

New Jersey Sports Turf Management Association.

Though he ended up with more commercial than residential accounts, Hermann is still selective about taking on new residential customers. "I tell homeowners if they want their lawns lush and growing all year, don't come to me," he adds. "Your turfgrass will slow down in the summer because it's supposed to do that. I also practice IPM wherever possible. When I talk to customers, I mention safety. One guy was concerned this year because he and his wife had just had twins. I told him I was concerned last year when it was just his dog on the lawn!"

Hermann feels he can provide better service to his customers because he sees the lawns and fields he maintains on a weekly basis for mowing. "I love my work and I think it shows," he continues. "Sometimes the guy sitting at the desk got into the business because he loved being outside, but now he hires other people to do the work. Personally, I never want to get to that point."

How does James Hermann run such a diversified business all by himself? For one thing, he sets distinct priorities: "My sports fields are my number one concern," he says. "Mowing management affects every other aspect of sports field maintenance."

To effectively maintain a height of 2 1/2 inches, athletic fields in Hermann's area must be mowed every 3-4 days during the growing season. Hermann mows either Monday-Thursday or Tuesday-Friday. "That way, I can readjust if we get rain on one of the days," he



Hermann's concern is balancing soil nutrition

adds. "But I try not to mow on Wednesday, because then I'd have to go back on Sunday. It took me 15 years to figure that out!"

Hermann saves Saturdays for field maintenance so that he can use parent volunteers. "The leagues prefer it that way so they can keep costs down," he notes. "I spray weed and insect control on an as-needed basis, but I can usually juggle something in my schedule to work in those applications."

What about the 60 sites he manages for the telephone company? The majority of them are extremely low maintenance. "Most of them are industrial pads located in the corner of a field somewhere," Hermann explains. "I usually just clean them up, mulch them, and use a preemergent herbicide to keep the weeds down. Some of them only require maintenance once a year."

Hermann mounted his sprayer on the truck he uses to transport his mower so he can spray and mow during the same visit, if necessary. "I try to be as efficient as possible," he says. "I often work on the low maintenance sites during the early spring, the middle of the summer, or late fall, when I'm not mowing much else."

Finally, he fits his residential customers into a schedule similar to the athletic fields. "It's always a balancing act, but I've learned to make it work."

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Debbie Clayton is a free-lance writer from southeastern Pennsylvania.



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Midwest Chapter drives "Tour on Wheels"

BY ERIC SCHRODER

The Midwest Chapter held its annual "Tour on Wheels" in August, less than 2 days after much of the Chicago region was hit with 6 inches of (much needed) rain in 24 hours. Chapter president Ted Baker insisted he's not jinxed despite a third straight "Tour" day threatened by showers.

A stop at Brookfield/Riverside High School in western Cook County provided much discussion throughout the day. A crumb-rubber amendment was added to the football field before last season and Athletic Director Otto Zeman is convinced it makes fields safer and promotes deeper roots.

Eric Fassbinder, head groundskeeper for Alexian Field, home of the Northern League's Schaumburg Flyers, led our group on a tour of his facility, which had suffered 6 in. of rain that flooded the dugouts 24 hours previous (but did not cause that night's contest to be cancelled!).

Fassbinder, who served three internships including one at Alexian Field under Steve Erickson (now an assistant at PNC Park in Pittsburgh) said he can roll out his tarp in 1 and 1/2 minutes and take it up in 8 minutes, and of course prefers that it not be down. Sponsor Greg Komperda of TruGreen ChemLawn said having the tarp on promotes the "three enemies of turf—dark, wet, and cold—or, the triangle of love." He and Scott Roberts are a big help to Fassbinder and handle the applications of fertilizer, fungicides (Compass), and other chemicals, as needed, e.g., PCMB for snow mold, etc.

Roberts added that they don't use any wetting agents on the field, and that use of that material is normally based on a groundskeeper's experience with a field.

The tour also visited the west fields of the College of DuPage, where Roger Behling is the only full-time turf manager for six facilities as well as some community fields on the college grounds (more than 40 acres of irrigated turf). Behling prefers reel mowers because less maintenance is required, the cut is better and

they cause him "fewer headaches," he said. He also has rotaries for areas that are not as visible or difficult situations.

Roger is challenged by the college community's hypersensitivity to spraying herbicides so he does only one or two applications a year, and in an ideal year, applies no herbicides. Pervasive clover in the spring responds to a Confront and Trimec mixture that he calls environmentally friendly and effective.

Taking extensive notes all year long on each field has

allowed Roger to create a consistent routine, and then he discovers what his seasonal help does best individually and lets them fill that niche.

Another stop was Elfstrom Stadium, home of the Class A Midwest League Kane County Cougars, a Florida Marlins farm club. Head groundskeeper Ryan Nieuwma took over the reins in March and so worked another manager's plan for this season. The field was nicely stripped and Ryan was honest when asked about his choice of patterns: "I do simple patterns only; otherwise I think it's a distraction to the fans. Besides, simple is a lot quicker!"

"It's easy to make the players here happy because they are so young," Ryan said. Tour sponsor Gerry Hough of United Horticulture Supply says the four-way bluegrass blend perennial rye grass was used when the field was built in 1991 to "get something in a hurry." Fertilizer is put down every Monday, Perk is used to keep the turf green, and they seed once a month. No broadleaf control is necessary.

Our final stop of the day was at Palatine High School, one of five high schools for which Bob Glascott is the head turf man. He said Palatine's field hosted more than 100 events last year, and that 3 years ago they had flattened the field somewhat for the soccer team. Bob's crew uses Jacobsen equipment, including a reel mower for in-season cutting. He aerates every month but cannot core because it's too disruptive for soccer play, while the underground irrigation system prevents tining too deeply.

The Palatine field is native soil with 80 tons of Turface on top. "We had to add soil to this field and I'm not sure where it came from, but the nutrients just are not there," he said. "We consulted with the Chicago Bears staff before choosing a rye/bluegrass mix."

The tour group's day wasn't over yet though. Instead dinner, refreshments, and a ball game back at Alexian Field were on the agenda, followed by a fireworks show. Thanks to Ted and Libby Baker for an informative and fun day.

ST



"It's easy to make the players here happy because they are so young," said Ryan Nieuwma, groundskeeper at Elfstrom Stadium, home of Class A Kane County Cougars.



Midwest Chapter president Ted Baker (left) listens as Bob Glascott of Palatine High School answers a question.

Midwest Chapter STMA: The Midwest Chapter will again participate in the North Central Turf Expo to be held in December. More details will be announced soon. For information visit <http://mcstma.org/>, or call Libby Baker at 847-263-7603 or email Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

Florida Chapter # 1: The Chapter will meet Nov. 12 at Florida International University in Miami. The program will include: Turf Fertility, Mound Building, and Preparing for Play After Rain. Attendees will tour the athletic facilities. For information call John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): The Annual Planning and Election Meeting will be held Nov. 12 at Vanderbilt University. For information on the TVSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc., at 931-380-0023 or 800-837-8062 or visit www.tvstma.org.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: ISTMA's Fall Football Workshop will be held from 8 am-3 pm Nov. 13 at Ames High School and Ridgewood in Ames. The program includes: "Grubs: Timing, Repair and Control," by Jeff Wendel; "Bermudagrass on Football Fields," by Dr. Dave Minner; "Homemade Equipment," by Don Larson; "Turf Blankets, Covers and Winter Repairs," by Kevin Vos, CSFM; "Verti-Drain," by Bryan Wood, Commercial Turf & Tractor; "Topdressing Fields," by Larson; and an Open Forum conducted by Mike Andresen, CSFM.

The Chapter also will participate in the Iowa Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show to be held January 27-29, 2003, at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. For information contact Jeff Wendel of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org.

The Greater LA Basin Chapter: The Chapter is planning a November Field Day at Edison International, date and time TBA. The Chapter's general meeting and elections will take place at 3:30 pm Nov. 14 at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut. Bruce Kidd of Dow Agro Sciences will present on weed control strategies in turf. The Chapter will have a booth at the Turfgrass and Landscape Institute (SCTC) on Dec. 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.

Southern California Chapter: The Chapter will hold its Athletic Turf Tour/Kickoff Classic at San Diego State College and Qualcomm Stadium Nov. 16. Events begin at 3 pm at SDSU with a tour of the newly constructed FieldTurf football/soccer field, AZTRACK, and Tony Gwynn Stadium. The Tailgate Party begins at 4:30 pm at Qualcomm Stadium. The SDSU v. Colorado State game follows at 6 pm. For information on the Southern California Chapter, or pending activities, call Steve Wightman at 619-641-3106.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: The Virginia Chapter will hold officer elections in Nov. for 2003 officers. Installation will take place at the Virginia Turfgrass Council annual Conference in January. For information contact: Bob Studholme, Fairfax County Park Authority via e-mail: Robert.Studholme@FairfaxCounty.gov or at 703/324-8590.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: The Chapter will participate in the RMRITA Turf Conference and Trade Show Dec. 4-6 at the Denver Convention Center. For information visit the Chapter's website, www.CSTMA.org, or call the Hotline at 303-346-8954.

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: STMA of Arizona will again join with the City of Yuma Parks and Recreation in hosting the 10th Annual Sports Turf and

Equipment Show Dec. 5. It will be held indoors for the first time at the Yuma Civic and Convention Center. Speakers include: Dave Kopec, University of Arizona; Michael Pfeiffer, Pesticide Training Resources; Tina McKeand, City of Yuma; Jonathan Mouer, Dave Bang Associates; Jonathan Arnold, City of Scottsdale, and Brian Johnson, Arizona State University. Featured speaker is Tony Gwynn, former San Diego Padres outfielder. Outdoor demonstrations on tree selection and irrigation updates will be included in the program.

Added to the program, Dec. 4 is a Colorado River Canoe Trip and Grant Writing training session. Participants will canoe 5 miles to the new West Wetlands Park facility under construction for a morning tour and conclude the day with the seminar. Also that day is the annual Golf Tournament beginning at noon at Desert Hills Golf Course. For information on the Yuma events, contact Larry Munoz at 928-373-5221 or by e-mail at larry.munoz@ci.yuma.az.us.

For information on the chapter, or upcoming events, contact Chris Calcaterra at e-mail: chrisc@peoriaaz.com or tel. 623-412-4231 or Bill Murphy, at e-mail: bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us or tel. 480-312-7956.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: The Chapter will again partner with the New Jersey Turfgrass



Expo to present a special sports turf specific educational track. The Expo is Dec. 10-12 at the Trump Taj Mahal Resort & Casino in Atlantic City. Sports Turf Track Topics will include: "Successes in Athletic Field Improvements"; "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."

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

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

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: 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 Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College, 314-392-2328 or email krone@mobap.edu.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the chapter or upcoming events, contact Lori Turek at 770-509-3663 or gastma@earthlink.net.

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 contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at tel. 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or e-mail to: kafino@aol.com.

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

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): For information contact MiSTMA Headquarters at 517-712-3407, or email Amy Fouty, University of Michigan, at fouty@umich.edu, or go to www.mistma.org.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: For information on the Minnesota Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Jeff Hintz, Bethel College & Seminary, St. Paul, at 651-638-6075 or e-mail: jhintz@bethel.edu.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: For information Chapter 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.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Loren Humphrey at 402-461-2324 or email to lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: For information contact in Washington, Jay Warnick at JayW@Seahawks.com or in Oregon, Mike Wagner at MWagner@Oregon.UOregon.edu.

North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the North Texas Chapter, or pending activities, contact Greg Zimmerman at 214-987-5491 or bef-irrigation@att.net or Rene Aspiron at 972-647-3393, or visit www.ntstma.org.

South Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the South Texas Chapter, or upcoming events, call Craig Potts, Texas A & M University, at tel. 979-458-8841, or e-mail: CPotts@athletics.tamu.edu.

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 call Richard Miller at 608-756-1150.

Kentucky: For information on the chapter forming in Kentucky, contact Tom Nielsen at TNielsen@batsbaseball.com or Aaron Boggs at AVBoggs@netscape.net.

Las Vegas: For information on the chapter developing in Las Vegas, contact Rod Smith, Grounds Manager/Cashman Center at e-mail: rms@lvcv.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 or at tel. 607-432-2953.

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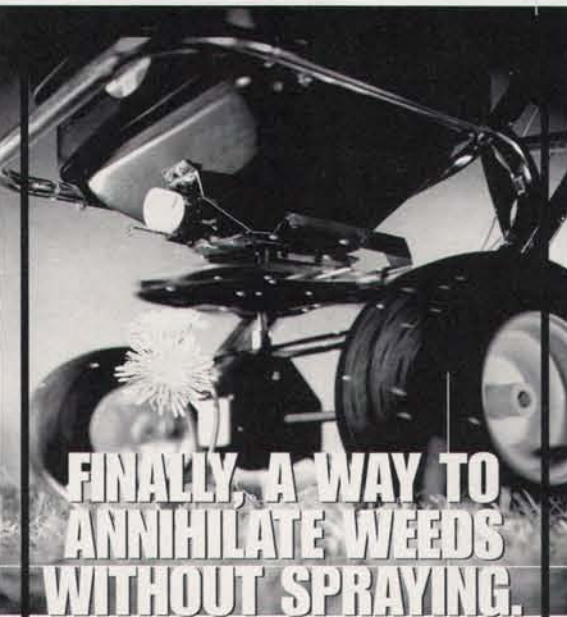
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Chemical removal of ryegrass

I am about to overseed my athletic fields with ryegrass for winter and spring play. My question relates to the management of this grass in the spring/summer next year. This last year, I had visible ryegrass well into July. There just did not seem to be enough time to get the bermudagrass established before fall sports started. I have heard about spraying out the overseed grass and was wondering if that would be beneficial for my fields. What are the pros and cons of chemical removal versus a more natural transition? Will the chemicals hurt the bermudagrass?

Tennessee

Transition occurs when dormant warm-season grasses begin to grow and compete with the established cool-season grasses. Traditional cultural practices to facilitate transition include reduced mowing height, increased fertility, verticutting, topdressing with sand, and use of selective herbicides. Temperature is a dominant factor facilitating transition, since it is responsible for the decline of cool-season grasses and the green-up of dormant warm-season grasses. It seems that the newer overseeded cool-season grass cultivars are more heat-tolerant and disease tolerant than many of the older cultivars. The improved tolerance of perennial ryegrass can result in it hanging around and competing with bermudagrass well into the summer months. Even after most of the ryegrass dyes out, "renegade" plants may remain.

Dr. A.J. Powell at the University of Kentucky told me that in the northern reaches of the transition zone, there is no such thing as natural transition from overseeded perennial ryegrass to bermudagrass. He further indicated that no amount of nitrogen fertilization, verticutting, scalping, etc., would ever kill the ryegrasses. In that area, they rely much more on chemical control to prevent the domination of the ryegrass. In the upper transition zone, ideal bermudagrass-growing weather only last for about 3 months (June, July, and August) and any competition greatly shortens that period. They can use other grasses, but feel that bermudagrass is their best sports turfgrass. To maintain it over time they must either omit overseeding or chemically remove the ryegrass in the spring or early summer.

Various herbicides and plant growth regulators (PGRs) have been tried through the years to try to hasten transition. Dr. Tim Murphy at the University of Georgia indicated, "the ideal chemical would be one that would kill or suppress the cool-season grass at the same rate that the bermudagrass greens-up." Several chemicals are currently labeled for reducing perennial ryegrass with no adverse effect on bermudagrass color or overall turfgrass quality. The products currently labeled include Kerb, Manor, and TranXit.

Dr. Bert McCarty at Clemson University indicated that these chemicals work but



are not foolproof. Depending on where you are located and your events' timing, most apply from mid-April (e.g., Florida) to mid-May (upper transition zone). Of course, for college sports (football) fields, these are often applied just after the Spring game. Dr. McCarty indicated that Kerb and Manor are very effective some years and others years they do not work as well. At this point no one seems to know exactly why. TranXit has not been available for very long, so it is too early to tell its performance consistency. At Florida, we noted that Manor was more effective at removing ryegrass in painted areas of the field than Kerb, which can be a significant issue on football fields.

Research has shown that generally, Manor and TranXit kill ryegrass faster than Kerb. There is also some indication that TranXit may be a little faster and a little more effective than Manor. For this reason, Dr. Murphy recommends Kerb for slower transitions where turf quality is of prime importance. It should be applied at the 50 percent green-up growth stage of bermuda. All three materials are slow (about 3 weeks) to work in (cooler) spring; thus, this can cause some timing issues. One should be well aware that once these products are applied, there is no undoing their damage to the cool-season grass. So, if your early spring turns out to be a late winter, then you can be left with thin bermudagrass (or worse, no bermudagrass) until it gets warm.

Economics

Naturally, there is an economic cost to using these products versus more natural methods. At this time, each of these products fits into a distinct price range, so that may be a driving decision which one you want to try. In the end, decision to use these products may depend on your location. In more southern areas, cultural practices typically result in a smooth transition. If you feel that the transition is taking too long, or you have too many "renegade" plants, you could apply Manor or TranXit for late-season transition. If you are further north and have limited time to grow in your dormant bermudagrass, then any of these three chemicals can effectively reduced perennial ryegrass density with no adverse effect on bermudagrass.

ST

Have Questions?

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

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