



VERTI-CUTTER

The VC-60 Verti-cutter is for continuous heavy-duty use in all types of turf. The unit's patented swing hitch allows you to verti-cut around objects while turning, without tearing established turf. Pivot points allow unit to float over uneven terrain. Cutting depth adjustable in the field without tools.

First Products/800-363-8780

For information, circle 108 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/4569-108>

BETTER SEEDING

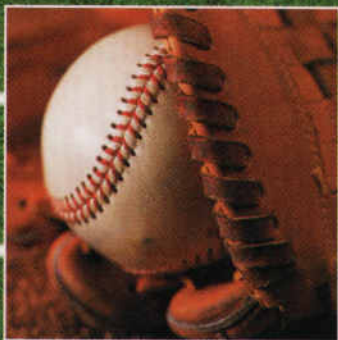
The SE-60 Seeda-Vator has the flexibility of primary seeding or overseeding with the same machine.

Patented vibrating tines extensively fracture soil without destroying existing turf. Machine has swing hitch that allows you to turn around objects without tearing turf. Available with either ground driven or electric drive seed hopper.

First Products/800-363-8780

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Haulz-All has added the Über Mover 200 2-wheeled power wheelbarrow to its family. Combining the maneuverability of a singled-wheel wheelbarrow with the stability of a 4-wheeled wagon, the unit will move heavy, bulky loads. It features an 8-cuft poly tub and will handle loads up 500 lbs. Units are completely electric running off twin 12-volt rechargeable batteries. Emits no fumes and run silently.

Haulz-All/866-428-5925

For information, circle 104 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/4569-104>

GROUNDHOGS NOW FOLD

AerWay is introducing an all-new folding design, available in 12- and 15-ft. widths, as part of its Groundhog family. Folded width is within 90 in., allowing for easy transport through gates and along pathways. Made for those with multiple field complexes, the machines can aerate more than 10 acres an hour and it can be fitted with any type of AerWay tines.

AerWay/800-457-8310

For information, circle 099 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/4569-099>



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Turf Specialties has a 6-ft. model of its Thatch Master verti-cut unit. It uses the same technology proven over the past 13 years but is 20 percent wider and so reduces labor costs by 20 percent. An NFL turf manager says, "The Thatch Master is a primary piece of equipment we use to renovate our field after a game."

Turf Specialties/800-201-1031



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Graden USA Inc.
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USA

Swing Wing (SW04)

Circle 200 on card or www.oners.ims.ca/4569-200

(continued from page 11) rently is used primarily by field hockey. The field was resurfaced in 2003. The decision was made not to use one of the infill synthetic turfs, as the field hockey coaches like the faster speed of the older style turf and prefer it for ball bounce and stick contact factors. The 90,000-square foot surface is watered by six Nelson Big Gun irrigation heads both to provide the wet playing surface for maximum ball play and performance and to reduce surface temperatures during the high heat periods of the year. The field is monitored daily for pickup of any on-field debris and is swept weekly with a riding sweeper. The surface is combed annually to keep the synthetic blades separated from friction heating. In the fall, the field is painted with soccer, football and field hockey lines. In the spring, men and women's lacrosse lines are painted.

Rodgers says, "As a turfgrass manager, having this field is a huge plus. When the weather becomes inclement enough that turf damage occurs on natural surfaces, our coaches have been most cooperative in rescheduling practices on the artificial surface. This certainly helps our overall preservation of the natural turf fields."

Challenges of Mother Nature

As if all this weren't enough, Rodgers and crew faced two years of opposite extremes, thanks to the whims of Mother Nature. It all started with dry stretches in April and May 2002 that meant constantly adjusting the irrigation and maintenance programs through the baseball season. Then the June heat hit timed with the worst draught central Virginia had experienced in 100 years. From June through the end of August there was no measurable rainfall. In August, irrigation was restricted to twice per week. On September 17, 10 days before the football game with Clemson, the city and county shut off all outside irrigation, including that for sports fields and even stipulated no water was to be used for the stadium bathrooms.

Rodgers joined in the University and City discussions about hosting the games, exploring the possibility of bringing in 11,000 gallons of quarry water to get some softness and playability on the fields and securing a bank of "portajohns" to accommodate the crowds.

He says, "Six days before the game we got a beautiful inch of rain. Then the fall rains started and kept coming. From end of September throughout November, we received adequate rainfall. The Ravinna reservoir started to refill and irrigation was once again permitted by mid-November. Then we had the wettest winter ever and the precipitation just wouldn't stop. By October 2003 we had a surplus of 26 inches above normal. The extreme differences we had from one year to the other were incredible.

"After doing everything possible to preserve moisture in 2002, we were incorporating every technique we could devise to alleviate it in 2003. We increased core aeration. We added multiple deep tine spiking, 6 to 8 inches in depth, to avoid surface disruption while opening up channels to move the water from the surface and through the soil profile. Mowing took place whenever we could operate the equipment. All the fertilization programs were adjusted to compensate for the additional growth. The baseball skinned surface required twice the conditioner usually used. We kept in constant communication with the coaches and administration to keep them up to date on field conditions and, thanks to their cooperation, we were able to keep the fields in play. It's been a real joy for all of us from a field management standpoint to have normal weather patterns in 2004."

Rodgers credits his staff for much of the program's success. He says, "I have what I consider the best grounds crew in America with full-time staff members Henry Shifflett, Tracy Burge and Scott Anderson. During the spring and fall seasons we're assisted by part-time student staff members who quickly catch the enthusiasm and dedication it takes to maintain fields to our standards."

Rodgers also taps into the best turfgrass resources around. He says, "My respect for the Virginia Tech Research Center is unparalleled. I'm pleased with the extent of their knowledge and expertise and their cooperation in sharing that information. I greatly appreciate the terrific service they provide to all of us across the state."

* The CSFM designation acknowledges the individual has attained Certified Sports Field Manager status through the rigorous Certification program developed and administered by the Sports Turf Managers Association. **ST**

Suz Trusty from Trusty & Associates is a member of our Editorial Advisory Board. She can be reached at suz@trusty.bz.



Welcome

Kim Heck

STMA Executive Director

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Online continuing education a reality

BY STEVE PORUS

The educational needs of the Green Industry have changed over the past 10 years. Time has become a very expensive commodity and travel has become more difficult as well. Many professionals have trouble devoting several days, let alone a week for their continuing education. Your career might depend on your hands-on management. How can the busy professional do it all?

Online sessions, workshops and training, allow the busy professional to keep up to date on information and CEU license requirements. Currently there are online classes available both as tutorials and interactive. Many are informational and some offer CEUs or some form of certification.

The challenge is two-fold: First, online courses attract national registration; second, each state has its own individual requirements. Many of the sources for online continuing education are regional. That is why I created LandsExpo.

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March 23, 2005
Onsite: Texas Station, Las Vegas
Online: GreenIndustryEducation.com

Time	Arboriculture	Sports Turf	Park/Landscape	Irrigation
7:00 a.m.	Tree Selection: New Varieties <i>Session 1</i>	Exhibits/Buffer	Assessing Plant Stress <i>Session 3</i>	Exhibits/Buffer
8:00 a.m.		Pesticides on Turfgrass <i>Session 2</i>		Irrigation Design <i>Session 4</i>
9:00 a.m.	Exhibits/Buffer		Exhibits/Buffer	
10:00 a.m.	Tree Health <i>Session 5</i>	Exhibits/Buffer	Soil Issues <i>Session 7</i>	Exhibits/Buffer
11:00 a.m.		Turfgrass Selection <i>Session 6</i>		Irrigation Efficiency <i>Session 8</i>
12:00 p.m.	Exhibits/Buffer		Exhibits/Buffer	
1:00 p.m.	Pros/Cons of Micro-Injection <i>Session 9</i>	Exhibits/Buffer	Soil Erosion Control <i>Session 11</i>	Exhibits/Buffer
2:00 p.m.		Evaluating and Amending Soil <i>Session 10</i>		Irrigation with Reclaimed Water <i>Session 12</i>
3:00 p.m.				
4:00 p.m.				

LANDSExpo West 2005 will be hosted in Las Vegas on March 23, 2005. The conference program will offer (12) 2-hour sessions in Arboriculture, Sports Turf, Park/Landscape, and Irrigation both on-site and online. Sessions have applied for continuing education credits: ASLA CPEs, CCA Hours, DPR Hours, GCSAA PDU's, IA Hours, and ISA Hours. All sessions feature industry renowned speakers from universities, government agencies and the Green Industry.

Online registration includes: virtual exhibits, selection of 3 sessions and downloadable handout materials. Attendees can see, hear, and forward questions to speakers in real-time, as well as view PowerPoint presentations for a complete virtual and interactive educational experience.

Thousands of Green Industry Professionals will meet either on-site or online at LandsExpo. Attendees will include professionals in landscape architecture and design, selection, implementation and maintenance of public and private landscapes, parks, golf courses, irrigation, pest control, and more.

LANDSExpo Exhibitors will have an opportunity to be featured on the online exhibits and product guide, reaching a national audience. Exhibitors can schedule "CHATS" at LANDSExpo.com to promote products and services while sharing expertise with other green industry professionals. Buyers will be able to view exhibitors' products and services as well as contacting exhibitor for more information or to schedule an through exhibitor's online booth for 60 days prior and 60 days post-LANDSExpo.

Contact Steven for exhibiting and sponsorship opportunities at 877-964-6222.

LandsExpo Session Overviews:

Sports Turf Track

Pesticides on Turfgrass

Jay Gan, Ph.D., University of California, Riverside
Bruce Kidd, Dow Agro Sciences

Maintenance of high quality sports turf, including golf courses, rely on the adequate use of pesticides in order to protect against pests, and restore the competitive balance in favor of the turf. This session will cover two facets of pesticides on turfgrass. One will be the fate of pesticides in the environment and strategies for minimizing pesticide runoff and offsite movement. The other will cover cultural and chemical practices for managing specific weeds in turfgrass with various stressful conditions. Examples will be drawn from golf courses and professional sports fields, all the way down to your children's beat-up soccer fields, with suggestions how you can help create and maintain a safer and better performing turfgrass.

Turfgrass Selection

Kent Kurtz, Ph.D., California State Polytechnic, Pomona
John Rector, Turf-Seed, Inc.

Specific turfgrasses are necessary for specific uses from a front lawn to a sports field. Grasses need to be able to spread and recuperate after injury and provide wear tolerance for all types of sports and activities. Turfgrass species and maintenance techniques suitable for the high desert environment will be reviewed along with breeding efforts, new releases, and the latest varieties available featuring improved heat, salt, and wear tolerance.

Evaluating and Amending Soil

Kent Kurtz, Ph.D., California State Polytechnic, Pomona
Dirk Muntean, Soil and Plant Laboratory, Inc.

There are many types of soils used for the construction and establishment of turfgrasses on sports fields. Poor soil physical properties and fertility imbalances reduce turf health, quality, and performance. Thorough examination and correction prior to turf planting can solve many potential problems. This session will provide the turf professional with a check list of potential problem areas that can be adjusted or corrected prior to turf installation by considering types of field materials or soils, pre-plant fertilizers, and organic amendments.

Park and Landscape Track

Assessing Plant Stress

Angela O'Callaghan, Ph.D.
University of Nevada, Cooperative Extension

Susan Sims, Sims Tree Health Specialists

Plant stress equates to compounding plant problems. They must be distinguished in order to treat

them properly. Understanding a plant's resource allocations and defense mechanisms allows one to approach stress problems with a proactive approach utilizing prevention and avoidance techniques. This session will focus on proper plant selection and plant health care methods to minimize problems resulting from plant stress.

(continued on page 44)

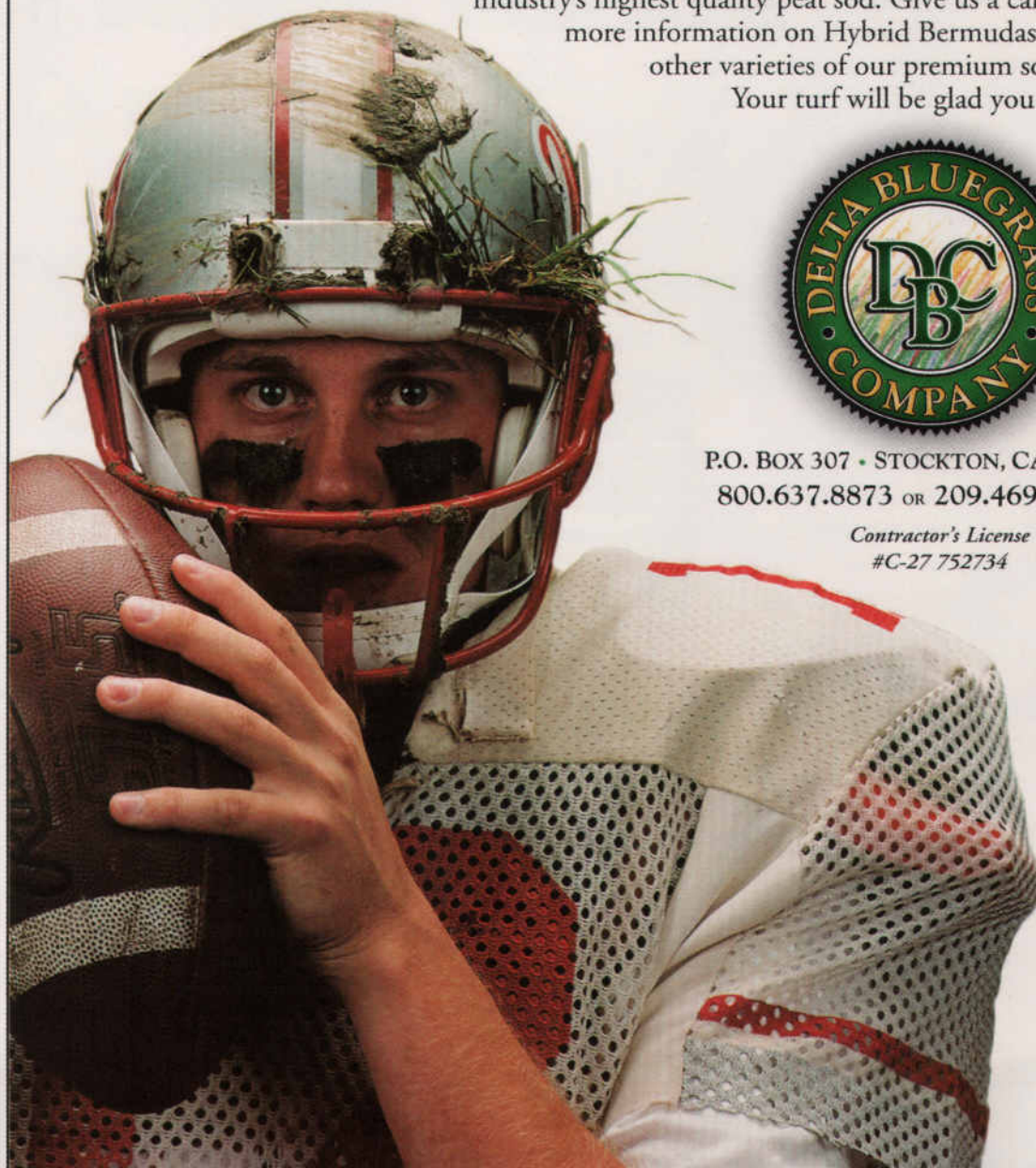
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Natural turf still the standard

While synthetic fields continue to be popular, conversations with players, architects, and others working "in the field" reveal concerns on how the new surfaces may affect the athletes competing on them.

In this regard health-related questions about newer synthetics are currently under discussion by the EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances and Turfgrass Producers International (TPI). Among the questions being raised are:

- The hazards posed to athletes by the potentially toxic content of in-fill rubber.
- Problems associated with the elevated heat levels.
- The sanitation challenges of a non-absorbent surface.
- The effect that the new surfaces may have on an athlete's health and longevity.

Referring to the last point, there's strong evidence that natural turf remains the playing surface of choice:

Football. In a survey by the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) 88.8 percent of respondents said they prefer playing on natural grass fields and nearly 96 percent said they believe that artificial surfaces were more likely to contribute to injuries.

Baseball. Comments from players and groundskeepers reflect a preference for natural turf. Bret Saberhagen, a two-time Cy Young Award winner and current head baseball coach at Calabasas (CA) HS, recently headed a fund-raising campaign to construct a state-of-the-art natural grass field for his team. "In the majors we used to dread going on the road to play on an artificial field," he says, "and there's no way I would consider one for my kids. Baseball was meant to be

**"I'VE NEVER FOUND A B
DOESN'T PREFER NATU
TREVOR VANCE, HEAD
THE KANSAS CITY ROY**



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played on grass."

In his recent book "Nitty Gritty Dirt Man" George Toma writes, "George Brett was one of the finest ballplayers I have ever seen. However, the artificial surface at Kauffman Stadium took its toll on George's knees and the rest of his body. George once told me the carpet was good for his batting average, but bad for his body."

"I've never found a ballplayer that doesn't prefer natural grass," says Trevor Vance, current head groundskeeper for the Kansas City Royals. "Number one is safety; the grass is giving where artificial turf is not and it's awful hard on your back and knees."

Do his peers share the same opinion? "Absolutely," Vance says.

Soccer. "We haven't been able to convince the top international teams to play on anything but grass," says Mike McFaul, of First and Goal, Inc. the parent company of Seattle's Qwest Field. "So on three separate occasions we've enlisted the help of West Coast Turf to create a Tifway II Bermudagrass field over our existing



infill surface."

The result, according to McFaul, has been a successful series of international matches at Qwest Field. The natural turf has held up well under hard use and the players loved it. "It has also provided good public relations because, after each series, we've donated it for use in area schools and parks where it has proven to be very viable."

One good example of this is in Kirkland. There, City Parks Superintendent Jason Filan put the "used" natural turf to work in a soccer-mad area where many schools and parks have gone to synthetic surfaces. "We had a field with a very beat-up surface," Filan says, "and we prepped it thoroughly before getting the turf. We now have a first class soccer field that has held up well after two seasons of very heavy use."

Sport Field Architects. As independent consultants, sports field architects are understandably reluctant to "take sides" in the natural vs. artificial competition. However, on the basis of not being named, one active and respected practitioner shared personal opinions in the following conversation:

Q. What's your basic assessment of the natural vs. artificial situation?

A. Our goal is to make sure we give our clients the best surface for their needs. We find there are applications where synthetics can be very practical, but, in my opinion there's no better surface than well-maintained natural grass."

(continued on page 46)

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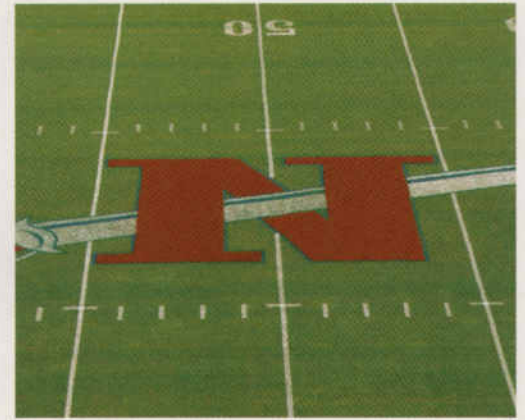
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STAPLE GUN FOR GROUND

North American Green has a new Surelock II Convertible Staple Gun that makes installing rolled erosion blankets, geotextiles, sod and other materials that must be secured to the ground easier, more efficient and more economical, the company says. The gun is available in manual and pneumatic-drive models, with two separate magazine packages available for each model, one for six-inch wire cartridge staples and one for four-inch or six-inch BioStakes.

North American Green/800-772-2040
For information, circle 060 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/4569-060>

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Komatsu Zenoah American Inc/800-291-8251, x214
For information, circle 057 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/4569-057>

NEW GAME DAY PAINT

Game Day 8090 Ultimate White athletic field marking paint is Suntec Paint's newest product, developed especially for sports turf pros. This paint is highly pigmented with concentrated amounts of titanium dioxide and optical brighteners for brilliant white finish. And there's no calcium carbonate so there's no limestone buildup on your field, and settling after mixing is drastically reduced.

Suntec Paint/800-333-1104
For information, circle 119 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/4569-119>

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One of the many field cover models available from Covermaster is RAINCOVER Plus. Test results show that its color combination is the best to reduce heat build-up under the cover, minimizing risk of turf damage. Also available is TARPIMATE, a plastic storage roller with safety end caps to prevent handling injury.

Covermaster Inc/800-387-5808
For information, circle 120 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/4569-120>



NEW BACKPACK BLOWERS

At 3.9 hp, the Shindaiwa EB630 backpack blower is powerful, and now it features a rapid fire, pistol grip handle that provides operators complete and instant throttle control with simple a flick of the trigger mechanism. No need to constantly reach for a remote throttle lever.

Shindaiwa, Inc/800-521-7733
For information, circle 055 or
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ELIMINATE "HOURGLASSING"

Airlessco is now shipping its FIELD STRIPE+ sports field striper with a new gun head mounting system that "floats" the spray gun a consistent distance from the turf, eliminating the "hourglassing" problems created using traditional fixed gun stripers. Like all three models of the FIELD STRIPE line, the Plus uses the "Slow Stroking" piston pump paint delivery system. The removable gun can also be used as a mobile paint sprayer to paint logos or artwork with stencils.






Airlessco by Durotech Co./800-856-6786
For information, circle 056 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/4569-056>



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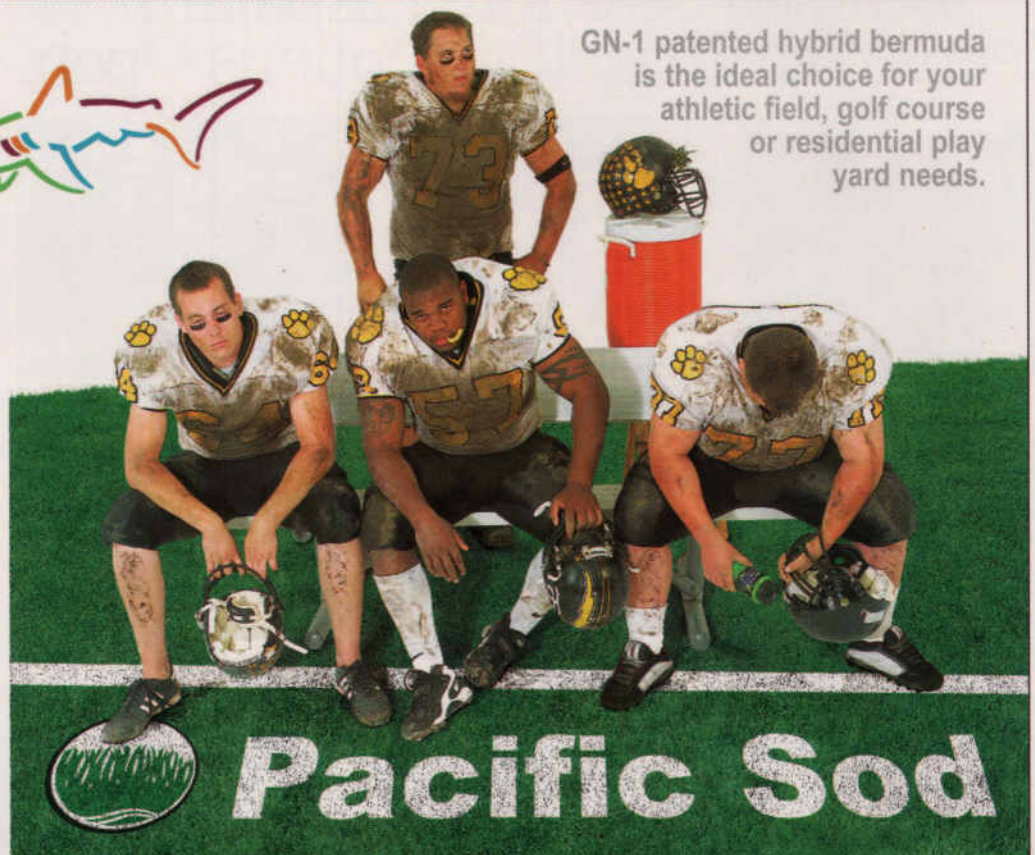
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Husqvarna/800 HUSKY 62
For information, circle 059 or
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Newstripe, Inc/800-624-6706
For information, circle 054 or
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Grasshopper/620-345-8621
For information, circle 058 or
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/4569-058>