Only from Smithco.



SUPER RAKE AFC
Field Conditioner

Look At These Special Features. Our patented "Speed Boss" system that controls conditioning speed to your selective level ■ center-mounted infield scarifier ■ automotive-type power steering ■ tilt steering wheel ■ high-backed, adjustable seats for operator safety and comfort ■ and the biggest variety of optional implements for conditioning and maintaining every type of sports field

Your Smithco distributor knows what it takes to make your field a winner. Ask for a demo. Seeing is believing.

ALWAYS OUT FRONT
SMITHCO
WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA 19087
www.smithco.com

Lantana Sports Complex Field #1

STMA/Beam Clay/sportsTURF 1998 Municipal Baseball Diamond of the Year



Courtesy: Lantana Sports Complex

Lantana Sports Complex in Lantana, FL, earned top ranking in judging for the STMA/Beam Clay/sportsTURF 1998 Municipal Baseball Diamond of the Year for its appropriately named Field #1. The 380-foot baseball field is the pride of a facility that includes a 300-foot, skimmed, multi-purpose baseball field; a regulation soccer field; a T-ball field; three Little League fields; and two basketball courts.

Award-winning crew

Sports Complex Director Dan Reidy's crew is made up of Maintenance Foreman Anthony Chapman, and Crew Members Arnaldo Aponte and Charles Pagan. Rookie Steve Jacaruso recently joined the team.

Reidy explains, "We took a group of people who had experience in other forms of landscape maintenance, but not much experience in athletic turf, and started a four-month program of intensive learning. I'd worked for a while on a golf course in New York, but that didn't help much with Florida turf or baseball clay."

"We attended sports turf seminars, and drew on the expertise of such industry pros as Floyd Perry, Murray Cook, Alan Sigwardt, John Mascaro, and renowned area turfgrass educator, Joe Konwinski.

"We tapped into the resources of the Sports Turf Managers Association, and we worked gratis at a number of facilities, exchanging our labor for the opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of

EVERGREEN THE PROVEN TURF GROWTH BLANKET

- Earlier spring green-up
- Faster seed germination
- Deeper root development
- Delays dormancy in fall
- Ideal winter blanket
- Best for quick turf repairs
- Available in any size
- Longest lasting - 7 year warranty



CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-387-5808
FOR SAMPLES AND LITERATURE

COVERMASTER™
COVERMASTER
COVERMASTER
MASTERS IN THE ART OF SPORTS SURFACE COVERS

30
YEARS
1969-1999

MEMBER
Sports Turf Managers Association

Visit our Website!

WEB: www.covermaster.net
E-MAIL: info@covermaster.net

Turf Management Made Easier!



Easy to install



Anchor pegs supplied



Deeper root development



Any size cover

COVERMASTER INC., 100 WESTMORE DR., 11-D, REXDALE, ON, M9V 5C3 TEL 416-745-1811 FAX 416-74-COVER (742-6837)

Circle 112 on Inquiry Card



Courtesy: Lantana Sports Complex

their programs and procedures. We learned who did what, when, and how, and what equipment they used, so we could be prepared not only to take on the maintenance of the sports complex, but also to purchase what we needed to handle that maintenance."

Forman Chapman stresses the importance of continuing education and team unity: "We're all continuing to read everything we can on sports turf and taking advantage of as many seminars and training sessions as possible. We're all committed to making this facility the best it can be."

Field #1

The basic composition of the entire site is "sugar sand." The very-fine, native sandy soil is typical in pockets of the southeast coast of Florida, and it provides excellent natural drainage. "It sucks down water as fast as we can put it on or the rains can deliver it," says Reidy.

This drainage comes at a cost of great instability. Reidy explains, "The fields were laser leveled during construction, and were sprigged with Tifton 419 Bermudagrass in 1996. Then the challenge of developing them into quality playing surfaces began.

"The sprigging machines, each piece of maintenance equipment, and even each footstep left its mark. It took a lot of time for the sprigs to grow together, despite our aggressive program of topdressing with an 80-percent sand / 20-percent peat mix, and rolling, irrigation, and fertilization."

Irrigation

When the Town of Lantana acquired the site from the state for development, the original well was part of the package. It hadn't been used for 30 years, and lurking within its water was iron bacteria that "wrecked havoc with all the irrigation valves, solenoids, and heads," says Reidy.

"It built up 1/2 inch thick in the pipe of the main irrigation lines and filtered throughout the system. It required removal of some of the pipe and nearly constant removal and cleaning of the heads, and replacement when the build-

up was too bad to clean again.

"It also meant a continual battle with dry spots due to irrigation pattern problems. A head would appear to be functioning adequately, but the rotation was not exact, so water delivery was uneven.

"A full well rehabilitation was undertaken in an attempt to solve the problem and had some success. In late March of 1999, a chemical injection system was installed that delivers polyphosphate into the system to suspend the iron and allow it to move through the heads and be dispersed with the water. There's not enough on-site history with this process to date to judge its effectiveness, but we're optimistic."

Even if the process works perfectly, every day will still bring an irrigation challenge. Chapman says, "We're one mile from the beach, so we get the full impact of ever-shifting winds. There's no consistent direction or even sequence of directions that would let us adjust our irrigation system to avoid wet and dry patterns. The only thing we can count on is that the wind will blow hard in some direction."

The outfield's automatic system consists of 38 Hunter I-40 heads in three zones. Seventeen I-20 heads irrigate the infield. A manual valve is used for the clay, and the infield turf is part of the automatic system.

Quick couplers are also available for

spot irrigation. The normal irrigation schedule is a 30-minute cycle daily during the hottest months, and a 40-minute cycle every other day during cooler months. The crew usually waters the infield clay lightly for 10 minutes once a day.

Lighting

Field #1's exceptionally well-designed lighting system consists of 62 Musco luminaries. Reidy says, "Containment of the lighting was essential, since the complex is located at the transition zone of business and residential development, directly adjacent to a busy, four-lane roadway on one side and the hospital on the other side.

"Shielding has been installed to further direct the light and virtually eliminate any spill-over that could cause problems for passing motorists or disturb hospital patients or area residents."

IPM

During grow-in and the tough first season, the fields contained enough weeds to "conduct a college-level weed identification class," notes Chapman. "You name it, we probably had it.

"Our IPM program at that point included aggressive spraying. Now we pull or spot spray if any weeds pop up.

success never wears old.

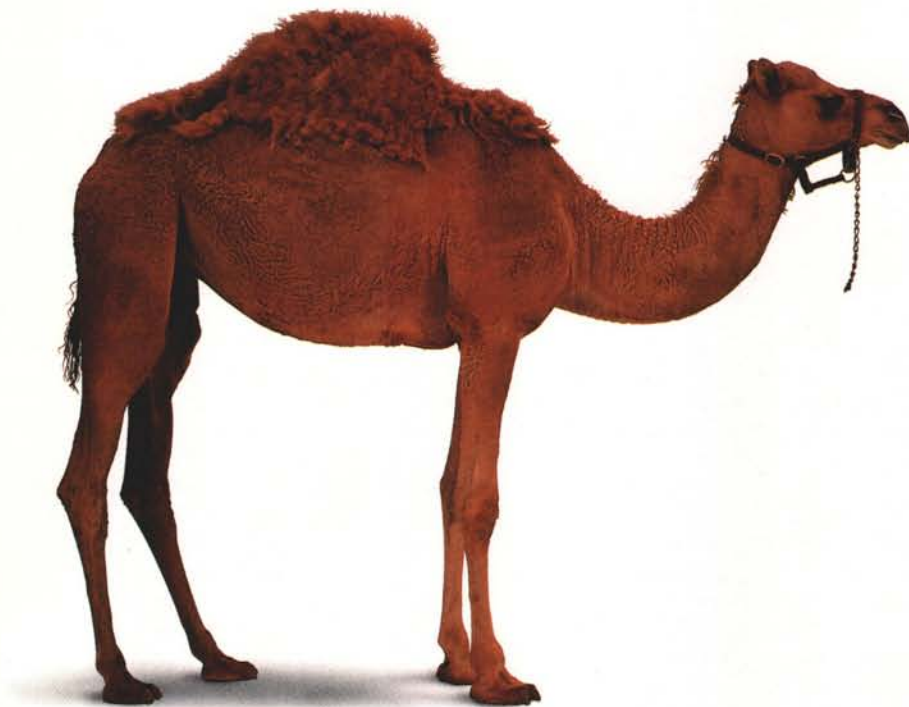
High school football is about pride. Every game is a hard-fought battle. Hard on the field too. Heavy usage tears up grass and exposes soil to create uneven playing surfaces—exactly the problem facing one large high school before it switched to Opti-Gro.

After just a few months of off-season treatment with Opti-Gro soil penetrants, wetting agents and fertilizers, the field was in prime game-shape. And now, several years later, Opti-Gro products maintain this healthy, durable turf all the way to the roots, keeping it ready for the proud teams of the future. Even playing fields—more proof that the grass is greener on the Opti-Gro side.

Opti-Gro
Growing Results

Find out what kind of shape your field is in.
Call for a FREE soil analysis call 1-800-527-9919, Ext. 6791

Circle 113 on Inquiry Card



Goes hours and hours between stops

The New F735 Diesel

We're always restless to make something better. That's how the new F735 Diesel Mower got its start. The latest in a long line of proven front mowers, it makes the long-term reliability, rugged construction, and fuel efficiency of a diesel front mower extremely

affordable. Like all John Deere front mowers, the F735 rivals the trimming ability of zero-turning-radius mowers — yet offers far greater stability and performance on uneven terrain and hillsides. It adapts to the landscape better in other ways as well. On-the-go weight transfer shifts weight to the