

# YOUR ULTIMATE SPORTS TURF TOP DRESSER

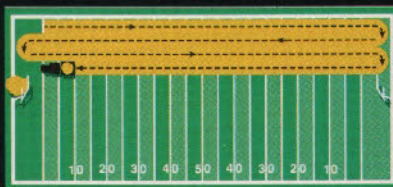


## The Mete-R-Matic XL makes top dressing simple and fast.

The new Mete-R-Matic® XL, specifically designed for sports turf, features the same technologies that made the Mete-R-Matic III the leading top dresser on turf. The patented Chevron belt allows you to accurately and evenly distribute material, regardless of moisture content. The ground drive system

assures that your material will be spread evenly, regardless of vehicle speed. Plus, the XL features a larger, 2.25 cubic yard

hopper so you get the job done fast. For more information, a demo or to learn more about top dressing call **1-800-679-8201**.



### METE-R-MATIC XL: FIELD STRATEGY

The Mete-R-Matic XL is specifically designed for sports turf application. The greater capacity hopper allows it to make four full passes (up and down) across a football field, so you end up at the loading end—right where you started. This saves wasted time driving across the field to reload, increasing your efficiency.



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# FACILITY & OPERATIONS

I have read "The 25 most asked interview questions." They cover almost every question asked at an interview in one form or another and none of them would probably be new to you. I only ask five or six questions. What's important is to gear your interviews toward your criteria of most desirable traits or skills and spend most of your time listening.

## Cautions

**1. Avoid the temptation or expectation to find "mini-me."** You cannot expect hourly employees to have the same level of motivation, commitment, and expertise that you have. Furthermore, you may find that having the same skill sets and personality types may be duplicative in your organization. You may also find that a different version of yourself can drive you crazy sometimes (anyone with children know what I'm talking about.)

**2. The Friends and Family Plan.** The problem with hiring friends and family (and other employees' friends and family) is when it doesn't work out. If you have to discipline or fire someone's family member or friend it can be painful professionally and personally. It is also difficult being objective in evaluating friends and family as employees. There is a reason many companies have a nepotism policy. Most policies resulted from serious problems.

**3. Legal issues.** I am not an attorney (although I would like to be paid like one). There are some questions you are not allowed to ask

in an interview. You can't ask if someone has been arrested, but you can ask if they've been convicted of a crime. You can't ask someone's age. You can't ask if someone is disabled. You can ask if they are physically capable of lifting if it required in the job.

Review the law or ask a professional after you develop interview questions.

**4. Training.** If you can't find the time to train new people, don't be disappointed when they mess things up. My preferred method of training is one task at a time. This can be difficult with a small group of people wearing so many hats, but the results tend to be much better.

In the end even the best human resource professionals sometimes get it wrong. It can't be avoided, if you do a lot of hiring, you will sometimes get a dud. One successful business I work with has a fantastic, dedicated staff. I commented to the owner that he must be wonderful at hiring the right people. He responded that he is not that good at hiring the right people, but he sure knows how to fire the wrong ones. Before you think him Machiavellian, consider his explanation: "I owe it to my customers, my associates, and even to the person getting fired to do the right thing. I can't let someone flounder in a job he or she is just not right for." ■

*Dan Brockett is a Penn State education extension specialist in Venango County, PA.*



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8406

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## Inning-by-inning scoreboard

1. The 1508 is the newest addition to Nevco's inning-by-inning Baseball/Softball line. Shown with optional Sponsor/Team signage, the 1508 displays scoring up to nine innings. At 18 x 6 ft., the 1508 delivers complete game information for facilities that require a smaller sized scoreboard. All Nevco scoreboards are available with wired and wireless control options.

Nevco/800-851-4040

For information, circle 063 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-063>

2. Daktronics Inc. is a leading designer and manufacturer of electronic scoreboards, large-screen video displays, sound systems and computer-programmable information display systems. The Titan Booster Club at Northview High School, Duluth, GA, raised the funds needed to buy this state-of-the-art unit, complete with a ProStar video display and Sportsound sound system. Northview's electronic media production class produces the video content and graphics for each game and operates the system during the games.

Daktronics Inc/800-DAKTRONICS

For information, circle 064 or see

<http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-064>



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- International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)
- Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA)

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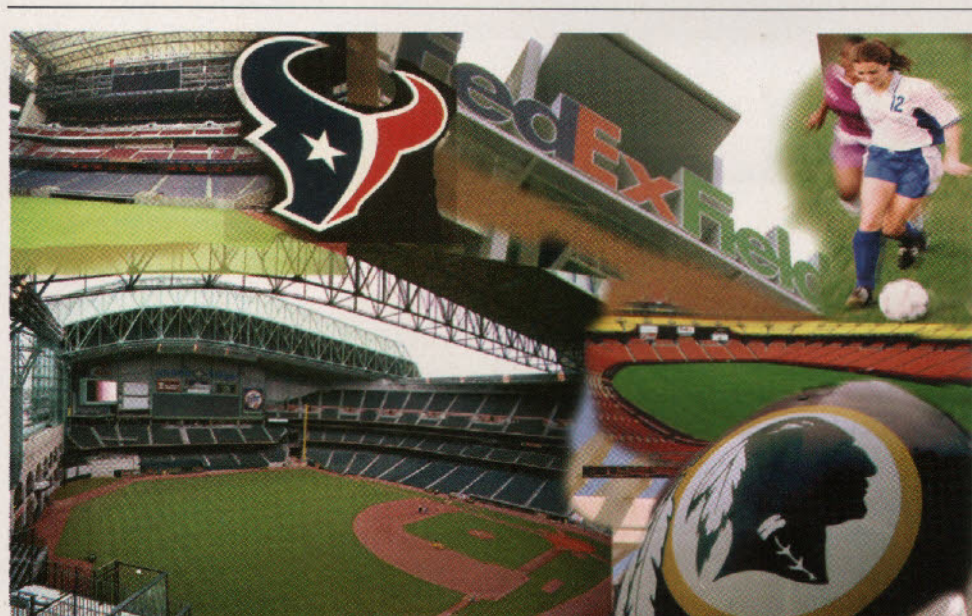


## New artificial turf cover

# 3

3. PortaFloor Pro Line Turf is a turf cover to protect artificial turf when sports fields are used for concerts, etc. PortaFloor consists of rolls of hinged 6 x 24-in. panels that you roll out to create a solid, virtually seamless floor. Specially engineered joints expand or contract with varying climatic conditions while the non-porous, anti-slip, textured flat surface is easy to clean and maintain. The cross-ribbed construction of the underside of PortaFloor accounts for the lateral strength and rigidity that's needed to provide the additional load capability.

Covermaster/800-387-5808  
For information, circle 066 or  
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-066>



## Scoreboard choices

# 4



4. Partac/Beam Clay offers more than 20 styles of scoreboards, from the simple to the fancy, for baseball, softball, football, basketball, and multi-sports.

PARTAC/BEAM CLAY/800-247-2326  
For information, circle 065 or  
see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-065>

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## 5 Terra-Lume lighting track

5. Terra-Lume lighting from LaneLight systems is solution for lighting pathways, or anywhere ground-level lighting is important. Made of extruded aluminum, Terra-Lume tracks house 25,000-hour rope lights and can withstand even the heaviest vehicles. The track comes in four-foot sections, which can be custom-bent and assembled to match the curve of your path. Technology, by NASA, pushes the light towards the top of the track, but allows the light to recede as automobile or foot traffic runs over it.

LaneLight/281-974-3011

For information, circle 072 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-072>

## 6 Carl Spackler's dream



Some farmers and growers experience a 95-98% kill rate the first pass through, cover four times as much ground as they did with other methods and are at least 50% more efficient labor-wise using the Rodenator Pro.

6. Manufactured by Midvale, the Rodenator Pro device injects a calibrated mix of propane and oxygen into the targeted rodent's burrow. When the operator electronically activates this mixture of blended gases from the end of the application wand, the oxygen mixture rapidly expands at 5,000 ft. per second, creating a high pressure shock-wave that kills the rodent and collapses the tunnel systems of many burrowing species.

Midvale/877-RODENATOR

For information, circle 071 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-071>

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# New equipment introduced at STMA show

1. The Toro Company unveiled the new and improved Toro Infield Pro 3040 and Infield Pro 5040 at the STMA Conference and Exhibition last month. The new models replace the original 3020 and 5020 models. Both new models feature the new Quick Attach System (QAS), which allows operators, in less than a minute, to switch from among 17 different attachments without using any tools.

Several new attachments are available, including the innovative Flex Blade, which can be easily adjusted for varied sports field environments, everything from flat dry base surfaces to rough sidelines. The blade's design allows operators to shape, contour and level sports field surfaces with just one pass of the machine. In addition, if the Flex Blade catches on the lip where the infield mix and grass meet, the attachment's flexible design minimizes damage to the turf.

In addition, three new mid-mount attachments offer greater scarifier flexibility. The weeder tine scarifier allows operators to clear weeds and break up soil for future improvements. Further, the solid tine scarifier is designed to break up the toughest soils, while the adjustable spring tine blade is best for gentle top work and moderate depth needs in neglected areas.

Greg Janey, product manager for the new Infield Pro machines, says the company's customer-driven market research showed many turf managers are using as many as five or six different machines to accomplish their maintenance objectives. The company spoke to more than 300 turf managers and 50 mechanic/technicians and spent several million dollars in testing and engineering to develop a machine specifically for sports turf managers.

According to Janey, the beauty of the Infield Pro includes permitting one operator to change out attachments alone, in some cases in less than a minute, and the easy access available for techs who maintain the machines. And the 17 attachments available were designed to handle specific duties for sports turf, e.g., the new hydraulic drag mat attachment, available in both steel and cocoa 2-foot designs, doesn't swing during turns and kick infield mix into the outfield grass. Another example is a hydraulic back blade that can be set at the same height as your home plate so you can level your infield at that height, and the flexible teeth on a scarifying attachment that move out of the way if necessary to give you a truly consistent surface. Toro has more attachments that correspond to different climates as well as different infield mix products.

"The Quick Attach System is great," said Sergio Lopez, a parks worker for the City of Goodyear's Parks and Recreation department in Arizona. "It's quick; you just snap on the attachment and you're done. It takes less than a minute."

Both units offer increased features and benefits. Equipped with a fuel-efficient, 16-horsepower Vanguard engine, the Infield Pro 3040



Toro introduces

Infield Pro

features environmentally sealed gear-drive steering, increased ground clearance, a new mid-mount scarifier/leveling system, and increased access to maintenance areas.

Complementing the standard series features, the premium Infield Pro 5040 offers an 18-horsepower engine, hydraulic power steering, and a Quick Attach System for front and rear attachments.

"The added features and ease of use of the new Infield Pro models will allow customers to be more productive and do more with less," Janey said. "We've substantially elevated the versatility of these machines."

These Infield Pro models offer 17 attachments including a tooth rake, solid or spring tine scarifier, hydraulically operated drag mat carrier system, spring rake, hydraulic flex blade, manual 40-inch dozer blade, finish grader, 58-inch spiker, and QAS debris blower. The units also allow operators to carry three attachments at the same time, and the attachments can be raised for transport using the systems' hydraulic lift control.

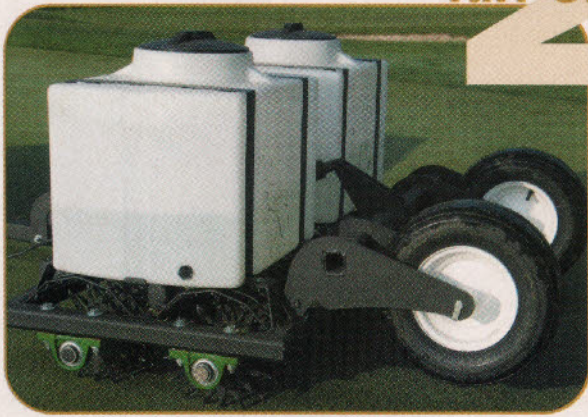
The Toro Company/800-803-8676

For information, circle 067 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-067>



## "Turf Slicer"



The TS-48 by GreensGroomer opens up turf between core aerifications or before overseeding. The tow-behind unit requires no hydraulics, PTO, separate power source (engine), or three-point hitch setup. It is made up of two rows of tines, offset front to back to create 2 in. on center spacing. Each row of tines has a split shaft, reducing turf damage while making sharp turns. Two 25-gal. water tanks present infinite adjustment of addition weight. Simply adjust the gallons in each tank to create the desired depth of the tines. Weight adjustment can range from 0-400 additional lbs.

GreensGroomer/888-298-8852

For information, circle 058 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-058>

## AER-AID system

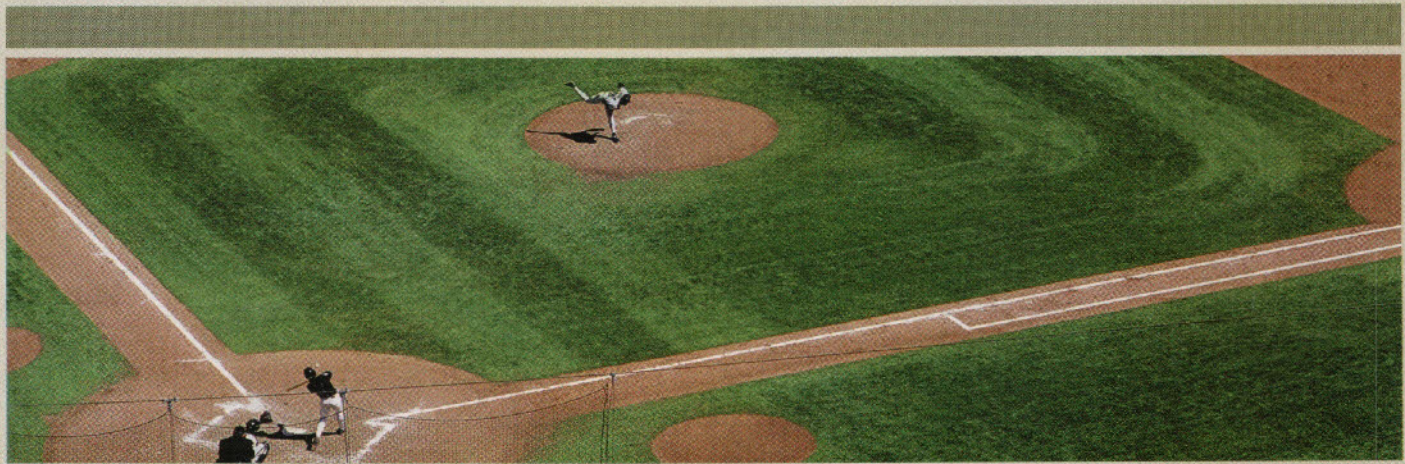


The AER-AID turf aeration system from SISIS features fast air injection at close centers that enables turf professionals to give their turf a blast of air directly into the rootzone every time they aerify. The cam trigger system ensures that the air is always expelled at the bottom of the tine penetration, ensuring a targeted, precise and constant working depth. The depth is infinitely variable to a maximum of 5 ins.

SISIS/864-843-5972

For information, circle 059 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-059>



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# TOOLS & EQUIPMENT



## Removable paint system

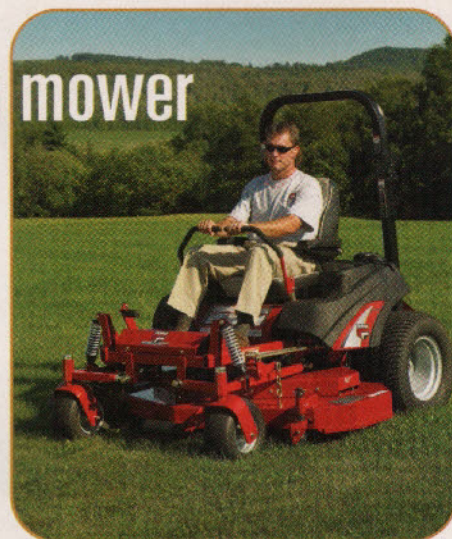
4. Pioneer's Titan Removable System includes all the materials needed to conveniently add and remove paint from synthetic turf. The Titan Removable System is ideal for painting temporary logos for special games and events. It is great for facilities that use the same synthetic playing surface for multiple sports. The complete system includes Titan removable paint, Titan Blitz Remover, a pump-up sprayer, and a Titan Removable Machine. The system has no harsh solvents, or potent chemicals.

Pioneer Manufacturing Co./800-877-1500

For information, circle 060 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-060>

## New Ferris mower



5. Ferris Industries has introduced the new IS 3100Z series zero-turn mower, which features an upgrade of Ferris' industry-exclusive four-wheel suspension. Model options include 61-in. double-top 10-gauge deck, Hercules spindles, and choice of 26-hp liquid-cooled Kawasaki, 30-hp Kohler Command, or 32-hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard Big Block engines.

Ferris Industries/800-933-6175

For information, circle 075 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5904-075>

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