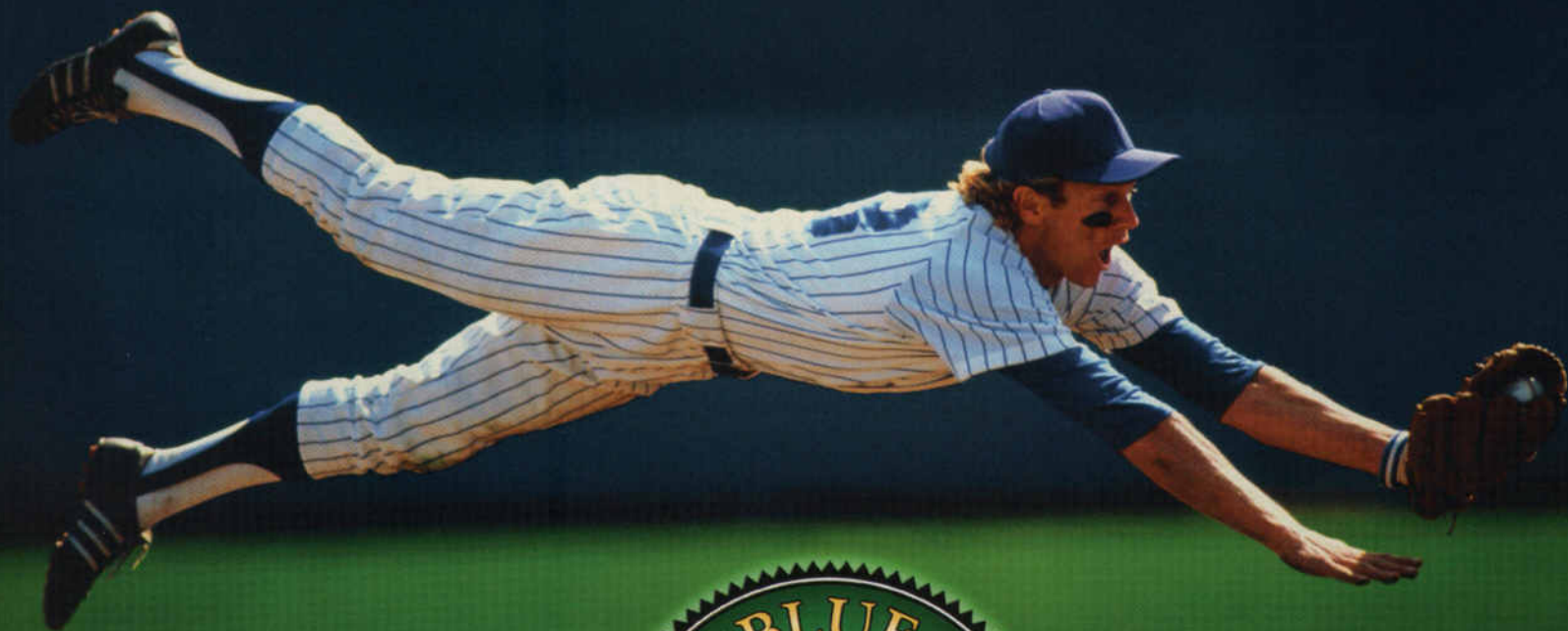


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For information, circle 056 or

see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/5903-056>

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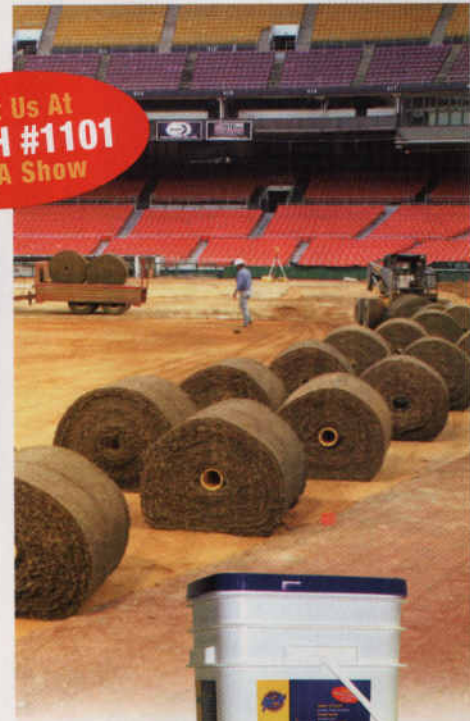


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Rolling out the Riviera advantage (L to R): Kevin Malone, Collins Wharf Sod; Jimmy Rodgers, RFK Head Groundskeeper; Fred Moore, Collins Wharf Sod; and Eddie Moore, Collins Wharf Sod.



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*National Turfgrass Evaluation Program seeded bermuda varieties 1997-2002 trials and current trials through 2004.

FIELD SCIENCE

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The Scotts Company LLC/937-644-7396
For information, circle 085 or
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AGRONOMIC SYSTEMS DESIGN'S BIO PORE

Oxygen and microbes are now available in one package in a newly formulated product marketed as bio Pore. The product combines ASD's PermO 2 Pore porous ceramics with bio's proprietary blend of living microorganisms to give turf managers a product with advanced technology that is easier to apply. PermO 2 Pore has been used in golf course applications for a number of years to improve physical, chemical and biological balances in soil and sand-based root zones.

Agronomic Systems Design/800-650-2009
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John Mascaro's Photo Quiz

SportsTurf is proud to introduce a new feature, "John Mascaro's Photo Quiz." The history of this interactive feature dates back more than 44 years to John's father. The late Thomas Mascaro was an inventor, entrepreneur, and educator with a strong interest in turfgrass problems. He invented the Aerifier in 1946 and the Verti-Cut in 1955 as well as many other products for the turfgrass industry. He traveled extensively and took at

least 100,000 turf-related photos. For 21 years, beginning in 1961, Tom Mascaro used his slide collection to write a monthly column for *Golf Course Management* magazine and its predecessors, *The Golf Course Reporter* and *The Golf Superintendent*.

Beginning in September 2003, John Mascaro, president of Turf-Tec International, revived this fun and informative feature in *Golf Course Management*. Starting in this issue, we will publish a sports turf version of "Photo Quiz." It will contain a photo of a prob-

lem that can occur on athletic field and some clues that will allow the reader to try to figure out what caused the problem. The answer will appear on another page in the magazine.

This quiz will be interactive by also allowing our readers to submit photographs for consideration for future installments of the Photo Quiz. If selected, the photo submitter will receive full credit in the magazine. All photos submitted will become property of *SportsTurf* and the Sports Turf Managers Association. We hope you enjoy this new feature. ■

Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem: Green circles

Turfgrass Area: Sports field

Location: Hawaii

Grass Variety: Kikuyugrass Grass



Answer to John Mascaro's Photo Quiz on Page 56

John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

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Sports turf-specific classes online

By Steven Jay Porus

Sports turf managers are seeking ways to get more accomplished in ever-tightening schedules. The Internet now allows professionals to tap into more information and greater knowledge with ease.

"You are almost certainly going to see more change in the next quarter century than in the last 100 years. We have to be prepared, competing in that world, for constant learning all of our lives. We have to assume the workforce will change constantly," said former House Speaker Newt Gingrich at a recent discussion on workforce development. "And we have to have an understanding that much of that learning is going to be 24/7, it's going to be online."

Green Industry Education's OnlineClassroom allows turf managers everywhere to attend live or pre-recorded conference sessions via the Internet. The classroom is easy to use, but users are advised to test their PC by selecting "Demo our OnlineClassroom" at www.OnlineClassroom.org.

The classroom works well with the following browsers: Explorer for Mac and Windows, Safari for Mac, and Mozilla Firefox for Windows. Java plugin is required to view PowerPoint presentations and have the ability to forward questions to the speaker via chat. Quicktime must be installed on your PC. Make sure the Quicktime plugin is available for Internet Explorer. This is required to view streaming video. Free downloads for Java, and Quicktime are available via the "Demo our OnlineClassroom" page at www.OnlineClassroom.org.



Last October, LandsConference in Louisville offered a Sports Turf Track sponsored by the Sports Turf Managers Association. The three classrooms provided streaming audio/video of the speakers, their PowerPoint presentations, and a chat box that allowed attendees to ask questions of the speaker. Attendees were also able to login and logout for continuing education accreditation.

The sessions from LandsConference are now available 24/7 online at LandsExpo as pre-recorded. The chat box in the live broadcast is replaced with the speaker's email link in the pre-recorded Sessions. The Sports Turf Track at www.LandsExpo.com includes the following sessions:

Session LE02

Pesticides on Turfgrass
Jay Gan, Ph.D., University of California, Riverside
Bruce Kidd, Dow AgroSciences

Session LE22

(sponsored by STMA)
Managing Healthy Sports Fields
Tom Samples, Ph.D., University of Tennessee; Paul Sachs, North County Organics

Session LE06

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

Session LE23

(sponsored by STMA)
Efficient Irrigation Management for Sports Fields
Dave Minner, Ph.D., Iowa State University; Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries

Session LE10

Evaluating and Amending Soil
Kent Kurtz, Ph.D., Cal-Poly Pomona; Dirk Muntean, Soil and Plant Laboratory, Inc.

Session LE24

(sponsored by STMA)
Developing an Aerification Program Specific to Sports Fields
Trent Hale, Ph.D., Clemson University; Dale Getz, The Toro Company

Session LE13

Synthetic Infill vs. Natural Turf
A.J. Powell, Ph.D., University of Kentucky; Darren Gill, FieldTurf

For information visit www.GreenIndustryEducation.com. ■

Steven Jay Porus is the Director of Development for Green Industry Education. He can be reached at sjporus@greenindustryeducation.com.



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Got Weeds? Suppress with geotextiles, mulch

It's almost mind numbing to try and list all the landscape mulches and fabrics that can help control weeds.

When it comes to mulches, consider bark, sphagnum peat moss, muck peat, compost, pine needles, gravel, plastic, and even rubber. When it comes to landscape fabrics (also called geotextiles), there are TRM (turf reinforcement mats), BFM (bonded fiber matrices) in woven, non-woven and spun-bound needle-punched types. And, of course, there are polypropylene and solid polyethylene plastics (also known as "black plastic garbage bags.")

Before choosing what geotextile/mulch combination to use, evaluate the site. Certain combinations will not let anything grow up from the soil, while other combinations will allow turf and ornamentals to grow through. So pick and choose your combinations. For instance, a rock mulch above a landscape fabric can provide greater weed control than organic mulch above a landscape fabric.

And don't expect one product to control all weeds. It's been proven that fabric control annual weeds better than perennials, and that the best fabrics for suppressing weeds have the smallest-sized pores. Landscape fabrics that are thin, lightweight or have an open mesh allow greater weed penetration than more closely woven or non-woven fabrics.

In the rare case of particular weeds actually growing under or through the fabric and/or mulch, a herbicide application may be necessary.

Fabrics, plastics

Woven fabrics are much stronger and durable, while non-wovens have greater water-flow characteristics for use primarily where more water filtration is needed.

Woven needle-punched fabrics are a hybrid between woven and non-woven fabric. The needle punching increases water flow and makes the bottom side virtually opaque. The additional cap or layer of fuzz prevents sunlight from penetrating, thus preventing seed germination.



Before choosing what geotextile/mulch combination to use, evaluate the site.

PROFILE PRODUCTS

In any application where the fabric will function as a filter (under pavers, behind retaining walls, or drainage applications) or any application where it's buried under sub-soils and aggregate (for stabilization and to reduce road rutting), non-wovens should be used because of their high porosity rates.

In applications where weed control is an important factor, woven needle-punched or woven fabrics should be used because of their limited porosity and opaqueness. Black plastic (solid polyethylene) seems to be a simpler solution to unwanted weed growth, especially where it will be covered with an inorganic mulch and you don't want anything to grow. But plastic also restricts air and water movement, thereby keeping roots too wet, paving the way for root-rot diseases. Also, ants are attracted to soil that's protected from rain.

For these reasons, opt for landscape fabrics rather than plastics whenever possible. Their permeability allows the proper balance of air, water, and nutrients into the soil. Research shows that woven polypropylene (the heavier the better) is best for stopping weeds and promoting growth.