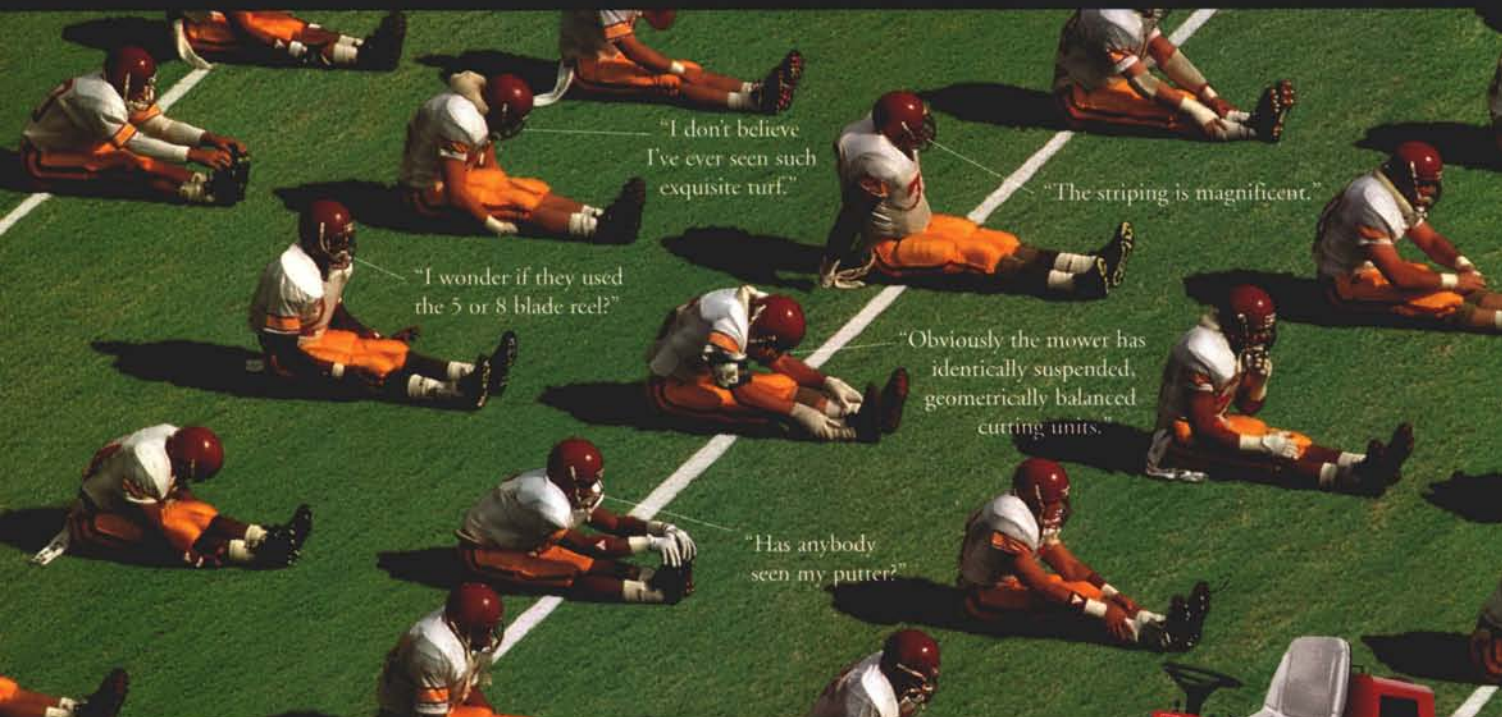


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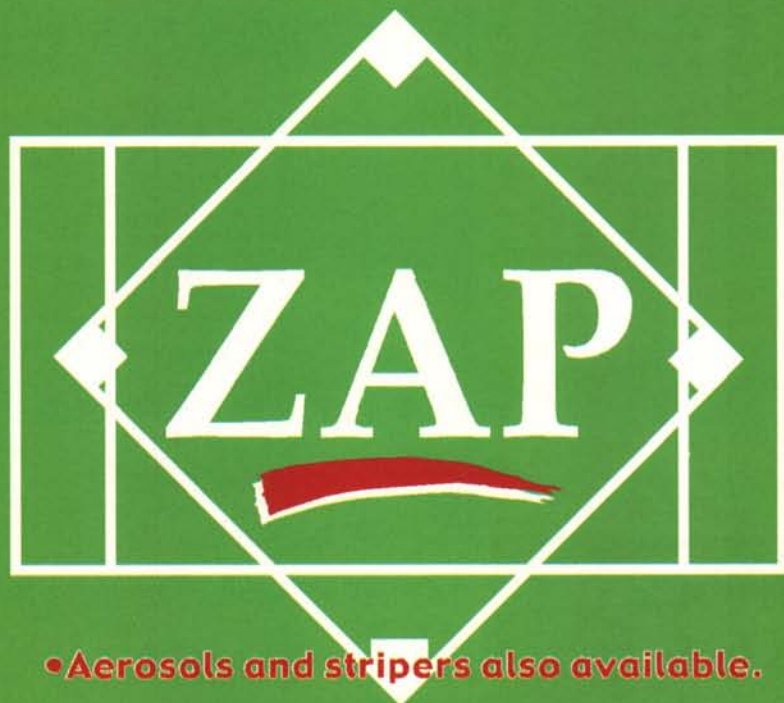
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PROGRAM

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 5

MAY 1999

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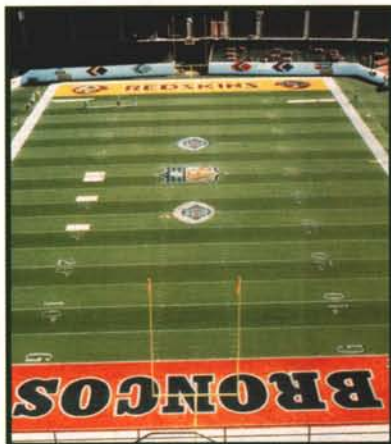
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On the Cover:



Superbowl grounds crew veteran Steve Wightman provides painting tips in "Paint Like the Pros." Courtesy: Steve Wightman

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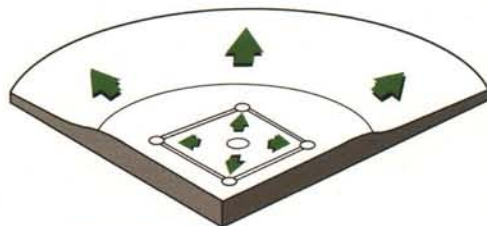
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Comprehensive Green Industry Web Site

I've been doing a lot of traveling during the past few weeks to a number of industry trade shows. In addition to seeing old friends and making new ones, I've been attending general business seminars. An underlying theme has been the implications of technology: electronic commerce, the Internet, and the Y2K issue, to name a few.

Let me tell you, if you haven't taken a serious look at these issues, you better start today. If you don't take immediate action, you'll be left behind and your business will be negatively affected.

Here at Adams Business Media and within our Horticulture Group, we're accepting and embracing technological improvements — especially with our Web site.

Many of you have already visited our site. For those of you who aren't familiar with the Internet's comprehensive Green Industry Web site, you're missing out on an educational adventure.

Turn your computer on, get connected to the Internet, and dial up the following address: <http://www.sportsturfonline.com>. Don't be afraid; it won't bite. Our site serves landscape, irrigation, turfgrass, and tree care professionals. You'll be amazed at what you'll discover.

Let me whet your appetite.

Publications: www.sportsturfonline.com gives you access to the entire line of horticulture magazines published by Adams Business Media: *Arbor Age*, *California Fairways*, *Irrigation Journal*, *Landscape Design*, *Landscape & Irrigation*, *Outdoor Power Equipment (OPE)*, and *sportsTURF*. Each magazine's site is updated monthly and allows you access to the current issue.

Archives: Our site gives you access to back issues of all of our magazines, and our archives are easy to use. If you've misplaced an issue, or you want to find previously published articles on a particular topic or by a certain author, www.sportsturfonline.com gives you access to the information in seconds.

Show Calendar: Our comprehensive online trade show/meeting calendar keeps you up to date on what's happening in the green industry. It's updated weekly, and it lists scheduled events through 2001!

Discussion: An online discussion room allows you to post questions or enter a chat room to have online discussions with peers.

Industry Links: Our site provides links to industry distributors, professionals, associations, and advertising/public relations firms.

E-Mail Editors: www.sportsturfonline.com gives you access to all of our Green Industry editors through e-mail.

Products/Services: A comprehensive database of suppliers, vendors, and partners gives you access to a broad range of industry products and services. You can search by company name, product/service, or alpha company.

We're always open to new ideas. Our Web site is a living document, and we add new information daily. Please don't hesitate to call or e-mail your ideas to me or one of the editors, and be a part of the Green Industry's ONLY comprehensive Web site.

Have fun on your journey, and I hope to hear from you.

Rob Benes, Editorial Director/Associate Publisher
Phone: (847) 427-9512; Fax (847) 427-2006

Tip o' the Month

Safety First

by Kevin Robinson

When discussing field safety, many factors need to be addressed. A single overlooked detail can cause an injury, so it's important to be meticulous. All safety points should be monitored weekly, if not daily.

One of the best ways to watch for unsafe conditions is to stay alert while mowing. You cover the entire field during mowing, and if you're observant, you'll see conditions that need to be corrected. Keep an eye out for grading, drainage, compaction, lips on softball and baseball fields, worn areas, obstacles, and irregular irrigation heads.

Alert mowing can help you spot trouble areas, but it's still necessary to walk your field daily to get a first-hand feel for what's going on.

Grade and drainage

Initial grade work and drainage are probably the most important field safety factors. A field that has a consistent slope with no bumps or swells will avoid numerous potential injuries. Good grade work will also allow you to get more games in, since your field will recover quickly after rain.

Improper grade and drainage problems will produce standing water, which will result in divots and rutting — common sources of injury. Without good drainage, you'll end up with muddy and unsafe playing conditions. Field damage will be intensified, and the resulting beat-up surface can continue to contribute to injuries down the line.

Each sport has different specifications, and there are many ways to grade a field. However, there are a few guidelines that apply to all fields.

A one- to two-percent slope is optimum. This will allow some surface drainage in heavy rain events. The crown should fall in the middle of the field, and the catch basins should be

Continued on pg. 32



June 14-15

Integrated Pest Management Conference, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA. Contact Prof. Bob Rice: (805) 756-2869.

June 27-July 1

Floyd Perry's Groundskeepers Management Academy, Nashville. Contact Grounds Maintenance Services: 5238 Cypress Creek Dr., Orlando, FL 32811; (800) 227-9381; fax (407) 363-5965.

July 5-July 9

Floyd Perry's Groundskeepers Management Academy, Indianapolis. Contact Grounds Maintenance Services: (800) 227-9381.

July 16-18

Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) meeting, Holiday Inn, East Lansing, MI. Contact TPI: (800) 405-TURF (8873) or (847) 705-9898.

July 21-23

TPI Summer Convention & Field Days, Holiday Inn South, East Lansing, MI. Contact TPI: (800) 405-8873 or (847) 705-9898.

July 24-26

International Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Expo (EXPO 99), Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville. Contact Sellers Expositions: (800) 558-8767.

Correction

A printing error occurred within the Pesticide Charts published in the March 1999 issue of *sportsTURF*. Do not follow the advice given in those charts. You'll find a correct version in this month's issue. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

STMA MESSAGE

Sports
Turf
Managers Association



The Code: Live by It!

My grandfather's favorite saying was, "Remember who you are and who you represent at all times."

I have tried to live my personal and professional lives by these words. There have been times in my life and career when such sayings as "an eye for an eye" and "do unto others as they have done unto you" would have been easier to follow, but I have forced these feelings to the side.

In today's competitive world, I think all of us have had to work at our professional and ethical attitudes and behaviors to keep them on the straight and narrow path and headed in a positive direction. It takes a concerted effort at times. As a commercial member, I can tell you first-hand that a few of my competitors can, at times, try my patience.

I realize, as I'm sure many of you do, that things happen. We're not all perfect, but we must be big enough to do what's right and ethical, especially when there's family involved. Families spend a lifetime together, and likewise, our STMA will be together for a long time!

Over the last year, the STMA Board has been reviewing the association's Code of Ethics. We've been considering some revisions that will reflect the scope of the larger organization we are in the process of becoming.

At the March meeting, the Board approved the revised version. A copy of the revised STMA Code of Ethics was printed in the March-April newsletter, *Sports Turf Manager*, and it's posted on the STMA Web page: www.aip.com\STMA. Additional copies of the Code may be obtained from STMA Headquarters by calling (800) 323-3875.

The STMA Code of Ethics helps ensure that we live our professional lives to the fullest. It was written as a guideline to protect the integrity of our family. I consider our family to be our members and our day to day associates.

The Code reflects the STMA family's expectations of your professional behavior. As you read the STMA Code of Ethics, it makes good sense. If followed, it will allow the STMA to be a shining example within our industry. We will remain united and committed to the benefit of all members and associates.

It's this type of family that others will want to join and be associated with, and we welcome those individuals and commercial affiliates with open arms. As our family continues to grow, I ask all of you to be an example to your brothers and sisters, and to support them through their STMA life.

On another positive note, it's great to read through the Chapter News (pg. 34) and see all the chapter activity around the country this spring. It's thrilling to see the time and effort members are devoting to sharing knowledge and expertise through presentations, demonstrations, and tours, and to see the community involvement and local community support.

I'm proud to consider all of you family.
Keep up the good work!

Stephen Guise, STMA President
(714) 704-0403

Painting Like the Pros

by Steve Wightman

Whether you manage high school, college, professional, or recreational football fields, field painting is an important aspect of your job. Standard lines and markings ensure playing field uniformity. They provide dimension, direction, and information to the officials, players, coaches, media, and fans.

Set-up

If a field is going to really stand out, it helps to start with healthy turfgrass that has a dense canopy. The turf should be cleanly and freshly mowed to the proper height before painting. After all, this is your canvas.

You must then organize all of the tools, materials, and equipment necessary to do the job. You'll need the proper paint, an airless or striping machine, templates, stencils, and stringline.

You should also set up a specific area for mixing and clean-up. Check with your local state and county Hazardous Waste Departments for regulations and restrictions regarding protection of your site's storm drain system and disposal of empty paint containers.

Follow the regulations from the start, and you won't run into problems down the line.

Paint type

All paints are not the same. For natural turfgrass, only use paints that will not harm the grass chemically. Use water-based paint specifically formulated for natural grass. This type of paint has minimal amounts of biocides and other chemicals that give paint a longer shelf life.

Also, use only paint that has a flat finish. Don't choose gloss or semi-gloss varieties.

For the lines, the color is specific too. They must

be white unless snow is a problem, in which case a contrasting color is acceptable on game day. One year in Denver, the lines were painted Bronco orange for game day to contrast with the falling snow.

Check with paint manufacturers that support the STMA. They know our business, and they know that we have specific needs.

How much paint

Even when you use the proper paint, painting over and over again in the same area harms grass. Too much paint will simply suffocate the plant.

It's very important to cover only the leafy tissue to avoid building up paint on the soil surface. Your equipment must apply paint with the proper amount of pressure and speed to allow you this degree of control.

I realize that some of us are painting soil instead of grass late in the season on our heavily used fields. However, the same general principle applies. Apply only enough paint to cover the surface to avoid running and unnecessary build-up.

Most athletic field

paints need to be diluted with water prior to application. The amount of water added can vary greatly. Some paints call for a ratio of one part water to one part paint (1:1). Others require as much as five parts water for every one part paint (5:1).

Typically, the first field painting of the season requires a dilution ratio of 1:1 or 2:1 to create bright lines and numbers with full coverage. If the lines from the previous painting are still visible when you paint again, more water can be added to the mix. In addition to saving paint, this minimizes plant damage.



Number template. Courtesy: Steve Wightman

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Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association

U.S. TENNIS COURT AND FIELD BUILDERS ASSOCIATION



Homemade line rail template.

Courtesy: Steve Wightman

When to paint

Grass that's growing well will require frequent mowing. This usually translates to more painting.

Sometimes it's difficult to strategically coordinate your painting and mowing schedules

before games, but it's very important if you want to provide a professional-looking playing surface with full, bright lines, numbers, and designs.

It may be necessary to mow after the painting has been completed to give the field a more aesthetic appeal. In this situation, raise the mowing height 1/4 inch or so, and you'll get the look you want without removing excessive paint. You can also use a reel-type mower with the cutting units disengaged to roll the grass for a more aesthetic appeal.

Climatic conditions add an even more difficult variable to the scheduling formula. It's not unusual to have to wait until midday before painting can begin when your field is experiencing frost conditions. This type of delay should be figured into your painting schedule, especially during the latter part of the football season in both the southern and northern states.

Your painting schedule should be flexible enough to be moved up in response to rain, snow, or frost. Allow for a delay at the beginning of the day, and also allow time to tarp the field at the end of the day. A field that can be painted in a single day in September may require three or four days to paint in November or December.

Equipment

There are three basic types of athletic field spray painting equipment: airless sprayers; striping machines (pump type and pressure pot type); and small, manual pump-up sprayers.

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Hash mark template.

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