

# STMA Chapter News

**O**hio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): OSTMA will host the second annual Regional Chapter Workshop on July 18th at Ohio State University. The event will include presentations by L. Murray Cook, President of Global Stadium Services and President-Elect of STMA; and Steve Trusty, STMA Executive Director; as well as a tour of the OSU athletic facilities, conducted by Brian Gimbel; a tour of the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Research Center, conducted by Dr. John Street; a tour of Cooper Stadium, home of the Columbus Clippers, conducted by Jeff Limburg; and a tour of Crew Stadium, home of the Columbus Crew, conducted by Darian Daily. The day will conclude with attendees enjoying dinner at the Crew Stadium and then watching a professional soccer game. The Ohio Chapter anticipates attendees from the Michigan, Midwest, Indiana, Tennessee and KAFMO Chapters and issues an open invitation to others to attend. Contact OSTMA or STMA National Headquarters for more information on this event. This event will be followed on July 19th by the OSTMA first Annual "Chapter Challenge" Golf Outing, also in Columbus, Ohio, with the proceeds to benefit the OSTMA scholarship fund. The Chapter also is planning its 4th Annual Fall Field Day at the Ohio State University Intramural Complex on September 11. This event will feature a line-up of speakers in the morning and an afternoon with vendors. OSTMA is accepting scholarship and Field of the Year nominations until October 1, 2001. Visit the website or contact Boyd Montgomery for further information.

For information on the OSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Joe Zelinko at 800-897-9714 or Boyd Montgomery at 419-885-1982, ext. 50; or visit the chapter's website at [www.glstma.org](http://www.glstma.org).

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:** Upcoming events for the Iowa Chapter include an Irrigation Workshop, to be held at the Iowa City Kickers Soccer Complex in Iowa City on July 18; Iowa Turfgrass Field Day, to be held at the ISU Horticulture Research Station in Ames on August 2; and a Baseball/Soccer Workshop, to be held at Upper Iowa University in Fayette on October 9.

For information on the Iowa Chapter, or upcoming activities, contact Lori Westrum of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: [Lori@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:Lori@iowaturfgrass.org).

**Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Colorado Chapter's Mountain Seminar will be held on July 20 at Canyon View Park in Grand Junction. The 65-acre park is home to eight soccer fields, four softball fields and a baseball field. Watch for more details on the 6th Annual Lawnmower Man Open Golf Tournament, to be held on July 24 at Westwood Golf Course in Arvada. Another coming attraction to be held this fall is Turf Day At Invesco Field at Mile High, the new home of the Denver Broncos.

For information on the Colorado Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website—[www.CSTMA.org](http://www.CSTMA.org)—or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954.

**Minnesota Chapter STMA:** The Minnesota Chapter's annual Tour on Wheels will be held on July 25. The Chapter will participate in the MTGF Field Day to be held at the University of Minnesota on July 26. Details on these events will be announced soon.

For information on the Minnesota Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Ron Unger, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Kasson, at tel. 507-634-4165 or e-mail: [ParkNRec@CityofKasson.com](mailto:ParkNRec@CityofKasson.com).

**Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):** TVSTMA is planning a July event at Vanderbilt in Nashville, and a September or October event in Jackson.

For information on the TVSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc., at 931-380-0023 or 800-837-8062.

**Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Nebraska Chapter is planning an August 6th event at the Mead Turf Show in the morning and Seward in the afternoon. In the planning stages is an October meeting at Haymarket Park in Lincoln, Nebraska, the new home of the University of Nebraska Huskers Baseball Team and the professional baseball Northern League team, the Saltdogs. More details will be announced soon.

For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Gregg Bostelman, City of Grand Island, at 308-385-5426.

**Florida Chapter #1:** The Florida Chapter will again participate in the Florida Turfgrass Association Show. This year's event will be held in Gainesville, FL, August 13, 14 and 15. The Chapter is planning an Irrigation Seminar at Holiday Park in Ft. Lauderdale on October 16.

For information on the Florida Chapter, or pending activities, call John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

**Midwest Chapter STMA:** Upcoming events for the Midwest Chapter include: a Tour on Wheels in August, a Fall workshop at the Lincolnshire Sports Complex in October, and the annual North Central Turf Expo at Pheasant Run Resort in December.

For information on the Midwest Chapter, or pending activities, call The Chapter Hotline at 847-622-3517.

**Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA):** The MAFMO Chapter is planning an August 24 Design and Construction Seminar to be held at the Annapolis Waterfront Marriott Hotel.

For information on the MAFMO Chapter, or pending activities, call the Hotline at 410-290-5652.

**Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:** The Arizona Chapter will be partnering with the Arizona Parks and Recreation Annual Conference in Phoenix. The Chapter's event, a Summer Seminar, will be held on August 30 at Pointe Hilton at Tapatio Cliffs Resort at 11111 North 7th Street in Phoenix. Featured speakers



## STMA Chapter News

include: Dr. Ronnie Duncan, University of Georgia on Paspalum Grass; Dr. Thomas Lubin, Professor Emeritus, on Humates & Other Organics in your Soil; Dr. David Kopec, University of Arizona Extension on Simple Methods to Successful Overseeding and Developing Year-round Maintenance Schedules; and Dr. Charlie Rodgers, Research Geneticist for Seeds West, Inc. on New Bermuda Seed Varieties for the Southwest Market. For information on this event, please contact Chris Calcaterra, City of Peoria.

For information on the chapter, or other upcoming events, contact Bill Murphy, Recreation and Facilities Manager, City of Scottsdale Park, at e-mail: [bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us](mailto:bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us) or tel. 480-312-7954.

**MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:** The MO-KAN Chapter is planning a Fall Field Day from 7:45 AM to 2:00 PM on September 12 at Satchel Paige Memorial Stadium in Kansas City. This event will be hosted by Kansas City Missouri Parks and Recreation. Morning sessions include: Fall and Winter Turf Management presented by Chuck Dixon, JL Bruce & Company; a session on Turf Renovation and Overseeding; and Breakout "Hands-On Training" sessions on: Basic Turf Renovation and Overseeding,

Irrigation Troubleshooting and Repair, and Seed Pre-Germination Techniques. Following lunch and vendor presentations, attendees will have the opportunity to visit with vendors or take part in the question and answer sessions with the breakout session instructors. The day's events will wrap up with the MO-KAN Business Meeting.

For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Trevor Vance at 816-504-4271; Gary Custis at 816-460-6215; or Jody Gill at 913-681-4121.

**Southern California Chapter:** For information on the Southern California Chapter, or pending activities, call Ron Kirkpatrick at 858-453-1755.

**Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Nor-Cal Chapter is in the process of planning their annual Seminar on Wheels event. Details will be announced soon. For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

**Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Gateway Chapter, or upcoming events, call Mark Jennings at 314-983-5345; or Jim Anthony, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, at 314-977-2956.

**Indiana Chapter:** For information on the Indiana Chapter, or pending activities, call Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at 219-356-8424.

**Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA):** For information on the KAFMO/STMA Chapter, or other upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at tel. 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or chapter e-mail address: [kafmo@aol.com](mailto:kafmo@aol.com).

**Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MISTMA):** For information on the Chapter or other pending events, call Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at 616-738-6974, or go to [www.mistma.org](http://www.mistma.org) to visit the chapter's new website.

**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:** For information on the New Jersey Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jim Gavigan, Lesco, at 732-248-8979; or call Eleanora Murfitt, Director, Township of Clinton Parks & Recreation Department, at 908-735-5999.

**North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the North Texas Chapter, or pending activities, call Kayla McAfee at 972-234-6584 or Rene Asprion at 972-647-3393, or visit the website at [www.ntstma.org](http://www.ntstma.org).

**South Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the chapter, or upcoming events, call Tom McAfee, Nelson Wolff Municipal Stadium, San Antonio, at 210-207-3754.

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**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Virginia Chapter, or upcoming events, contact: Chapter Vice President, Randy Buchanan, County of Henrico Recreation and Parks, via e-mail: buc06@co.henrico.va.us or at tel. 804-261-8213.

**Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:** For more information on the Wisconsin Chapter, or other pending events, call Richard Miller at 608-756-1150.

**Mid-South Chapter STMA:** For information on the Mid-South Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Robert Bodi at e-mail: TURF419@aol.com or Jim Calhoun at tel. 901-755-1305.

### Chapters On The Grow

**Las Vegas:** With the STMA Annual Conference & Exhibition headed for Las Vegas January 16-20, 2002, plans for the formation of a Las Vegas Chapter also are moving forward. For more information on the developing chapter, please contact Rod Smith, Grounds Manager/Cashman Center at e-mail: rms@lvcva.com or at tel. 702-386-7140.

**New York:** A chapter is forming in Central New York. The group will meet at 10:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the National Soccer Hall of Fame. For more information, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: Kevin@wpe.com or at tel. 607-432-2953.



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the same amount of K as N. When high N plus high K rates are combined with low soil moisture, salt levels within the soil may become high and actually reduce water uptake. Other nutrients, should be kept at recommended levels according to soil tests for optimum growth. Supplemental iron applications can provide desirable green turf without promoting succulent shoot growth.

Pests can weaken turf and make it more susceptible to drought, so try to reduce pest problems when necessary. This is particularly true for root feeding insects such as grubs and mole crickets. Weeds also compete with turf for water, so timely weed control is important.

### Managing Under Drought Conditions

So now you are in the middle of the drought, your water authority has dramatically limited your irrigation, and you are wondering what to do with those parched fields. First, be a good citizen and follow mandated water restrictions. You don't want the wrath of an angry concerned citizen because you broke the rules, nor do you want to pay any levied fines if you are caught in violation of irrigation restrictions. Irrigate to moisten the upper 10 to 12 inches of soil. For Florida's sandy soil, that is about .75 to 1 inch of water. Irrigate late at night or early in the morning to maximize the water. Second, post some signs and make some phone calls to let the "proper" people know that the fields are currently under imposed water restrictions. This way they know it is not your fault that the fields begin browning.

The turf will reduce growth without adequate water, so mowing needs will be reduced. You will need to mow less often and at the highest height when you mow. Research has shown that turf maintained at a greater height of cut will lose more water per day than turf maintained at a lower height. But, the same studies also indicated that turf mowed lower lost its quality quicker under drought stress because the shallower root system of the more closely mowed turf could not obtain sufficient water under moisture stress. So, raising the mowing height is good insurance because it increases the ability of grass to respond and adapt to stressful conditions.

Postpone or reduce fertilization. Apply low rates of nitrogen to keep color. No more than 0.5 pounds of N per 1000 square feet per application. You don't want to promote lush growth. Recuperation from damage will be dramatically slower than when adequate water is available. This is a good justification to limit the use of the field. If this is not possible, at least keep the decision-makers informed about the damage that may result from excessive use.

I would also suggest that herbicide applications be postponed. Most post-emergence herbicides used on athletic fields can stress a turf even under good conditions. A wise field manager once told me that weeds take on field paint a lot better than dirt.

At this point, there is not much you can do. Everything has its weakest link. Without adequate water, no amount of fertilization, wetting agent, soil amendment, etc., is going to do much good.

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# Q&A

## Coping with Drought

BY DR. GRADY MILLER,  
ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

### Have Questions?

SEND THEM TO GRADY MILLER AT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, P.O. BOX 110670, GAINESVILLE, FL 32611, OR E-MAIL: GLMI@UFL.EDU. OR, SEND THEM TO DAVE MINNER AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, 106 HORTICULTURE HALL, AMES, IA 50011, OR E-MAIL: DMINNER@IASTATE.EDU.

**I**oversee the management of a number of fields in Florida. As I am sure you currently know, we are having a severe drought and are being limited by the Water Management District on how often we can irrigate. My fields were built with a typical Florida sand and during normal times I irrigate every day for about 20 minute per zone. Some of my "customers" are asking if there is anything I can do to keep my fields from turning brown. I have discontinued fertilization based on the advice from my local extension agent, so some of the brown color may be due to lack of fertilization. If we don't get some rain soon I am afraid my bermudagrass fields may die. What do you suggest I do? Is there anything I could have done earlier to prepare my fields for the drought?

—Via e-mail, Florida

**Y**our questions have been asked a lot in the last couple of months. I know in Gainesville, Florida we have not had rain in over 45 days and our yearly total to date is holding steady at 8 inches. Sandy soils with high infiltration rates and low water retention capacity make the situation even worse. If I knew the steps to a rain dance, I would probably be outside right now wearing holes in the soles of my shoes. Even though there is overlap, let me address your questions separately.

### Preparing for Drought

First, bermudagrass is a pretty amazing grass. In fact, most agronomists consider it a very difficult-to-kill weed. Without adequate water from either rainfall or irrigation, it will roll its leaf blades to conserve water and send its roots deeper into the soil to find water. During an extended drought, leaf tissue may die and drop from the plant, although the grass will generally recuperate from stolons and rhizomes upon receiving adequate water. So, how do you improve the "drought conditioning" of the grass?

Less frequent, longer irrigations throughout the year will assist in establishing a deeper, more viable root system. The deeper the root system, the greater volume of soil for the plant to pull water from during a dry-down. Apply enough water to wet the soil in the rootzone and then don't water again until about 30% of the turf shows signs of wilt. Check your irrigation system frequently to make sure it applies water uniformly and is in good working order. Poor design/installation, broken heads, or a busted valve all can contribute to an inefficient system. While checking out your system, determine how long the zones have to run to put out .75 inch of water. This will come in handy when setting your watering times during the year (based on ET). If you have some dry spots, you may want to add a commercial wetting agent to those locations so the soil will absorb

water uniformly. Addition of some of the porous soil amendments to sandy soil may also reduce dry spots and improve water holding capacity. The impact of these amendments varies depending on the amendment, base soil type, amount used, and how they are utilized (all beyond the scope of this discussion).

Mowing height can impact drought conditioning. Use the highest mowing height that you can. If you have a very demanding clientele, you may only be able to go from .75 to 1 inch. If you can get away with it, I would mow Tifway bermudagrass at no less than 1 inch if water is limiting, and 1.5 to 2 inches would be even better. The greater the leaf area, the deeper and more extensive the root system will be.

Fertilization practices can enhance drought tolerance of bermudagrass. Excessive nitrogen (N) enhances color and shoot growth but root growth may be reduced. High N rates also promote lush shoot growth that is "water hungry." Potassium (K) is often mentioned as a nutrient that promotes drought tolerance. There has been some research that indicates that K can increase stress tolerance, but there has been little data to support the exaggerated rates that some are using. Potassium can leach in sandy soils, which should also be a consideration when determining rates and timings. A general recommendation that I use is to apply about

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