

Continuing Education for busy Sports Turf Professionals October 14-16, 2005 in Louisville, Kentucky at the Expo

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Advance Registration for Onsite Sessions in Louisville include the Expo
* \$10 Early Bird Discount if registration received before 9/1/05)

Friday, October 14, 2005 - Landscape 1 Track

- Session LC01 - 8:00 to 10:00 - **Synthetic Infill vs. Natural Turf**
Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, STMA
A.J. Powell, Ph.D., University of Kentucky; George Neagle, Synlawn
- Session LC02 - 10:30 to 12:30 - **Drainage Issues in the Landscape**
Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, IA, ISA, STMA
Barry Kew, University of Kentucky; Phil Hilliker, EMCH Bros.
- Session LC03 - 1:30 to 3:30 - **Hemlock Wooley Adelgids**
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
Terry Tattar, Ph.D., University of Mass.; James Cortese, Cortese Tree Specialists

Friday, October 14, 2005 - Golf Track

- Session LC04 - 8:00 to 10:00 - **It's All About the Turf**
Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, STMA
Erik Ervin, Ph.D., Virginia Tech; Michael Vanatta, Environmental Turf
- Session LC05 - 10:30 to 12:30 - **Management Skills for Golf Courses**
Accreditation Applied For: GCSAA
William Baker, Rep. UCR Ext.; Andrea Bakalyar, Wee Course at Williams Creek
- Session LC06 - 1:30 to 3:30 - **Golf Course Preparation**
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, STMA
William Baker, Rep. UCR Ext.; Andrea Bakalyar, Wee Course at Williams Creek

Saturday, October 15, 2005 - Arboriculture Track

- Session LC07 - 8:00 to 10:00 - **Micro-Injection Solutions**
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
Terry Tattar, Ph.D., University of Mass.; James Cortese, Cortese Tree Specialists
- Session LC08 - 10:30 to 12:30 - **Tree Decay: Structural Issues**
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
William Baker, Rep. UCR Ext.; Susan Sims, Sims Tree Learning Center
- Session LC09 - 1:30 to 3:30 - **Soil Issues That Impact Tree Health**
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
Susan Sims, Sims Tree Learning Center; Paul Sachs, North County Organics



Saturday, October 15, 2005 - Sports Turf Track Sponsored by STMA

- Session LC10 - 8:00 to 10:00 - **Managing Healthy Sports Fields**
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, STMA
Tom Samples, Ph.D., University of Tenn.; Paul Sachs, North County Organics
- Session LC11 - 10:30 to 12:30 - **Efficient Irrigation Management**
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, GCSAA, IA, STMA
Dave Minner, Ph.D., Iowa State University; Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries
- Session LC12 - 1:30 to 3:30 - **Developing an Aerification Program**
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, GCSAA, IA, STMA
Trent Hale, Ph.D., Clemson University; Dale Getz, The Toro Company

Sunday, October 16, 2005 - Landscape 2 Track

- Session LC13 - 8:00 to 10:00 - **Sustainable Landscapes: HortiGenomics**
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, IA, STMA
Susan Sims, Sims Tree Learning Center; Dr. Bruce Williams, Agronomy and Horticulture Services LLC; Ron Whitehurst, Rincon-Vitova Insectaries
- Session LC14 - 10:30 to 12:30 - **Warm Season Turf for the Landscape**
Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, STMA
Trent Hale, Ph.D., Clemson University; Michael Vanatta, Environmental Turf
- Session LC15 - 1:30 to 3:30 - **Laws and Regs for Chemical Application**
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, IA, STMA
Ken Franks, Kentucky Dept. of Ag.; Jerry Seabolt, Tennessee Dept. of Ag.

Sunday, October 16, 2005 - Park and Recreation Track

- Session LC16 - 8:00 to 10:00 - **Turf Options for Park & Recreation Mgmt.**
Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, STMA
Tom Samples, Ph.D., University of Tenn.; Michael Vanatta, Environmental Turf
- Session LC17 - 10:30 to 12:30 - **Saving Water with Irrigation Efficiency**
Accreditation Applied For: ASLA, CCA, GCSAA, IA, STMA
Bernd Leinauer, Ph.D., New Mexico State University; Andy Moore, Aquatrols
- Session LC18 - 1:30 to 3:30 - **Managing Pest Outbreaks in Trees**
Accreditation Applied For: CCA, DPR, GCSAA, ISA
Ron Whitehurst, Rincon-Vitova Insectaries; Joe Docola, Arbor Jet

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Turfco/800-679-8201
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see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5063-070>

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Enter the Field of the Year Awards program

Don't delay. You have less than two months to submit your field for the Field of the Year Award.

Enter your sports field to be considered for an award in baseball, football, soccer, softball or complex. For each field type awards may be given in the professional, collegiate, and schools/parks category. To be considered for the Complex of the Year, the facility must have a minimum of four fields and host a minimum of three different sports.

Each winner receives a registration to the annual STMA Conference and Exhibition, travel and hotel costs up to \$500, and signature clothing for the award winners and their staff. The winning fields are also featured in a 2006 article in this magazine. This visibility validates your expertise as a sports turf manager to your peers, your employer, your community, and to our industry.

These awards are made possible by the generous contributions of our sponsors: Bayer Environmental Sciences; Carolina Green Corp.; Covermaster, Inc; Hunter Industries; Jacobsen, A Textron Company; Nu-Gro Technologies, Inc.; Turface; Turf-Seed, Inc.; West Coast Turf; and World Class Athletic Surfaces.

Award applications must be received at STMA headquarters by October 14. Applications may be found at www.sportsturfmanager.org or by calling STMA headquarters, 800-323-3875.

STMA Calendar

Oct. 1 - Scholarship applications deadline (STMA must receive by this date)

Oct. 14 - Field of the Year applications and Founders' Award Nominations deadline

Jan. 18-22, 2006 - STMA Annual Conference & Exhibition, Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center, Lake Buena Vista, FL.

Seeking SAFE Auction Items

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE), the charitable arm of STMA, is seeking items to auction at the annual STMA conference and exhibition held each January.

Donations to the auction in the past have included team gear and logo items such as shirts, hats, jackets, autographed baseballs and footballs, and vendor products such as mowers, field rakes, seed, field paint, plant protectants, etc.

The money from auctioning these items funds education, scholarships, and research efforts for the sports turf management industry. In 2005, SAFE awarded scholarships to 13 students and funded their conference education experience. The SAFE Board of Directors has been developing protocol for research projects and has been considering partner-

ships for research collaboration.

SAFE is a 501 (c) 3 organization and contributions are tax deductible.

For more information or to make a donation, contact STMA headquarters, 800-323-3875, or Tom Curran, Raffle/Auction Chair at 954-786-4138.

Look for a list of items for the Raffle in upcoming issues of *SPORTSTURF*.

New members, continued

Oregon

Mike Billman, DLF International Seeds, Halsey, OR
Jonathan Garrett, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
Jim Haines, University of Portland, Portland, OR
Mark Hopkins, Gresham-Barlow School Dist, Gresham, OR
Douglas Wilson, Milton-Freewater, OR

Pennsylvania

Chad Alterio, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
Robert Copple, Wallingford-Swarthmore School Dist., Wallingford, PA
Brian Eiche, Penn State Univ., Leesport, PA
Riza Ergin, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA
Jamie Farguhar, Natural Sand, Slippery Rock, PA
Daniel Fick, Northern Nurseries, Wind Gap, PA
Samuel Fletcher, Bellefonte, PA
Timothy McCardell, Chester County Crop Care, Cochranville, PA
Christopher McCardell, Chester County Sportsturf, Cochranville, PA
Pete Murray, Towanda Area School Dist., Towanda, PA
Glenn Musser, Millcreek Manufacturing Co., Leola, PA
Jeffrey Shugarts, Dubois, PA
Philip Snead, Bryn Mawr, PA
David Super, Delaware Valley College, Dickson City, PA

Rhode Island

Derek Carlson, Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI
James Lucia, Bryant University, Smithfield, RI
Art Tuveson, Univ of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

South Carolina

Robert Bowling, Jr., Southern Wesleyan Univ, Central, SC
Ryan Carpenter, St. Andrews Parks & Playground, Charleston, SC
Mike Echols, Clemson University, Clemson, SC
Neel Griffin, City of Aiken PRT, Aiken, SC
Thomas Trotter, Greenville, SC
David Vonschmittou, Earth Agronomics, Pendleton, SC

South Dakota

Doug Hagman, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD
Mark Owen, Rossmark Inc., Rapid City, SD
Matt Thorn, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD

Tennessee

Janelle Butler, Butler Equipment, Inc., Dyersburg, TN
Jacob Cain, Brentwood Parks & Rec., Brentwood, TN
Ashley Gaskin, Tennessee Titans, Nashville, TN
Matthew Goddard, Knoxville, TN
Mike Green, TC Thiolon USA, Dayton, TN
Michael Henry, Ensworth High School, Nashville, TN
Mark Mills, White House High School, White House, TN
John Stoots, Brownsville, TN
Mark Traill, Brentwood Parks & Rec., Brentwood, TN

Texas

John Baize, Global Sports Systems Inc., Austin, TX
Mike Carmack, City of Arlington, Arlington, TX
Steven Cheney, College Station ISD, College Station, TX
Scott Conrad, Sherman ISD, Sherman, TX
David Cooper, City of Cleburne, Cleburne, TX
Troy Crawford, City of Colleyville, Colleyville, TX
Humberto Cruz, San Antonio, TX
Brad Detmore, Corpus Christi Hooks, Corpus Christi, TX
Trey Dyer, City of Georgetown, Georgetown, TX
Timothy Evans, Univ of Houston-Athletics, Houston, TX
Brad Garrison, Diamond Pro/TXI, Dallas, TX
Patrick Grant, Houston, TX
Shauna Greaham, City of Red Oak, Red Oak, TX
John Haney, Marble Falls ISD, Marble Falls, TX
Michael Harkrider, Elite Turfcare Group, LLC, Austin, TX
Stacy Harris, City of Arlington, Arlington, TX
Lin Hartstack, City of Brenham, Brenham, TX
Chris Haworth, City of Arlington, Arlington, TX
Patrick "Fuzz" Herridge, Aquatrols, Lubbock, TX
Corey Marlar, Deer Park ISD, Deer Park, TX
Thomas McAfee, Nelson W. Wolff Municipal Stadium, San Antonio, TX
Nick McKenna, Texas A&M Athletic Dept., Bryan, TX
Justin Potthoff, College Station, TX
Michael Ranc, Houston Astros, The Woodlands, TX
Greg Reynolds, City of Midland-Parks, Midland, TX
Larry Rider, Turfgrass Professionals/Texas, Houston, TX
Max Robertson, City of Cleburne, Cleburne, TX
Cody Rogers, Texas A&M Athletic Department, Bryan, TX
Clif Spangler, City of Arlington/Parks Dept., Arlington, TX
Mitch Symons, Texas State Tech College, Waco, TX
Craig Turley, City of Arlington, Arlington, TX

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stma in action

Emerson Vorel, City of Denton Parks & Rec., Denton, TX
Jason Wolken, In Line Plastics, Inc., Houston, TX
Matt Young, City of Arlington, Arlington, TX

Utah

Jason Lance, Basin Recreation, Park City, UT
Steven Van Winkle, Sandy, UT

Virginia

Scott Ashworth, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA
Jose Carballo, Fairfax, VA
David Davis, Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA
Adam Dixon, Hampton Roads Soccer Council, Virginia Beach, VA
Anne Harmon, Harmon Turf Services, Inc., Hillsville, VA
Joe Harmon, Harmon Turf Services, Inc., Hillsville, VA
Robert Harrison, On Point Turf & Landscape, Colonial Beach, VA
Rodney Hopkins, Richmond Strikers, Sandy Hook, VA
Randy Keys, Timmons Group, Richmond, VA
William Kolster, Loudoun County Public Schools, Leesburg, VA
Joey Robinson, Timmons Group, Midlothian, VA
Tracy Schneweis, Salem Avalanche, Salem, VA
Jon Waters, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA
Andrew Wissinger, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA

Vermont

James Kendrick, Moose River Publishing, St. Johnsbury, VT

Washington

Donald Campbell, Jr., Bruce Dees & Associates, Tacoma, WA
David Dembeck, Fall City, WA
Jeff Horan, Greenshield Systems, Mt Vernon, WA
Kevin Husemann, City of Sammamish, Sammamish, WA
Darren Patrick, City of Kent - Parks Maintenance, Kent, WA
Jose Pedroza, Walla Walla Community College, Walla Walla, WA
Jeff Rotter, City of Kirkland, Kirkland, WA

Andrew Rountree, Walla Walla, WA
Erik Sweet, Renton, WA
John Wright, Jr., Seattle Seahawks, Kirkland, WA
Kyle Young, Walla Walla Community College, Endicott, WA

Wisconsin

Scott Abrahamson, University of Wisconsin/Superior, Superior, WI
Matt Bauman, University of Wisconsin/Madison, Madison, WI
Josh Graham, River Falls, WI
Michael Parent, H & K Sports Fields, Egg Harbor, WI
Chad Rabe, Marian College, Fond Du Lac, WI
Cory Tomesh, Stratford, WI

West Virginia

Eric Bailey, West Virginia Power, Charleston, WV
Gabe Cyrus, Poca, WV
Lloyd S. Wolfe, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

Wyoming

Matt Eastman, City of Green River Parks Department, Green River, WY

International

Nieves Castillo, Calle Salvador Diaz Casas, Chihuahua, Mexico
Amir Felder, Felder N of Ltd, Binyamina, Israel
Steven Hayman, Fleet (Line Markers) Limited, Malvern, England
Francois Hebert, Outremont, PQ, Canada
Ron Martin, Mar-Co Clay Products, Inc., Bright, ON, Canada
Luis Ostos Olivares, Chihuahua, Mexico
Neil Power, Power Horticultural Services, Nundah, Queensland, Australia
Jorge Quinones, Libramiento Gomez Morin, Casas Grandes, Chihuahua., Mexico
Ignatius Shannon, Macleodshield Limited, Derby, Derbyshire, England
Colin Tarry, Inditherm PLC, S. Yorkshire, UK
Ken Vandervoet, Reist Industries Inc., Elmira, ON, Canada
Gary Waterford, Grass Manufacturers PTY Ltd, Botany, Australia
Anthony Wong, Singapore American School, Singapore

chapter news

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:

For information contact Chris Calcaterra at chriscc@peoriaaz.com or call 623/412-4231 or Bill Murphy, at bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us or 480/312-7956.

Chesapeake Chapter STMA (formerly called Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization - MAFMO Chapter STMA):

Our meeting at RFK Stadium will be scheduled at a later date at which time we will see the change over from baseball to soccer. For more information contact Graham Davis at gdavis@american.edu or call 301/495-5522.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:

The CSTMA will be going to Broncos Training Camp



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in early August, please check the CSTMA website for details. Also, the last seminar for the year is scheduled for September 9 at Graff's Turf Farms. For more information visit www.cstma.org or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303/346-8954, or contact President Richard Buelter at 303/233-2922 or dbuelter@jeffco.k12.co.us.

Florida #1 Chapter: The Florida Turfgrass Association Show is September 10-15 in Bonita Springs. CEUs will be provided. For additional information and registration go to www.ftga.org. The next Florida #1 Chapter meeting is October 18 at the University of Florida in Davie. For more information visit the Florida #1 Chapter page on STMA's website or contact John Mascaro at 954/341-3115 or STMA@turf-tec.com.

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: On August 8 from 5-10 PM, is Game Day at the River City Rascals in O'Fallon, MO. For information call Mike Krone, Missouri Baptist College at 314/392-2328 or e-mail krone@mobap.edu.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Skip Kirby at 770/928-1580 or by e-mail at skip@sportsturfmanagement.com.

The Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: The next meeting will be held September 15 at Pomona College, time to be announced. This is an educational, general meeting including the nominations of officers for the 2006. CEUs will be available and there will be a lunch buffet. For information and reservations or for more information on upcoming events call Emilio Avalos at 949/824-8243 or e-mail ecavalos@uci.edu.

Illinois Chapter: For information, call chapter secretary Libby Baker at 847/263-7603 or e-mail Bake60ft6in@aol.com.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: The ISTMA Multi-Field Workshop is August 18 at the Ankeny Sports Complex in Ankeny. For information visit www.iowaturfgrass.org or contact Jeff Wendel of The Turf Office at ph. 515/232-8222 or fax 515/232-8228 or e-mail Jeff@iowaturfgrass.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA): For information contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club at 610/375-8469, ext. 212 or by e-mail to: kafmo@aol.com.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: The Kentucky Turfgrass Council (KTC) Annual Meeting and Trade Show is October 24-27 in Bowling Green. For more information, go to www.kystma.org or contact Donnie Mefford at dbm-eff00@email.uky.edu or call 859/257-1451.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): The MiSTMA and Michigan State University Summer Field Day is August 16. Registration is at 8:00 a.m. with morning tours from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and an afternoon "hands-on" sports field tour to Oldsmobile Park from Noon-3:00 p.m. For more information visit their website at

www.mistma.org or contact Chad Follis at 269/377-3340 or 269/381-0596 or by email at chadfollis@farmngarden.com.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: The MSTMA is having their fall workshop on October 5 in Prior Lake. For information visit the Chapter website at www.mstma.org or contact chapter President Greg Hoag at 651/486-8295 or by email at greg.hoag@metro-inet.us.



Chapter has tickets for the Padres game August 26. Call Mike at 858/679-2526 to purchase your tickets (\$16). For more information call the Chapter Hotline at 888/578-STMA (578-7862) toll free in Southern California or 760/226-8873 or Michael Tarantino at 858/679-2526 or by e-mail: MTarantino@powayusd.com.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA: The 2005 Clemson University Turfgrass Field Day will be held from 8 a.m.-noon on September 13 at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center in Florence. The field day will be followed by the Charles P. Willimon, Sr. Golf Tournament at Florence Country Club.

Proceeds from the golf tournament support turfgrass research and education programs at Clemson. Registration information can be obtained from Sam Cheatham at 803/957-0616 or scurfgrassfoundation@all-tel.net or Jim Camberato at 843/669-1912 ext. 226 or jcmbrt@clemson.edu. For the golf tournament please check the website, or call Sam Cheatham or Hank Kerfoot at 803/713-8873 or by email at hank@modernturf.com. For more information contact Trent Hale at 843/662-3526 ext. 206 or by e-mail at tc hale@clemson.edu for more information or visit our website at www.scstma.org.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:

TXSTMA will be holding an Educational Field Day event in the DFW area in October as well as the Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. Watch for more information in the mail. For additional information call the chapter voicemail at 866/897-8621 or T.J. Thompson, President-Elect at 972/670-2138 or by email at TXturfmanager@prodigy.net.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): The chapter will be holding the West Tennessee Field Day at the University of Tennessee at Martin, September 9. For more information visit the Chapter's website at www.tvstma.org or call Chapter President, Chris Pearl at 615/242-4371.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: The VSTMA will participate in and support the Virginia Turfgrass Council/Virginia Tech Field Days in Blacksburg September 13-14, and will also participate in and support the Virginia Turfgrass Council Sports Turf Short Course in Blacksburg December 5-8. For more information contact VSTMA President Bob Studholme of the Fairfax County Park Authority at 703/324-8590 or robert.studholme@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: For information contact Chris Brindley at 715/346-3622 or cbrindle@uwsp.edu.

Forming Chapters:

North Florida STMA Chapter: For information on the newly forming North Florida Chapter, contact Mark Clay at 904/633-6116 or Jay McCord at 904/448-2583.

New York Sports Turf Managers Association: Contact Mike Albino at 315/468-6225 or 315/427-1214 or email mikealbino@earthlink.net.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: For information, contact Paul Hecker at 913/971-9717 or email phecker@olatheks.org.

New England STMA (NESTMA): NESTMA will be holding its 14th Annual Summer Field Day at Saint Anselm's College in Manchester, NH August 10. Please contact Bill Butts at 617/484-3360 or bbutts@waverlylandscape.com or Keith Macdonald at kmacdonald@bridgew.edu. For more information contact David Pinsonneault at 781/861-2757 or dpinson@ci.lexington.ma.us.

Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: For information call Janet Gift at 530/758-4200 or email Emory Hunter at emhunter@usa.net.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: For information call Loren Humphrey at: 402/461-2356 or e-mail to lhumphrey@cityofhastings.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: For information call SFMANJ at 908/730-7770, e-mail HQ@sfmanj.org or visit the Chapter website at www.sfmanj.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): The OSTMA will be having a Fall Field Day and Vendor Showcase September 13 at Beekman Park, The Ohio State University Intramural facility. For more information, visit the Chapter's website at www.ostma.org or call us at 888/824-9805 or fax to 614/247-6965. You can also contact Brian Gimbel at gimbel.1@osu.edu.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: For information, contact Bob Christofferson at 206/346-4218 or bchristo@mariners.org.

Southern California Chapter: The SoCal



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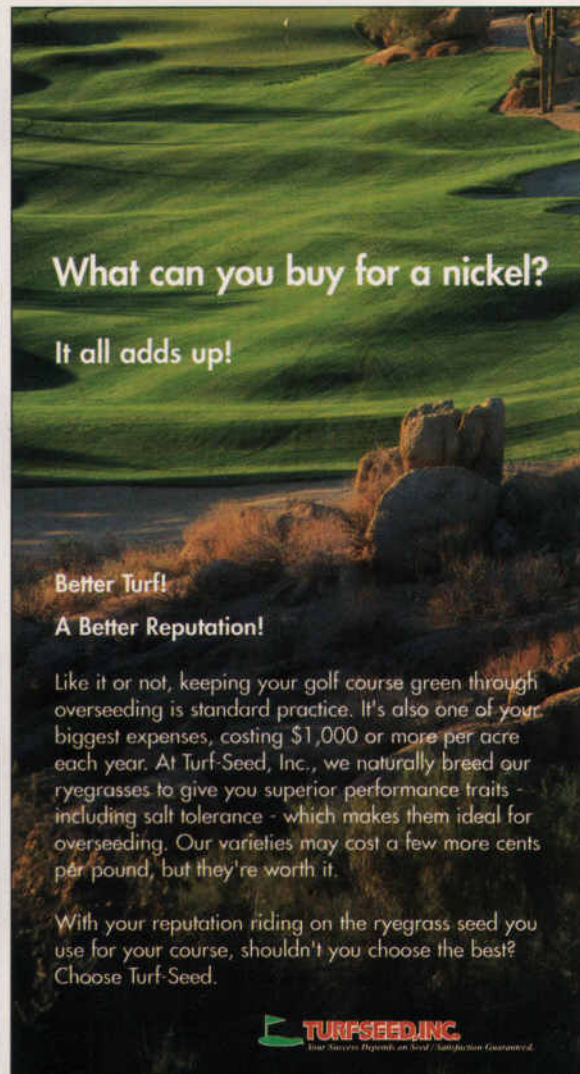
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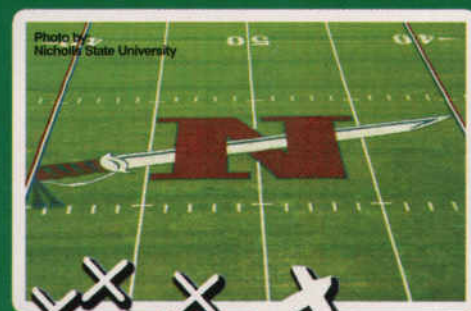
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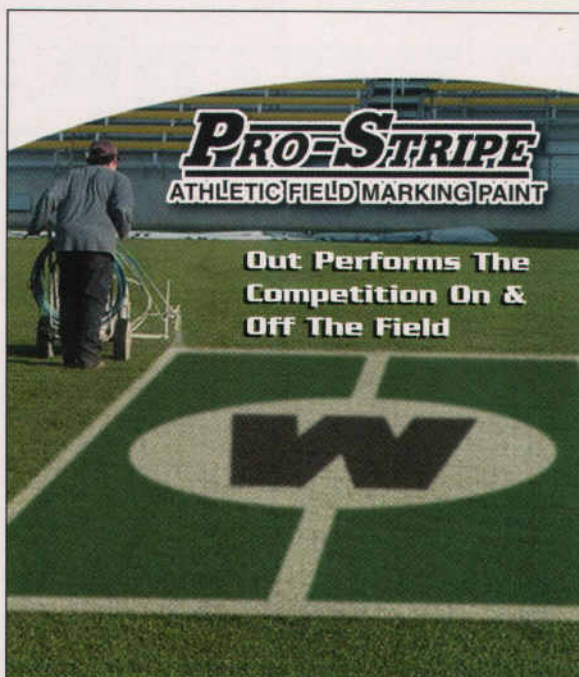
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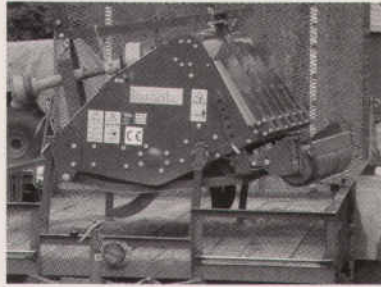
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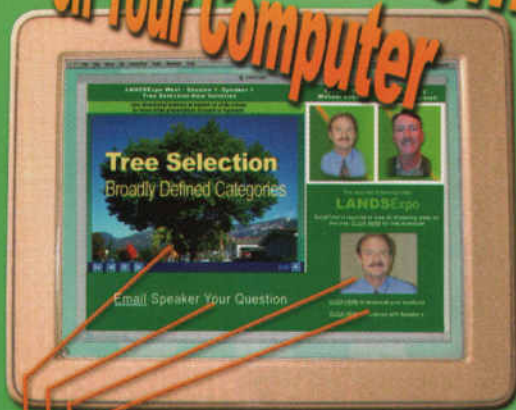
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Nothing but "The Best"?

Early this summer I was at one of our University turfgrass field days. At these events visitors come to our research and demonstration areas to visit with University faculty and staff and view our latest research trials and listen to our education sessions. I figured by the time nearly 400 people heard my four 20-minute talks and asked questions that I would have a long list of material for this Q&A column.

So group after group came by, I made my points, and we discussed various athletic field turf issues. Among the attendees were both athletic field managers and coaches. After each group left, I jotted down a few notes related to their questions before the next group arrived. On the drive home, I started reading through their questions and made what I considered to be an interesting discovery. Most of their questions started with "What is the best . . . ?"

The following are examples of actual questions:

What is the best grass to have on an athletic field?

What is the best mowing height for Tifway Bermudagrass?

What is the best fertilizer to use on a field?

What is the best product to control [fill in the blank]?

It seems to be human nature to want nothing but the best; no one wants to waste time using the second-rated product. Of course it is not in the tradition of a researcher to cut to the chase and proclaim there is only one best of anything. Each question provided me an opportunity to explain why there is often not a best or ideal, at least not without a thorough evaluation of the situation.

Take for instance the first question related to grass selection. This question is often asked immediately after I mention field use capacity and recovery. People are always looking for a new grass that can take the extreme wear and compaction received by most high school and municipal multi-use fields. This is one of the reasons artificial turf is making a comeback. But I do not believe there is currently a best grass. We have a number of great grasses available that can handle a reasonable amount of wear and tear when they are managed properly. Of course some grasses are better in some situations than others, but those situations can change during the year or season. So, it is virtually impossible to crown one grass as "best."

When the Tifway question was being asked, I was standing on a Bermudagrass area mowed at about one-half inch. A couple of attendees asked if I endorsed that low of a mowing height. I do not believe that a mowing height should be selected arbitrarily. Mowing height should be determined while considering a number of other factors, including the sport played on the field, performance expectations, level of maintenance, mower type, and grass.

I do not believe there is a best height for a grass. I often see Tifway Bermudagrass on athletic fields mowed at heights between 1/2-inch and 2 inches. A field will perform very differently on each end of this range. A field manager has to find a height that is manageable and also acceptable for the players and coaches. That height may need to be adjusted during the year to meet specific turf or performance requirements. Typically as the mowing height goes down, the level of attention from the turf manager must go up.

"What is the best fertilizer" is a relative question. The determinant of best fertilizer is often influenced by fertilizer price, plant needs, and turf managers' ability to manage applications. For non-nitrogen inputs, a quick soil test can determine need based on what is currently available in the soil. The question on nitrogen carrier is often dictated on desired response time (greening) and amount of money available to spend.

A grass plant is not as choosy about what it takes up as we humans are with what we eat. Your grass is a little like Mikey from the old cereal commercials—it eats anything. Generally, the products that result in nitrogen released over a period of time, and do not require as frequent application compared to the quickly available sources, cost a little more. I often tell turf managers that with all other things being equal, the best nitrogen fertilizer to use is the cheapest per pound of nitrogen as long as they are willing to ration the delivery.

Without even addressing the last question, I am sure you can predict where this is heading. In many cases, there may not be a "best."

On this back page each month Dr. Minner and I try to provide you with answers to your questions. More often than not, our answers provide more than one option. In the process of answering your questions we often challenge readers to evaluate their own situations and

apply the information as best they can to solve their problems at that moment. When dealing a biological system such as growing turfgrass, there are not always specific formulas to follow that will provide 100 percent consistent results. In the end, we may have to follow advice once provided by Franklin Roosevelt: "We do our best that we know how at the moment, and if it doesn't turf out, we modify it." **ST**

QUESTIONS? Send them to Grady Miller at the University of Florida, PO Box 110670, Gainesville, FL 32611, or email gmler@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.

