

ence with the Toledo Mud Hens, Durham Bulls, Indianapolis Indians and the New England Patriots, he also moved from a crew position, to assistant, to his current head position with the Dragons. He puts that background to use, working with his staff of one to two full-time assistants and four game day crew members.

The Field opened April 2000. Due to construction delays, the entire playing field was installed in approximately four weeks and the sod installation completed six days prior to the first game. During this process, Kaspitzke was an essential liaison between the Dayton Dragons organization and the field management company contracted to install the field and irrigation system. The team then played 36 games on the field in 44 days. Kaspitzke and crew kept the turf in top condition throughout that challenging year and continue to do so. In addition to the playing surface they maintain three lawn seating areas that hold an additional 1,000 fans. And, if it's possible, they focus even more attention to detail on top playability for the non-turf area of the field. A further compliment to Kaspitzke's expertise is that he has been selected to serve on three different Super Bowl crews.

In his letter of congratulations to Kaspitzke, Midwest League President, George H. Spelius, wrote, "This prestigious award was based on the following criteria as rated by the Field Managers of the 14 member MWL teams: quality of playing surface, playability and texture of infield skin, preparation of the field, condition of infield turf and outfield turf, quality of pitching mounds, and overall professionalism of your staff. Your dedication, work ethic, and leadership were definitely a mark of excellence in all areas."

Robert W. Murphy, President of the Dayton Dragons Professional Baseball Team, wrote, "One thing that most impresses me about Mr. Kaspitzke is the fact that our organization never has to worry about the condition of the field. His attentiveness to detail, the weather, and the prevention of rainouts (when at all possible) is tremendous. His hours of work range from early morning, to late in the evening. His time is spent mowing, edging, fine-tuning, scheduling of part-timers, ordering supplies and products, and then, after all is done, he comments on how he needs to get better. He is consistently striving to raise the bar and improve himself and his department. This, to me, is true leadership."

### Short Season A

The Short Season A Sports Turf Manager of the Year is Rick Walker, Head Sports Turf Manager at LeLacheur Park, home of the Lowell Spinners Baseball Club of the New York - Penn League. The Lowell Spinners are a Boston Red Sox Class A affiliate.

Edward A. LeLacheur Park was built during 1997 for the 1998 seasons of the Lowell Spinners and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell baseball programs. The field has served both programs for five seasons, with the majority of events taking place under the lights. The turf area playing surface consists of 100 percent "Midnight" Kentucky bluegrass sod established on a 95 percent USGA sand-based root zone mix.

U-Mass Lowell's season begins in early March and extends to May 19; then resumes on September 5 and extends to October 19. The Lowell Spinners' season begins on June 10 and runs to September 4. The playing surface is used 8 months of the year. During 2002, U-Mass Lowell held 54 practices and 56 total games. The Lowell Spinners held 46 practices and 38 home games, and there were 26 additional events. That adds up to 220 scheduled on-field activities.

Walker's staff varies depending on the time of year. During the U-Mass season he is generally solo with part-time help 4-hours per day only during the Northwest 10 and NCAA Regional Tournaments. During the Spinners' season he has a full time assistant, Gareth Markey, and one part-time staff member, Tom Mullins, for pre and post game procedures. Additional part-time staff is added for the initial 8-hour per day mini-camp running June 10 to 17. Jack Schmidgall serves as field consultant to Walker and Dan Beaulieu, the Stadium Manager, is willing to help out when needed. At the completion of the Spinners' season, Walker is once again solo with the exception of tournaments or special events. Nutrient applications, aeration, dethatching and topdressing are performed by contract under

Walker and Schmidgall's supervision.

New York - Penn League President, Ben J. Hayes, wrote, "Throughout 2002, Mr. Walker maintained the playing field in optimal, if not immaculate, condition. Even in the most adverse conditions, Mr. Walker's experience, management skills, and, most importantly, tireless efforts permitted the Lowell club to play, and complete, virtually all of its home games."

Shawn Smith, General Manager of the Lowell Spinners, wrote, "Rick has worked for us for over 6 years and has continued to improve his knowledge and skill in finding and developing techniques to keep our grass durable and our infield skin smooth and firm. I have had numerous conversations with managers, coaches, players, and trainers over the years and the one common theme that is expressed by

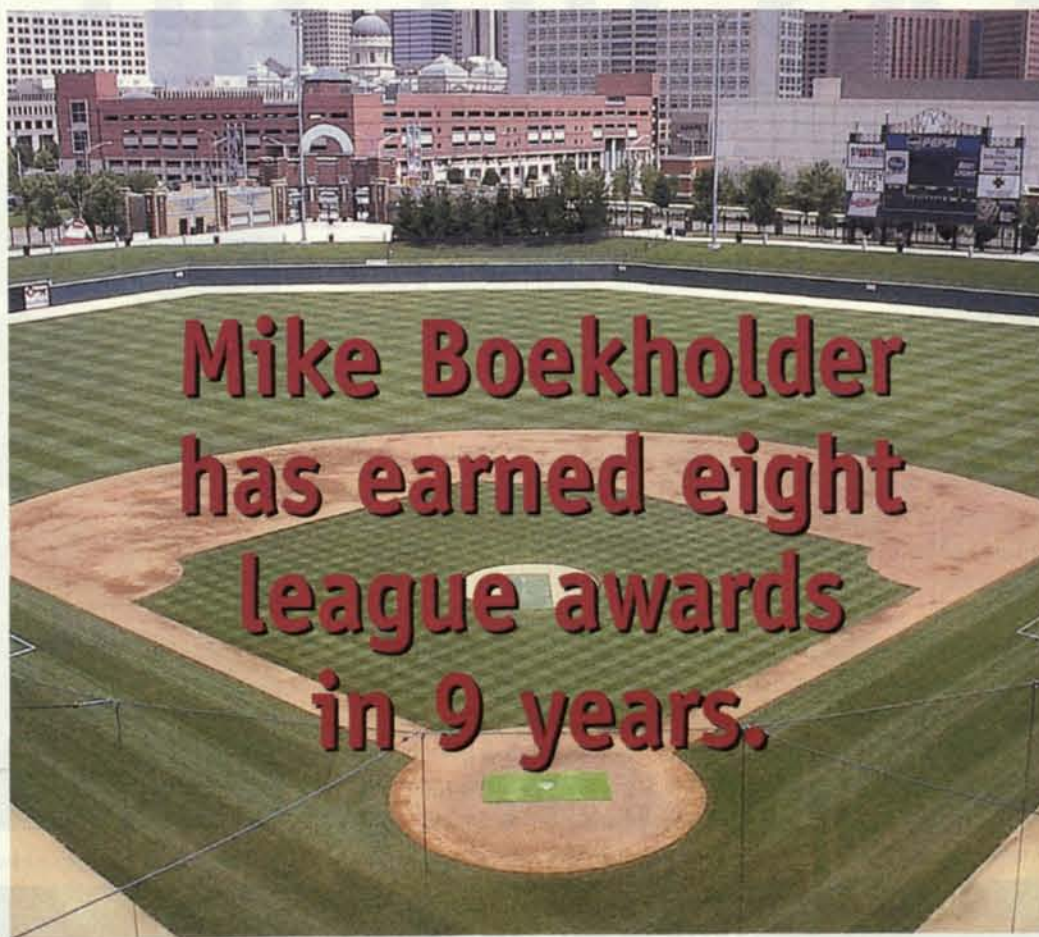
all is that our field 'plays true.' That sentiment provides a great deal of comfort to me in knowing that Rick is on top of his game."

### 2002 League Sports Turf Manager of the Year Winners:

- International - Mike Boekholder, Indianapolis
- Pacific Coast - Matt LaRose, Sacramento
- Mexican - Sinuhe Rodriguez Ambrosio, Oaxaca
- Eastern - Jake Tyler, Binghamton
- Southern - Matt Taylor, Greenville
- Texas - Dennis Klein, Round Rock
- California - Jesse Sandoval, San Bernardino
- Carolina - Pat Coakley, Myrtle Beach
- Florida - Keith Blasingim, Fort Myers
- Midwest - Ryan Kaspitzke, Dayton
- South Atlantic - (tie) Bill Butler, Lakewood, and Josh Ingle, Delmarva
- New York-Penn - Rick Walker, Lowell
- Northwest - Boyd Mauer, Boise
- Appalachian - Mike Thompson, Burlington
- Pioneer - Ken Kopinski, Ogden
- Gulf Coast - Manuel Lopas, Pirates

STMA extends congratulations to all of these well-qualified professionals on their commitment to providing the best possible sports surfaces for their field users. **ST**

*Suz Trusty is communications director of STMA.*



# Georgia Chapter kicks off great

The Georgia Chapter of STMA held its first major event on September 6 at the Russ Chandler Stadium at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. Activities began at 10 am with the Vendor Showcase and Product Displays. Attendees had the opportunity to view the displays, meet with suppliers, ask questions, and get in-depth answers.

GA-STMA president Skip Kirby Sports Turf Management LLC, welcomed the attendees and thanked the sponsors and exhibitors on behalf of the Chapter.

Next on the program was Steve Trusty, STMA executive director, who gave an overview of the Association, member benefits, and the Certified Sports Field Manager program. Trusty noted that working together, sports turf managers were raising the level of professionalism and striving to provide the best sports surfaces for all levels of play. He urged the attendees to get involved, noting they would gain as much or more than they gave.

Tom Shannon of Ewing Irrigation then addressed the drought situation and shared irrigation tips to help get the greatest results from available resources. He noted that irrigation system efficiency is always important and becomes even more critical when water resources are limited and all water use becomes a community-wide concern.

Dr. Gil Landry of the University of Georgia, also focused on water issues in his presentation. Landry noted that sports turf managers needed to get involved in the forum on water issues and make sure their needs were clearly stated to insure they would receive their fair share of water during drought situations. Landry also spoke on issues of professionalism and urged attendees to take part in the Turf Conference.

Next, Kris Harris of Georgia Tech, gave a tour of the Russ Chandler Stadium baseball field that had been renovated in 2001, and the newly renovated Grant Football Field.

ST



Photos by Dr. Gil Landry

## STMA Chapter News

Congratulations to the Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association - STMA's newly affiliated Chapter. For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Tom Nielsen at [TNielsen@batsbaseball.com](mailto:TNielsen@batsbaseball.com) or Aaron Boggs at [AVBoggs@netscape.net](mailto:AVBoggs@netscape.net).

**Midwest Chapter STMA:** The Chapter will again participate in the North Central Turf Expo in December. An expanded 2-day Irrigation Workshop will be held February 11-12 at Chevy Chase Golf Club in Wheeling. More details will be announced soon. For information on the Midwest Chapter, or pending activities, visit the Chapter's website-<http://mcstma.org/>, or call Libby Baker at 847-263-7603 or email [Bake60ft6in@aol.com](mailto:Bake60ft6in@aol.com).

**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:** The Chapter will again partner with the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo (Dec. 10-12 at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City) to present a special sports turf specific educational track. Sports Turf Track Topics will include: "Successes in Athletic Field Improvements," presented by speakers from a municipality, a university, a high school, and the extension service; "Developing an IPM Program for Athletic Fields," "Athletic Field Problems and Their Solutions in the UK," "Mowing Management as it Affects

Turf Quality," "Recognition of Performance - The Sports Turf Managers Association Certification Program and The STMA Survey Update," "Expectations of Athletic Fields from the Perspective of the Coach, Engineer/Architect, Administration, Sports Field Manager, and Contractor Services;" and "Keeping Up To Date on Pesticide Regulations."

The 10-day Athletic Field Management School will be held at Rutgers University January 6-10 and January 27-31, 2003. Register through the website: [www.cook.rutgers.edu/~ocpe](http://www.cook.rutgers.edu/~ocpe) or call 732-932-9271.

For information on the New Jersey Chapter, or upcoming events, call Fred Castenschiold at 908-722-9830 or email to [mkc@blast.net](mailto:mkc@blast.net); or call Eleanora Murfitt, at 908-236-9118; e-mail to [HQ@sfmanj.org](mailto:HQ@sfmanj.org).

**The Greater LA Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter will have a booth at the Turfgrass and Landscape Institute (SCTC) to be held December 11 at Buena Park.

For information on the Chapter or pending events, call Steve Dugas, California State University - Fullerton, at 714-278 - 3929 or email [sdugas@fullerton.edu](mailto:sdugas@fullerton.edu).

**Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):** The Chapter will hold its fifth annual meeting and award

breakfast December 11 in conjunction with the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation annual Conference and Trade Show at the Columbus Convention Center. The Conference dates are December 9-12. For information on the Conference, call 888-683-3444. For information on the OSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call OSTMA Headquarters at 740-452-4541 or Boyd Montgomery at 419-885-1982; or visit the chapter's website at [www.ostma.org](http://www.ostma.org).

**Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):** The Chapter will hold its Annual Meeting at the Columbus Convention Center December 11. Breakfast will be served. The Chapter also will hold a special sports turf track in conjunction with the Michigan Turfgrass Conference January 20-23, 2003, at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing.

For information on the Chapter or pending events, contact MiSTMA Headquarters at 517-712-3407, or email Amy Fouty, University of Michigan, at [fouty@umich.edu](mailto:fouty@umich.edu), or go to [www.mistma.org](http://www.mistma.org) to visit the chapter's new website.

**Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:** Join the Chapter on December 16 for a Super Event sponsored by

Pennington Seed and held at their facility in Madison, beginning at 2:00 PM with a tour of their operations, followed by a cookout and educational sessions beginning at 5:00 PM. The evening's grand event will be a special presentation by George Toma, the "Marquis de Sod."

For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Lori Turek at 770-509-3663 or [gasma@earthlink.net](mailto:gasma@earthlink.net).

**Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter will hold their annual meeting in conjunction with the Nebraska Turfgrass Meeting to be held January 6-8, 2003, at the Holiday Inn Central, Omaha.

For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Loren Humphrey at 402-461-2324 or email to [lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org](mailto:lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org).

**Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Chapter will participate in the Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape Expo to be held at the Madison Marriott, Middleton, January 6-8, 2003.

For more information on the Wisconsin Chapter, or other pending events, call Richard Miller at 608-756-1150.

**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:** The VSTMA will hold its Annual Membership Meeting January 15, 2003, at the Richmond Marriott, during the Virginia Turfgrass Council Annual Conference.

For information on the Virginia Chapter, or other upcoming events, contact Bob Studholme, Fairfax County Park Authority via e-mail: [Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov) or at 703/324-8590.

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Iowa also will participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show January 27-29, 2003, in Des Moines. The Sports Turf Workshop, January 27, will be held at the Marriott Hotel. The program includes: Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries, presenting "Irrigation Design;" Mike Mulvihill, Tri State Companies, presenting "Problems with Do-It-Yourself Projects;" Mike Burt, John Netwal, Rob Schulte and Gary Peterson, presenting "Project Case Studies;" Luke Yoder, Pittsburgh Pirates, presenting "Post-Season Maintenance Techniques for Baseball;" Nick Gow and Kevin Fitzpatrick, Hunziker Sports Complex, presenting "Management on a Limited Budget;" and Rob Schulte, Cedar Rapids Kernels, Mike Andresen, CSFM, Iowa State University, and Sean Crain, City of Ankeny, presenting "Management on Skinned Fields." Events January 28-29 will be held at the Polk County Convention Complex. The January 28 General Session will include: Scholarships and Awards, New Products Showcase, Legislative Update, and Keynote Speaker Dr. Bree Hayes.

Afternoon sessions include: Dr. Hayes on "Personal Stress Management;" and Luke Yoder on "Sand Field Design/Construction, Start to Finish." The ISTMA Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Presentation will be held from 3:00-4:00 PM. Session on January 29 will include: Jeff Wendel, Iowa Turfgrass Institute, on "Voluntary Reduction of Phosphorus & Water Quality Issues;" Rodney St. John, Iowa State University on

"Sprayer Calibration, Tank Mixing, Record Keeping, Application & Handling;" Dave Ditzler, Grinnell College and Todd Loecke, Syngenta, on "Growth Regulator Program for Sports Turf;" and an afternoon Continuing Pesticide Instructional Course for Categories 3O, 3T, 3OT, 5, 6 & 10.

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

**Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA):** The Seventh Annual KAFMO/STMA Athletic Field Conference will be held in Grantsville February 21, 2003.

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



**Florida Chapter # 1:** For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, call John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

**Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):** For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc., at 931-380-0023 or 800-837-8062 or visit the chapter's website: [www.tvstma.org](http://www.tvstma.org).

**Southern California Chapter:** For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, call Steve Wightman at 619-641-3106.

**Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the 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.

**Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:** For information on the chapter, or upcoming events, contact Chris Calcaterra at e-mail: [chrisc@peoriaaz.com](mailto:chrisc@peoriaaz.com) or tel. 623-412-4231 or Bill Murphy, at e-mail: [bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us](mailto:bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us) or tel. 480-312-7956.

**Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

**Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Chapter, or upcoming

ing events, call Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College, 314-392-2328 or email [krone@mobap.edu](mailto:krone@mobap.edu).

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

**Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO Chapter STMA):** For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, call the Hotline at 410-290-5652.

**Minnesota Chapter STMA:** For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota at tel. 651-638-6075 or e-mail: [j-hintz@bethel.edu](mailto:j-hintz@bethel.edu).

**MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jody Gill at 913-239-4121, Gary Custis at 816-460-6215, or Mike Green at 913-208-6158 or e-mail to [mokanstma@aol.com](mailto:mokanstma@aol.com).

**Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact in Washington, Jay Warnick at [JayW@Seahawks.com](mailto:JayW@Seahawks.com) or in Oregon, Mike Wagner at [MWagner@Oregon.UOregon.edu](mailto:MWagner@Oregon.UOregon.edu).

**North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Chapter, or pending activities, contact Rene Aspiron 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 Craig Potts, Texas A & M University, at tel. 979-458-8841, or e-mail: [CPotts@athletics.tamu.edu](mailto:CPotts@athletics.tamu.edu).

## Chapters on the Grow:

**Las Vegas:** For information on the chapter developing in Las Vegas, contact Rod Smith, Grounds Manager/Cashman Center at e-mail: [rms@lvca.com](mailto:rms@lvca.com) or at tel. 702-386-7140.

**New York:** For information on the chapter forming in Central New York, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: [Kevin@wpe.com](mailto:Kevin@wpe.com) or at tel. 607-432-2953.

## News from Canada

The 2003 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium will be held January 21-23, 2003, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Designed for sports turf, golf course, lawn care, sod production and turf management personnel, this Symposium brings together industry professionals sharing a common need for the latest information about the turf industry in Ontario. Join in 3 days of educational session through concurrent seminars as well as presentations on issues of specific interest to individual sectors of the industry and the two-day trade show of industry suppliers. The 2003 theme is "Turf: The New Reality." For information visit [www.open.uoguelph.ca/OTS](http://www.open.uoguelph.ca/OTS) or email Rita Walton at [rwalton@open.uoguelph.ca](mailto:rwalton@open.uoguelph.ca) to receive a brochure and registration form.

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1024 Laureldale Court, Lititz, PA 17543

fax information to 717-560-6318

or e-mail information to [colleen@usaturf.com](mailto:colleen@usaturf.com).

Questions regarding this position can be directed to Colleen Hummer at the listed e-mail address.

Hummer

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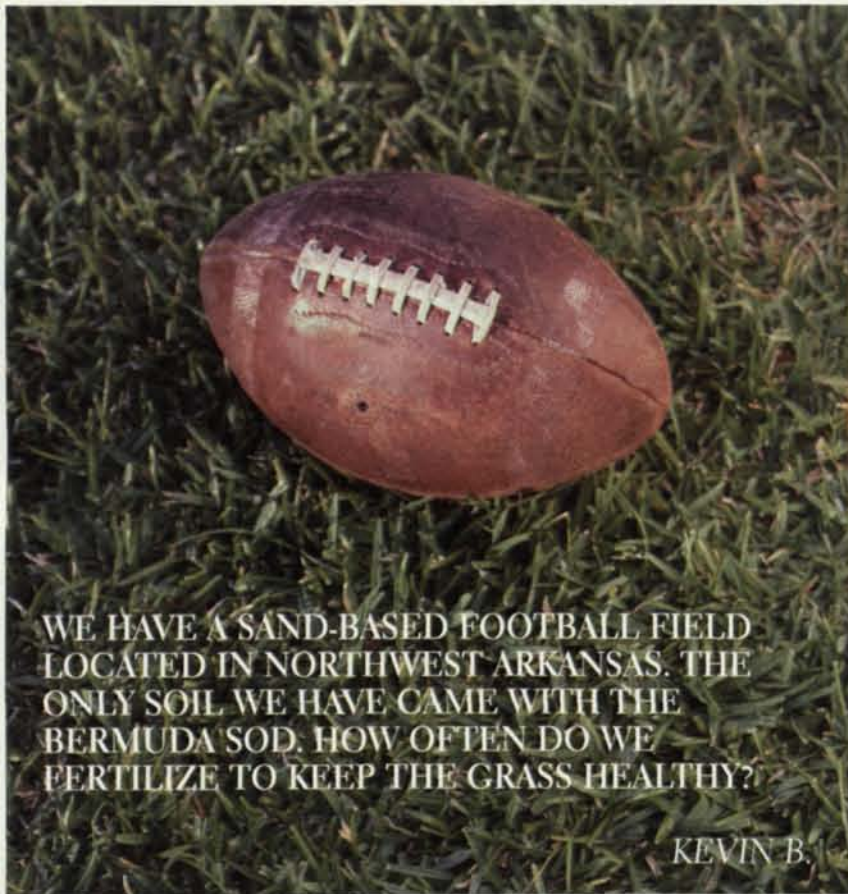
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## Advertisers' Index

Company	Page #	R.S.#
Bannerman	35	124
Broyhill	20	109
Broyhill	23	111
Broyhill	31	116
Colorado Lining	44	122
Covermaster	9	103
First Products	19	108
Flowtronex PSI	26	113
Glenmac, Inc.	27	114
ITT/Goulds Pumps	5	101
KORO	44	121
Kubota Tractor	25	112
Partac/Beam Clay	44	119
Profile Products	29	115
Shindaiwa	16	106
Sports Turf Co.	33	117
Sports Turf Managers Ass'n (STMA)	17	107
Sports Turf Managers Ass'n (STMA)	Cover 3	107
Stabilizer Solutions	15	105
TifSport Growers Association	21	110
Turf Drainage Co. of America	10	104
Turf Diagnostics and Design	44	118
Turfgrass America	7	102
Varicore Technologies	Back Cover	123
WaterWick	44	120
West Coast Turf Cover	2	100

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KEVIN B.

**P**lan on fertilizing more often and with more nutrients compared to other "native soil" fields on your facility. Many times we think that nutrients like nitrogen and potassium are not present in a sand-based system because they are easily leached. It is true that these elements are easily leached if sufficient water is present for a leaching event.

Just for kicks locate where your drainage line can be seen leaving the field. It may tie into a storm sewer, but you can usually find a surface grate drain where you can see if water is leaching from the sand and moving in the drain lines. You may be surprised how much water it actually takes to have a leaching event.

When a big storm rolls through and you get 2 inches of rain or more you are likely to lose some nutrients by leaching. Normal irrigation will seldom cause a leaching event. Even in the absence of leaching you will need to apply more nutrients more often because the sand is not a source of nutrient and it has a very low cation exchange capacity, or very low ability to retain nutrients. Fields blended with peat or soil will hold more nutrients than sand-only fields. Some 6-inch sand pad fields have been built without peat in an effort to provide an improved performance field at a reduced cost. Without peat or soil mixed in the sand you can about double your fertilizer costs for the first 2 years. Even with sand based

fields that contain peat you will need to supply the entire required nutrient from fertilizer.

As a general guide apply nitrogen and potassium at the same rate, 1.0 to 1.5 lb. N or K/1000sq.ft./growing month. In Northwest Arkansas that could be 6 growing months from Mid April into Mid October for a total of 6 to 9 lbs. N or K/1000sq.ft./yr. On some sand-based bermudagrass fields I have used as much as 1.0 lb. N/1000sq.ft. every 14 days before I was able to achieve the type of growth I needed. Sand-based systems mixed with peat or soil may get by on as little as 4 lbs. N/1000sq.ft./yr. Phosphorous is another important nutrient and even though it is not easily leached it is often in short supply in sand fields unless you supply it. About 3 lbs. P/1000sq.ft./year should keep you from being deficient.

A soil test can be used to determine if you are too high or too low in phosphorous. With sand based systems try to keep P in the high category according to a soil test. In addition to N, P, and K, iron and other micronutrients are typically applied to sand based fields every 1-2 months.

Many times with sand-based fields it is the frequency of application that is more important than the total yearly amount you are applying. Those with sprayers typically follow a "spoon feeding program" that applies frequent but small amounts of soluble nutrients every 2 weeks throughout the growing season. Those using a dry application program may use a combination of fast and slow release nutrients applied every 30-45 days. As the field matures beyond year three you will find that more organic matter begins to build, the root system is more prolific, and you can often reduce the frequency and amount of fertilizer application.

As for the soil layer that came with the sod, it does supply some nutrients, especially K and P, but I consider it more of a headache than a blessing. I would rather remove it with coring to avoid layering and then supply the nutrients from fertilizer. Remember, the soil layer on the sod is only supplying nutrients if roots are actively growing in that layer. Many times this layer is too wet and further root growth below this layer is limited. In this case excessive aeration is necessary to remove the layer, mix the layer, bury the layer, or provide sand channels through the layer.

ST



## Have Questions?

Send them to Dave Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall, Ames, IA 50011, or email [dminner@iastate.edu](mailto:dminner@iastate.edu). Or, send them to Grady Miller at the University of Florida, PO Box 110670, Gainesville, FL 32611, or email [gmler@mail.ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:gmler@mail.ifas.ufl.edu).

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