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PRECISE SPRAYER

Toro's new Multi Pro 5600 sprayer features a dual diaphragm that can be run dry without damaging seals or pump; the o-ring sealed system components should be leak-free. The pump and spray system allow you to obtain desired spray pressure for hand spraying at much lower rpms, and the unit has lighted switches on the control panel.

The sprayer has a hydrostatic drivetrain for torque traction to climb over undulations without spinning or damaging turf, even while fully loaded.

The Toro Company/800-803-8676
For information, circle 155

CURE FOR LOCALIZED DRY SPOT

United Horticultural Supply has introduced Alleviate, a product that doesn't just mask the symptoms of localized dry spot, it actually cures it, says the company.

Normal wetting agent chemistry allows water to bind to the water-repellent buildup in the soil, but the variable quality of this bond often produces inconsistent results. These applications only treat the symptoms of LDS while the real issue is the hydrophobic materials that coat sand particles in the soil profile. Wetting agents react only with water, but the hydrophobe tenside chemistry in Alleviate targets the coating of waxes, lipids, fulvic acids, and other materials that make soil unable to re-wet.

The product is a blend of organic solvents that attack and break down the hydrophobic materials that bind to sand particles. This action removes the waxy materials and places them in solution, which means they can be flushed from the soil profile. In more than 4 years of use on hundreds of premium golf courses in Europe, Alleviate has proven an essential weapon in the turf manager's battle against localized dry spot. It has no adverse effects on any type of turf mowed at any height or on soil microbial activity.

United Horticulture Supply/800-847-6417
For information, circle 156



PLYWOOD-BACKED PADDING

New from PROMATS—the crispness of plywood-backed Field Wall padding on your outfield fence. Nothing looks as good and protects as well, says the company. Sewn padding, typically used on chain link fence, can sag and wrinkle while the new "bolt and backup plate" provides unequalled strength. Also accepts graphics beautifully and creates a clean, even line to your complete outfield.

Promats/800-678-6287
For information, circle 157



COVER STORY

08 STMA 2001 College & University Soccer Field of the Year

Lebanon Valley College used the existing landscape of hedgerows and trees to give its facility a truly unique identity.

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Mark Mayberry hears one comment over and over from green industry professionals: "How do I motivate my team? How can I get them to take ownership?"

ON THE COVER Lebanon Valley College's Soccer Stadium, Annville, PA.

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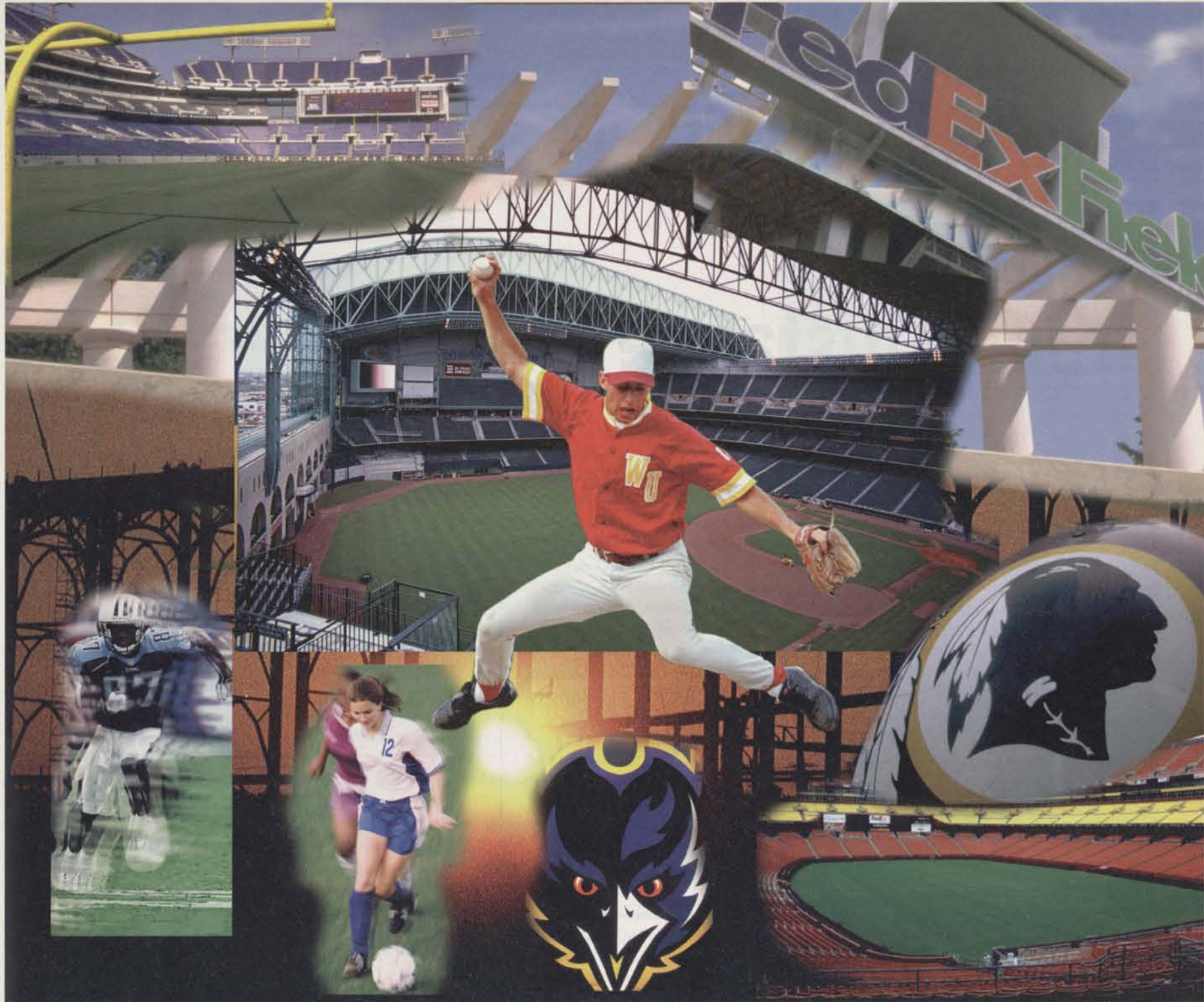
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*We don't make the turf.
We make it better.*



Fielder's Choice

It's hard to go wrong when you're choosing between two new warm-season turfgrass varieties as outstanding as SeaIsle 1 Seashore Paspalum and TifSport Bermudagrass. These two new patented cultivars can only be sold as certified sod or sprigs, and only by a member of a select group of licensed growers. Our top-quality producers have agreed to a stringent set of production practices. This means the grass you buy from a Florida, Georgia or South Carolina grower is going to be the same grass you buy from a Texas or California grower. And it'll be the same 10 years down the road. If you're involved with the installation or on-going maintenance of a sports field, you'll really appreciate how these turfgrasses compare to Tifway 419 and the other older varieties in use today.

While SeaIsle 1 is similar in texture and wear tolerance to hybrid bermudas, it may offer a number of important advantages. First and foremost, it can handle multiple stresses: prolonged drought, high salt levels, waterlogging and extremely high or low soil pH levels. Secondly, SeaIsle 1 can tolerate most types of alternate water sources, including wastewater, effluent, gray water, brackish water, and even ocean water. It requires less irrigating, less fertilizer and only minimal pesticide applications when compared to other warm-season cultivars. It also handles cloudy conditions and the low light intensity of domed stadiums extremely well. That's why it was such a good choice for the Houston Astros' new field. Take a look at its pluses and specify SeaIsle 1 for your new sports field or renovation project.

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www.tifsport.com

Looking for a bermudagrass that can stand up to the stress and demands of big-time sports, to the wear and tear of football and soccer cleats, to the punishment of baseball slides, dives and spikes? Relax; you've found it. TifSport also has outstanding color, disease resistance and cold hardiness. In fact, TifSport is performing with flying colors in stadiums as far north as FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland, on up to the Ravens' PSI Net Stadium in Baltimore. If you're a sports turf manager, you know what's important for a playing field - outstanding density, turf strength and turf quality. You need a grass that recovers quickly from day-in-and-day-out abuse. That's just what TifSport has been bred to do. Be sure to ask for TifSport by name. It makes an attractive, dark green turf.

the front office

Get ahead from a distance

My first encounter with "distance education" was a seat in the back row of 200-level college French class. I figured the more distance between the instructor and me the less likelihood of her asking to hear my French.

Two years ago I took a nonfiction writing course from a New York school via the Internet. Hesitant initially after coughing up nearly \$400, I quickly was absorbed in the assignments and critiques, and enjoyed the experience so much I signed up for another online course from the same folks.

"Distance learning" is easier than ever to experience because of the Internet, but those who prefer pencil and paper also have many options when it comes to advancing their turfgrass management education. "Many universities are 'reaching out beyond campus' via the Internet as well as traditional correspondence courses," says Dr. Keith Karnok of the University of Georgia's Crop and Soil Sciences Department.

Dr. Karnok knows a working turf manager who gladly reimburses his staff upon their receiving a Certificate from UGA's Continuing Education Unit (CEU) program. "These aren't college credits but the unit credits are recognized by groups such as GCSAA and Professional Lawn Care Association of America," he says.

Georgia has a new turf management program for college credit that leads to "certification." In the 28-credit hour program, students take horticulture and turfgrass classes, plus two electives such as accounting, Spanish, or business management. "There are not any distance learning programs that lead to a college degree," says Dr. Karnok, and he should know since he volunteers his time as editor of *Turfgrass Management Information Directory*, which lists (among a ton of info) certification programs, correspondence courses, and turf management programs. (For a copy call 800-487-2323.)

At Penn State, Dr. Al Turgeon, senior faculty coordinator for the World Campus Turfgrass Management program, says, "We've extended our reach to all 50 states, but our goal is to reach worldwide. We won't be satisfied until we have students on every continent where turfgrass is important."

Penn State launched its Internet-based turfgrass program 4 years ago with a single course, "Introduction to Turfgrass Management," which had only 10 students. Today the program has grown to more than 1,400 enrollments and offers two certificates: Turfgrass Management and Advanced Turfgrass Management.

"What we teach are those basic principles that are relevant globally. Our students need to be able to think globally about turfgrass issues and be able to apply those principles wherever they go," says Turgeon. The experience and insight the students bring to the classes are very valuable. "It's the closest thing to a true learning community. Everybody learns from everybody, even the instructors," he says.

Georgia and Penn State are just two of many universities offering distance learning for turf managers and would-be turf managers. The specialization in the workplace trend isn't going away, so any certificate or other paper you earn should be accompanied by a pay raise or better job.



Comments always welcome.
Call Eric at 630-678-0054, fax 630-678-0334, email eschroder@aip.com, or send to PO Box 67, Lombard, IL 60148.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEVE TRUSTY

STMA OFFICE

1375 ROLLING HILLS LOOP, COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51503

PHONE: (800) 323-3875

E-MAIL: SportsTMgr@aol.com

WEB SITE: www.sportsturfmanager.com

INTEGRATED CONTENT TEAM

**VICE PRESIDENT/
GROUP PUBLISHER** STEVE BRACKETT
**VICE PRESIDENT/
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR** JO TREADWELL
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president's message

"Call me next week"

Telemarketers never sleep! They have one goal and one goal only—to make contact with a human being and communicate what they are being paid to sell. "Mr. Cook is your home in need of a carpet cleaning? We would like to offer you blah blah blah..." I will be honest, I have been short once in a while with a couple of those folks. I needed to remind myself they are only doing their job and they have to feed their families just like you and I.

Our commercial members need to jump through some of the same hoops the telemarketer has had to jump through. How many times have you said to your equipment vendor, "Call me next week"?

Your sports turf vendors are different and should be given some of your time to show their products. These guys and gals are trying to make your job easier and most are probably members of the same association that you belong to. Not only are they trying to help make your job easier, they help pay for this magazine you are reading, the annual conference, the golf outing, the dinners, lunches, newsletter and on and on and on.

Take some time

As President, I would like to make this month "Be kind to your STMA commercial vendor month." I really need official board approval to make it the real deal but, nevertheless, instead of all those "call me next week" or "I'll have to get back to you" replies, try to allow your vendors some special time this month. After all, we have a special day, week, or month for everything else!

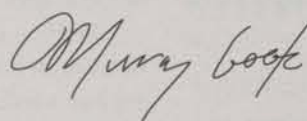
Another special event taking place this month is the Division I College World Series at Johnny Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, which happens to be next door to STMA Headquarters. Getting to the CWS is a long journey and is the ultimate reward for both the athletes and the Omaha community. Sports turf managers preparing the field will be a major part in the success of this tournament.

The athlete and the sports turf manager are dedicated to being the best at what they do and this event is an honor they will share together. Congratulations to all involved.

Another national sports event taking place this summer will be the induction of new members into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Five greats have been selected for induction: Coach - George Allen, Tight End - Dave Casper, Defensive End - Dan Hampton, Quarterback - Jim

Kelly, and Wide Receiver - John Stallworth. You could be in Canton to take part in the festivities and join the other fans in the stands to watch the Monday Night Football NFL Hall of Fame game! The SAFE Foundation will hold a raffle and choose a lucky winner who will be awarded the Hall of Fame package on July 5. Full details of how to purchase raffle tickets can be found in "STMA in Action" on page 41 or you can check the STMA Website at www.sportsturfmanager.com.

Remember to take that call and schedule that demo this month!



Murray Cook,
STMA President
murrayc@brickmangroup.com

Whatever your game,



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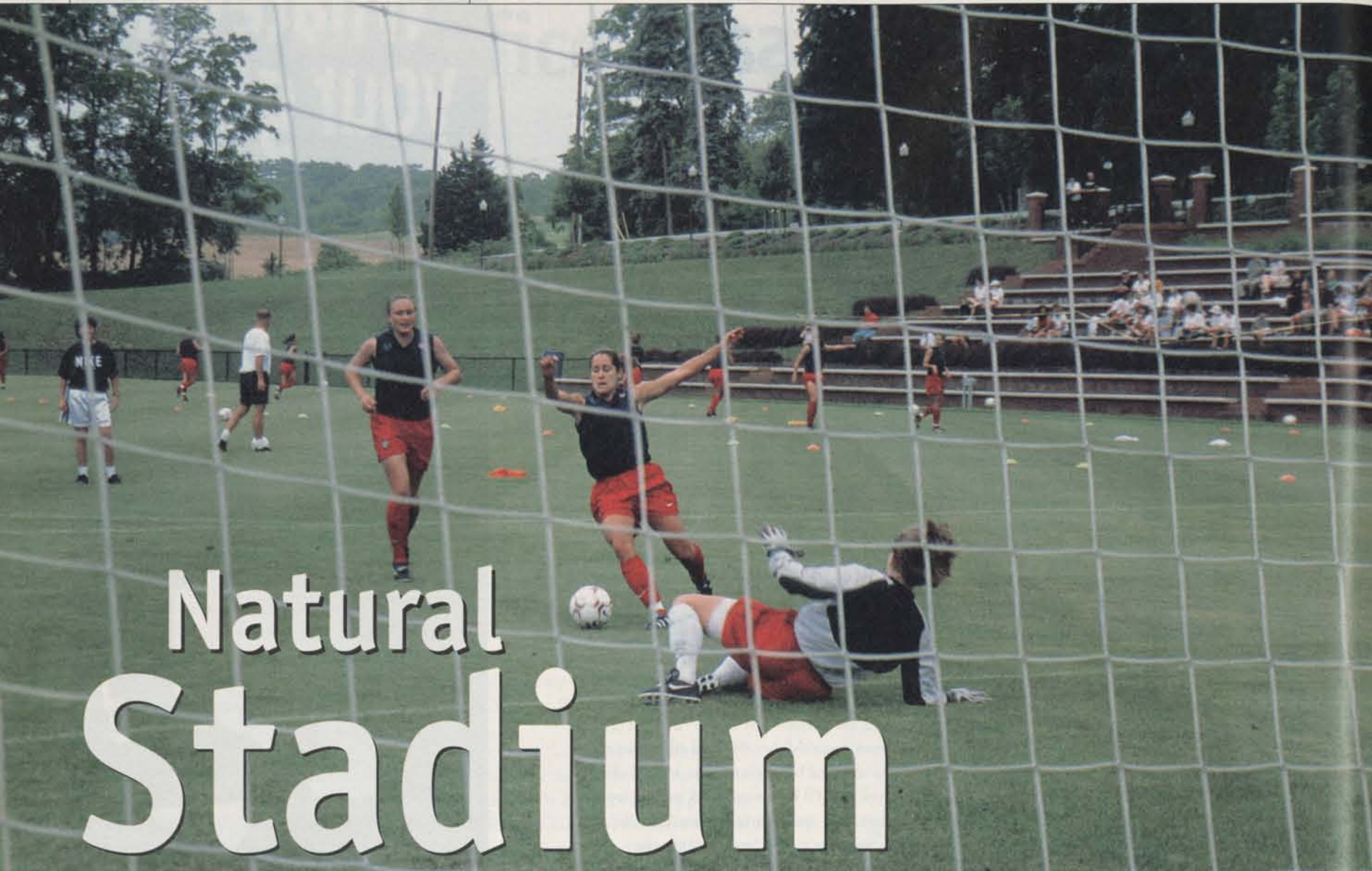
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Natural Stadium

Lebanon Valley College Soccer Stadium earns the STMA 2001 Soccer Field of the Year

BY STEVE AND SUZ TRUSTY

The Soccer Stadium of Lebanon Valley College earned the STMA 2001 Soccer Field of the Year Award in the College/University Division. This premium facility is located at the edge of the College campus in the rolling hills of Annville, PA, approximately 10 miles east of Hershey, on a site that was originally farmland.

Expansion of the College's athletic facilities in the late 90s included increasing the size of the Field House to incorporate a fitness center, locker rooms, and training facility. The original varsity soccer field was turned into a parking lot to accommodate the improved Field House. Thus construction of a new varsity soccer field was the next step in the expansion project.

The field was cut into the existing area with organic compost added to augment the native soil. While no inground drainage system was installed, surface drainage was created with a sheet drain using a 1-1/2 percent slope from one side of the field to the other. The field was sodded with a native-soil grown, Kentucky bluegrass sod in July 1998 and was ready for play that fall.

Kevin Yeiser, director of grounds and athletic facilities, says, "The architectural firm of Derck and Edson Associates designed the field to use the existing landscape of hedgerows and trees to full advantage, giving the facility a truly unique identity. This, along with the college's commitment to high-level maintenance, is what sets this stadium apart from other collegiate soccer facilities.

"Working with over 20 feet of grade change, the soccer field was nestled into place to maintain the existing hedgerows to create a natural stadium atmosphere. The seating area was designed to become part of the natural feel of the stadium. Spectators can enjoy the game from seat walls laid into the hillside forming many small terraces. The split-face concrete block is typically used for retaining walls. Our blocks were created with custom tones of deep maroon and terracotta. A custom-molded concrete cap tops the seat walls to finish the look. This seating has a capacity of 750 and the flanking slopes can provide seating for hundreds more. A compliment of perennials, shrubs and trees anchor the hardscape to the surrounding site.

Lebanon Valley College Soccer Stadium Maintenance Program



April:

- Granular fertilizer 32-5-7 at 1 pound of N per thousand square feet
- Spot seed and topdress
- Liquid biostimulant application

May:

- Broadleaf and annual grassy weed control as needed following standard IPM procedures
- Grub and/or sod webworm control application if needed following standard IPM procedures
- Mid-month application of liquid biostimulant
- Late-month granular fertilizer 32-5-7 at 1 pound of N per thousand square feet

June:

- Liquid biostimulant application
- Pythium, red thread or dollar spot control if needed following standard IPM procedures

August:

- Renovation: core aerate, topdress, slice/seed, fertilize, roll lightly, irrigate

September:

- Liquid biostimulant application
- Granular fertilizer (formula to be determined at time of application)

October:

- Liquid biostimulant application
- Spot seed

November:

- Core or deep tine aerate
- Granular fertilizer (formula to be determined at time of application)



The architectural firm of Derck and Edson Associates designed the field to use the existing landscape of hedgerows and trees to full advantage, giving the facility a truly unique identity. That along with a commitment to high-level maintenance, sets this stadium apart.

"Adding to the unique feel of the stadium is a dramatic pedestrian bridge that spans a major highway. It connects another facility constructed during the expansion, our McGill Baseball Field, adjacent to the Soccer Stadium, to one of the parking lots on the complex. Rising more than 30 feet over the highway, cables attached from the bridge deck to two large towers provide the look and feel of a suspension bridge. Our coaches use this to great advantage, as visiting prospective student athletes get their first view of the Soccer Stadium and the adjacent McGill Field while looking down from the bridge deck. Extensive landscaping and a concrete walk that connects all 100 acres give a park-like atmosphere to the sports complex that enhances the entire community."

The maintenance program as developed by Yeiser, and carried out by Keith Evans, athletic field foreman, and Peter Petrov, athletic field technician, focuses on safety and playability for all field users. They work together with a staff of three part-time personnel during the summer and two student personnel during the fall and winter semesters, to maintain the entire athletic complex, including the landscaping. Evans and Petrov spend most of their time on field maintenance. The remainder of the staff focuses primarily on common turf area maintenance.

Yeiser says, "The two student staff personnel help wherever they are needed during the semester, each putting in approximately 15 hours per week. Even though each staff person has a main area of responsibility, all are trained in and competent to assist in, all areas. In addition, Evans and Petrov are required to obtain and maintain a Pennsylvania pesticide application license for turf and ornamentals. Their commitment to excellence and their dedication to putting forth whatever it takes to get the job done right, combined with the cooperation and support of our administration, have elevated what was already a great program to Field of the Year status.

"We also have a very good team of coaches. In fact, our soccer coach may be even more protective of the field than we are. There's never a problem if we ask to have a non-traditional game moved over to the practice fields because of rainfall that affects the game field. And the coaches do an excellent job of rotating their practice areas to minimize field wear."

Because the College athletic complex includes a soccer practice field, the stadium field can be used strictly for games and the occasional pre-game walk through. As with most University sports programs, the "traditional" soccer season is augmented with a "non-traditional" season, putting play on the fields for a greater period of the year. For

soccer, this non-traditional spring season play starts in March. The local high school girl's team plays on the field in the spring. The Lebanon Valley Classic youth tournament takes place the end of June with more than 80 teams participating. The semifinal and final games are held on the stadium field. The field also hosts a few adult team games in the spring. Summer camps begin in June and continue into August, putting several more games on the stadium field. The men's and women's varsity teams return in August with play starting that month and, hopefully, continuing into the NCAA playoffs during November. The boy's high school season also brings several games to the field in the fall. It also hosts a winter youth tournament.

Yeiser notes, "The College has been fortunate to host some world class athletes as well. The United States men's Olympic team, the class "A" professional Hershey Wildcats team, and the national women's teams from China, Brazil, and the USA have all used the LVC soccer field as a training facility. In fact, the men's Olympic coach proclaimed LVC's soccer field as one of the best the team had played on."

