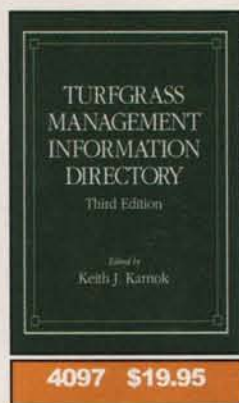


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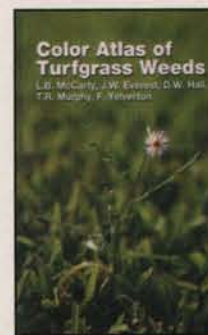


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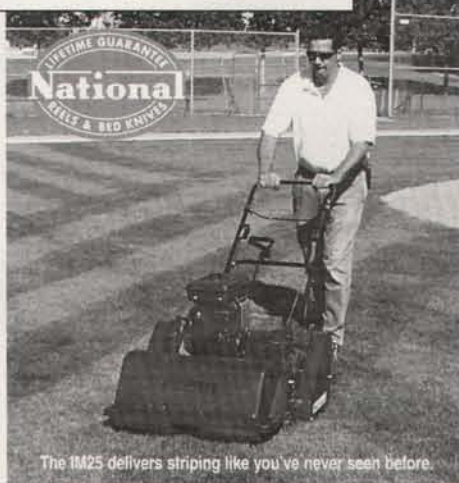
The RedMax SGCX2600S is a heavy-duty edger, trimmer, pruner, and brush cutter all in one tool, powered by a 26.2 cc four-cycle engine that provides good handling, 40 percent more fuel economy, and 80 percent fewer exhaust emissions, says RedMax.

The company says its reciprocators cut like gas-powered scissors. A 1-yr. commercial warranty is available.

RedMax/800-291-8251  
For information, circle 055



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## LOADER/TOOL CARRIER

This compact articulated wheel loader/tool carrier features tool visibility, pilot control hydraulics, ergonomic operator's station, universal tool carrier, and 2-speed auto shift drivetrain, says the manufacturer. The VersaDyne has a 3,000-lb. lift capacity with its 85-hp Cummins turbo diesel engine and an integrated rear axle/transfer case with 10-degree oscillation. Front and rear axles include 45 percent limited slip differentials for skidless operation on turf.

Axles feature planetary reduction hubs to reduce driveline stress and internal sealed wet brakes for uncontaminated operation.

NMC-WOLLARD/800-656-6867  
For information, circle 054



## TURBO MOWER

John Deere's 1600 Turbo wide-area mower provides power, maneuverability, traction, and cut quality, it says. Powered by a 64-hp turbo-charged Yanmar diesel engine, the unit can operate all day at a clipping rate of 8.5 acres an hour at 6.5 mph without refueling. The mower includes a hydrostatic, dual transaxle that achieves a mowing speed of up to 8.6 mph. Transport speed is 14.5 mph.

With a cutting width of nearly 11 ft., the mower accommodates three commercial 7-gauge mower decks, a 62-in. center-mower deck and two 42-in. wing decks. The mower's anti-scalp rollers included on the center mower deck help ensure a clean cut. A standard water temperature gauge as well as a hood and air intake system reduces downtime in dry, dusty conditions.

Standard features include: turn brakes for additional traction on side hills and tight trimming areas; electronic cruise control; cup holder; and toolbox.

John Deere/800-537-8233

For information, circle 203



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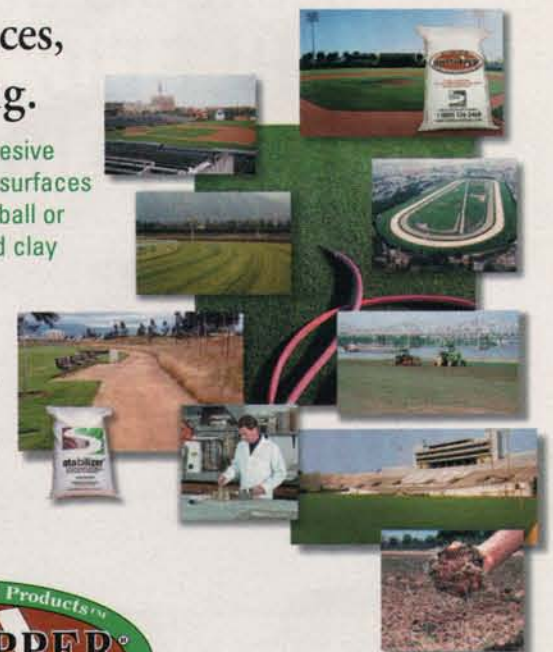
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### DEBRIS BLOWERS

The Toro Company has introduced two new debris blowers, the 400 and 600. Both have 1/4-in. steel frames for long life to clean areas of leaves, twigs, pine needles, clippings, and other debris. The 400 also can clear dew in minutes for early morning mowing; the compact unit goes anywhere your tow vehicle goes. And airflow direction is easily changed from the tractor's operator seat.

The 600 has a 36-in. fan diameter that produces an air velocity of 153 mph; the bi-directional discharge allows you to change the direction of the airflow instantly.

The Toro Company/952-888-8801  
For information, circle 063

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Circle 125 on Inquiry Card

### NEW JACOBSEN G-PLEX GREENS MOWER



The new Jacobsen G-Plex Control-Arm triplex greens mower, from Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products, combines a lightweight platform, ergonomic design, precise cut, and high performance. Previously marketed under Textron's

Ransomes brand, it incorporates ease-of-operation features and measures up to Jacobsen's legendary, 83-year reputation for quality.

Three 22-in., 11-blade reels provide an exceptional quality of cut. The patented, parallel-link head system assures level ground contact. Swing-out reels make cleaning, adjustments, and change-outs easier. For simplified operation, an innovative mow-speed system automatically switches back and forth from transport speed to mowing speed.

Textron Golf & Turf/888-922-TURF  
For information, circle 062



### VERTI-CUT MACHINE

Thatch Master verti-cut machines are designed with managers of sports fields in mind. They need only 25 hp, and are easy to adjust. The thin blades do not leave slow healing grooves.

Blades can easily be adjusted shallow for runner control or deep for digging out even heavy accumulations of thatch. Five-foot working width gets the job done fast. The blades are inexpensive and easy to change.

Turf Specialties/863-289-3330  
For information, circle 061



### DINGO'S STUMP GRINDER QUITE A SIGHT

I witnessed a demonstration of Toro's Dingo TX 425 compact utility loader's stump grinder attachment and Toro just tore it up. In just a few minutes and maybe a half dozen cuts, this unit had dug a hole big enough for three kegs of beer. The grinder has a 17-in. cutter wheel with 12 cutting teeth, a wheel speed of 2,000 rpm, and a tooth tip speed of 148 ft. per second—all

of which combines to dig a big hole while the operator looks like he's comfortable enough to have a sandwich. You can position the wheel index at a 30-degree angle too, to get at those troublesome roots.

The operator showed me how easy it is to attach tools to the Dingo; even I can turn two locking pins and connect two hydraulic lines. Key also is that you can fit the Dingo in places where traditional grinders can't go—that's saving money and time.—Eric Schroder

The Toro Company/  
800-344-8676  
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# Travelin' man

BY MEL LANFORD

**I**n 1999 my wife, Teresa, and I made a decision that changed and enriched our lives. We sold all of our household possessions, purchased an RV, secured corporate sponsors, and created the Ace of Diamonds Tour. Three years later, I'm still traveling. I've been privileged to meet some true characters, many of whom have become my teachers and keep me informed of interesting issues and facilities that have deepened my appreciation and love for all things related to baseball.

Each month, "On the Road with the Ace" will profile different people and places that I encounter on my travels. So, sit back and ride along with me for a few minutes while I introduce you to two dedicated colleagues who share your passion for sports fields. I enjoy meeting fellow professionals and learning about your different methods, challenges, and personalities and I look forward to visiting a ballpark near you soon.

## Building a strong work ethic

*"I'd give an arm and a leg for these work ethics."*

**Hoover, AL**—Athletic field manager Kenny Shaw of the Hoover Board of Education maintains two very high profile sports complexes, the Spain Sports Complex and the Hoover High School Complex. Both facilities have eight fields each and the \$55 million, newly constructed Spain facility includes some \$10.5 million in field construction.

Kenny took on this 16-field responsibility a year and a half ago. With no labor force and limited equipment, he tackled the grow-in and maintenance by himself, welcoming volunteer help from industry partners in the evenings and weekends. He has since assembled a four-man crew and acquired the proper equipment and materials to effectively maintain his fields with a low-labor budget. Like most people in the profession,

Kenny's passion for sports field management comes from a lifelong love of sports.

"If it had a ball involved, I played it," Kenny says. "Working these facilities allows me to remain involved in sports every day."

Kenny isn't your typical amateur athlete turned athletic field manager. Plagued for more than 20 years with avascular neurosis, a condition that causes deterioration of cartilage and bone, the 37-year-old married man underwent surgery Feb. 4 to replace his left hip. After missing only 1 week of work, he returned mid-February on crutches to do whatever he could until he recuperates. Six weeks later, the other hip will be replaced. Kenny is more concerned today about the development of his winter ryegrass than he is about his surgeries. In my opinion, Kenny deserves the "Ironman in Sports Field Management" Award.

Excited about the newly formed Alabama STMA, currently supported by Alabama vendors and educators, Kenny believes that athletic field managers have an excellent opportunity at STMA for education and networking that is vital for career success.

**Nashville, TN**—At an early age, most young people have role models they admire. Whether it's a parent, preacher, coach, teacher, or relative, someone instills certain values and sets examples for a good work ethic.

Marty Kaufman, assistant sports field manager for the Tennessee Titans, was raised near an Amish farm community in central Ohio. These devoted farmers and craftsmen set a high standard of discipline and work. When Marty was not involved in school or sports, his spare time was spent at his grandfather's farm, just down the road from his own home.

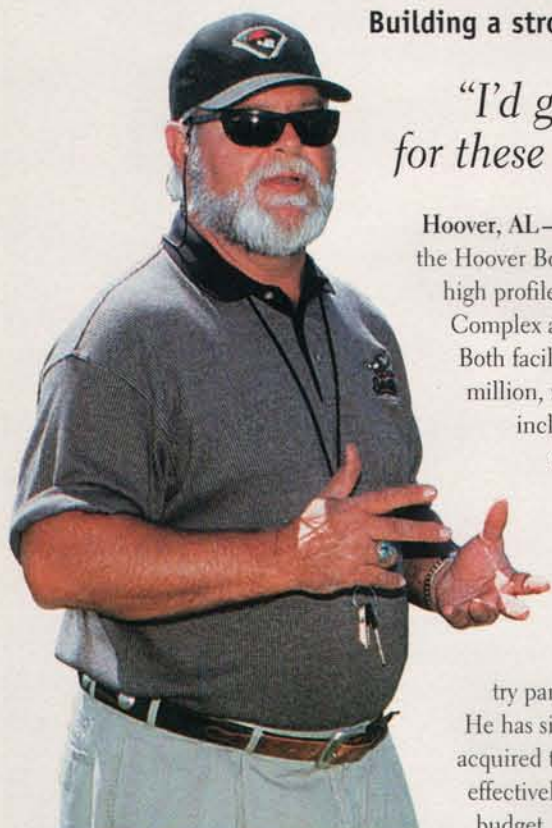
Grandpa lost his left arm as a young man in a farming accident and had to improvise. When he would do mechanical work on the old tractor or farm implements, Grandpa would use his right hand and anything else, his chin, teeth or chest, to get something done. Marty was amazed watching this as a child, but looking back, amazement has turned to respect for Grandpa and a strong appreciation and understanding for what hard work really is.

During the off-season, Marty spends his time arranging upcoming events for the Tennessee Valley STMA, for which he currently serves as program director under president-elect Bob Elliott of Nashville.

Where did you get your work ethic?

**ST**

*Mel Lanford, a 30-year veteran of the groundskeeping industry, is the creator and host of the Ace of Diamonds Tour, sponsored in part by Diamond Pro Professional Groundskeeping Products, a division of TXI. Mel travels across the United States year-round presenting hands-on seminars, demonstrating the proper infield and sports turf maintenance materials, equipment and techniques to athletic field managers. For more information, visit [www.diamondpro.com](http://www.diamondpro.com) or call 800-228-2987.*



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## Rutgers' green science pays off

Ken Budd, president of Budd Seed and Dick Olson, president of Pro Seeds Marketing, recently presented Rutgers University a check for \$409,186.78 for royalty payments on the 2000 production of Rutgers developed turfgrass varieties. The total royalties are now nearly \$500,000.

"Rutgers continues to be the world leader in the research and development of improved turfgrass varieties," stated Ken Budd. "We look forward to our firm commitment to the total support of Rutgers to fulfill our customer needs," added Olson.

Based in Winston-Salem, NC, Budd Seed markets several varieties such as Rebel turf-type tall fescue, Palmer perennial ryegrass, and Preakness Kentucky bluegrass.

Based in Jefferson, OR, Pro Seeds Marketing has become one of the largest distributors of turf and forage seed in the industry. Included in their stable of more than 300 varieties, including Prelude and Pennant perennial ryegrasses, Falcon, Finelawn, and Shenandoah tall fescues, Reliant hard fescue, and Apollo, Dragon and Princeton P-105 Kentucky Bluegrasses.



Dr. William Meyer (left) and Dr. Stacy Bonas of Rutgers University accept a \$409,186 royalty check from Budd Seed and Pro Seeds Marketing, presented by Budd Seed President Ken Budd.

## Becker Underwood has new president

Dr. Peter Innes has been promoted to president of Becker Underwood, Inc., provider of bio-agronomic products and specialty colorants. Innes formerly directed the company's European subsidiary. Roger Underwood will become CEO. Innes' appointment reflects the company's growing involvement in the discovery, scale-up fermentation, and formulation of a variety of products based on naturally occurring microorganisms that help maximize yield and protect plants from pest and disease.

## New Textron turf VPs

Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products has named four new vice presidents to lead sales and marketing for its turf and professional lawn care divisions. Jon Carlson, the company's new president, recently announced the team to dealers at a special meeting.

Dennis Schwieger has been named executive vice president of sales and marketing for Turf and PLC (Bob-Cat, Bunton, Cushman, Jacobsen, Ryan). Three other new vice presidents will report to Schwieger: Ralph Nicotera has been promoted to vice president of marketing and product management; Joe Thompson has been appointed vice president of sales; and Joe LaFollette is the new vice president of customer care.



## Texans' stadium to have modular turf system

Sports turf specialist StrathAyr Turf Systems, along with Glenn Rehbein Companies and Turfgrass America, will install the StrathAyr ModulAyr System, a removable natural grass field, in Houston's new Reliant Stadium.

The retractable roof stadium that will be home to the NFL Houston Texans and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo it will seat 69,500 and open in August.

It is the first retractable roof NFL facility, scheduled to host Super Bowl 2004, 2002 Big 12 Conference Championship and may be part of a potential Olympic 2012 bid.

The system's two unique aspects are its flexibility and enhanced rootzone profile, says StrathAyr. The system incorporates portable turf modules that are 8 x 8 ft., 7 1/2 in. deep and include a metal drainage base. The modules incorporate a growing medium of 4 1/2 in. deep, which is reinforced with ReFlex mesh elements, which are small pieces of nylon mesh, to increase field stability, aid in water and air management, and provide a forgiving (non-hard) surface for the athletes.

The modules are designed so that any module can be replaced without affecting the adjacent module. The modules are easily exchanged to combat excessive wear and the effects of extended time in shade. The field will be completely removed to an outside nursery once a year while the Stadium hosts the Livestock Show and Rodeo and other events.



You don't often see red painted onto the fantastic turf at Beaver Stadium, home to Penn State football (top) but after last Sept. 11, head groundskeeper Bob Hudzik added a patriotic red stripe opposite the traditional blue ones at the 20's and 50 (below). Pictures taken by PSU groundskeeper Paul Curtis.



## New online resource for turf managers

The Toro Company has a new website, [www.TOROsports.com](http://www.TOROsports.com), targeted specifically to the sports turf professional that features advice from other professionals on all aspects of turf care.

"We wanted to facilitate a place where sports turf profession-

als can share information," says Rick Rodier, Toro's director of commercial business grounds marketing. "Our goal is to create a community to bring the sports focused turf professionals together where they can share ideas concerning their daily challenges."

The site can be used to find tips on many subjects, discover other info links, ask questions, and contribute your own advice to your peers.



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give them the boot with our undefeated special teams of control products.

For nearly 40 years, The Andersons has been refining the art and science of producing turf-specific fertilizers, pest control products and fertilizer/pest control combination products. And we've never been more fired up about serving your needs. We want you to see those Turf Heads in the stands get up to give you a standing "O"!

**The Andersons** For a free selection guide and more information about The Andersons complete line of Professional Turf products call toll free, 1-800-225-2639.

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# Work smarter —not harder

BY FLOYD PERRY

**I**n sports field maintenance, there are a few major concerns such as Mother Nature, financing, and personnel issues that affect job performance on and off the field. But our biggest enemy is the time clock.

Progressive groundskeepers are eliminating daily tasks that are not relative to the overall performance of the participants. The athletic contest, regardless of the sport, is played between the lines. Put your best effort where the game is played!

This pictorial lineup shows ideas that progressive groundskeepers have developed to reduce time-consuming daily maintenance tasks on their playing fields. **ST**

*Floyd Perry, 1997 Sportsturf Manager of the Year, is director of Grounds Maintenance Services, Orlando, FL, 407-648-1332.*

Tip A



Surround home plate with synthetic turf to reduce turf tear out and fungo area raking.

Tip B



Use all-purpose rubber-based materials for on-deck area, coaching boxes, fungo areas, and walkways to home plate.

Tip C



Artificial turf around the pitcher's mound reduces the saucer-like effect from clay runoff and irregular raking patterns. The turf also reduces a front wear-out area from daily batting practice pitching.

Tip D



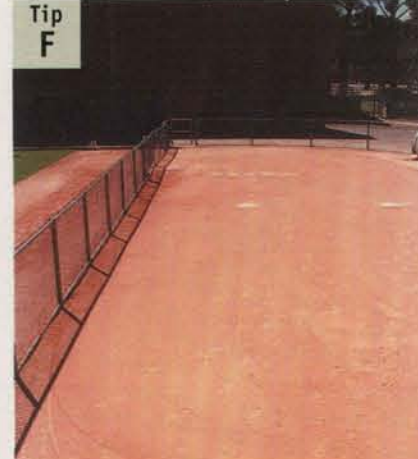
Extra large synthetic area surrounding each dugout avoids turf tear out and standing water.

Tip E



Install a large valve box positioned behind the pitcher's mound to hold watering hose. This avoids carrying the hose in and out daily.

Tip F



All-soil bullpens eliminate weekly mowing, irrigating, fertilizing, and non-game performance maintenance.

