

**Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, contact Matt Johns at 253/445-4538 or mjohns@puyallup.wsu.edu.

**Southern California Chapter:** For information on the Southern California Chapter or pending activities, contact Michael Tarantino at 858/679-2526 or by e-mail at MTarantino@powayusd.com.

**South Carolina Chapter of STMA:** The SCSTMA Annual Business Meeting will be held in December in Columbia. For information contact Bruce Suddeth at 864/503-5514 or at bsuddeth@uscupstate.edu or visit www.scstma.org.

**Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:** The TXSTMA

Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on October 11, 2006 at Tangle Ridge Golf Course in Grand Prairie. Start is 8 AM with lunch following. For information contact T. J. Thompson, President-elect, at txturfmanager@1scom.net or 972/670-2138.

**Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):** The TVSTMA will have its next meeting on Nov. 9, 2006 at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga. For information on the Chapter or upcoming events, call Chapter President, Al Ray at 931/388-0303 or by e-mail at ARay@maurycounty-tn.gov.

**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:** The VSTMA will participate in the Virginia Turfgrass Council

Annual Conference, January 9-11, 2007 in Fredericksburg. The VSTMA Annual Membership meeting will be there Jan. 10. For info contact Bob Studholme at 703/324-8590 or robert.studholme@fairfaxcounty.gov.

**Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:** For info visit www.wstma.org or contact Audra Anderson at ajander2@wiscmail.wisc.edu or 608/845-6536 or Brett Grams at brett@waupacasand.com or 715/258-8566 ext. 135.

## FORMING CHAPTERS:

**North Florida STMA Chapter:** The newly forming chapter will meet Dec. 12 at Jacksonville University. Harold Jones and others will speak and

CEU's will be issued. Lunch will be provided. Contact Ed Attalla at 904-705-6871. For info contact John Mascaro at 850/580-4026, Mark Clay at 904/633-6116 or Jay McCord at 904/448-2583.

**Idaho STMA:** Contact Greg Liggett at 208/496-2421 or liggettg@byu.i.edu.

**Nevada STMA Chapter:** Contact Corey Angelo at 702/433-3113 or sls654ASCM@lesco.com.

**Quad-State STMA Chapter:** Interest in forming a chapter covering SW Missouri, SE Kansas, NW Arkansas, and NE Oklahoma is in the works. For info contact Leroy Spriggs, Missouri State Univ., at 417/836-5963 or lspriggs@missouristate.edu. ■

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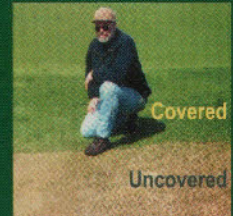
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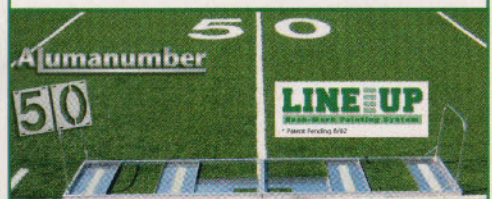
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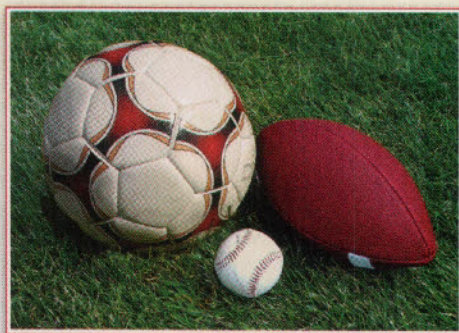
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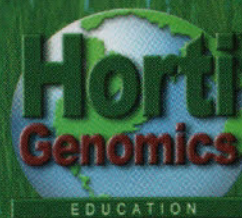
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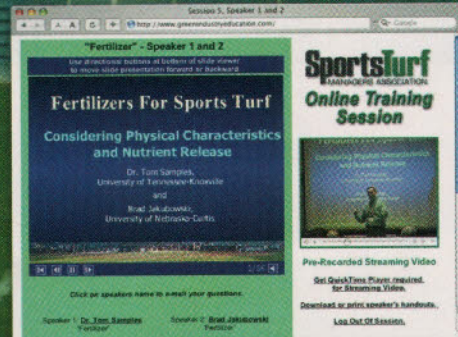
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# Lessons learned in 25 years with STMA, Part VI

**BY DR. DAVID MINNER**  
Professor, Iowa State University

Questions?  
Send them to David Minner at Iowa State University, 106 Horticulture Hall, Ames, IA 50011 or email [dminner@iastate.edu](mailto:dminner@iastate.edu).

Or, send your question to Grady Miller at North Carolina State University, Box 7620, Raleigh, NC 27695-7620, or email [grady\\_miller@ncsu.edu](mailto:grady_miller@ncsu.edu)



**L**esson #17: All athletic fields can benefit from **deep aerification**. Sports turf managers are fascinated with sticking steel deeper (6 to 12 inches) into the ground to make large channels to facilitate air, water, and nutrient intake into the soil profile. Compaction and hardness are immediately reduced and beneficial root growth is often observed within the deep mechanical voids. Some machines use deep, solid, or hollow tines, such as the VertiDrain, Soil Reliever, Terra Spike, while others like the AerWay and Sisis shatter the ground, and still others slice into the surface and redistribute soil from the rootzone onto the surface as a topdressing, like the Koro topdressing recycler.

**Lesson #18: Contract services vs. purchasing equipment.** Sometimes high purchase costs of coring, seeding, and spraying equipment may be difficult to justify, especially if it is only used a few times each year. Contracting may also be useful if your personnel and facilities are not certified to apply or store pesticides. Contract services can provide custom application of these field management practices without the burden of overhead costs and regulation. Choose a reputable company with specific expertise in athletic field management. Contracting can serve as a stepping stone towards developing your own "in house" sports field management program with the goal of having a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) to professionally manage your facility.

**Lesson #19: One synthetic rubber-infill field** somewhere on your facility **can greatly improve the condition of all your grass fields** since it provides a place to play or practice during inclement weather or when grass fields need a period of recovery.

**Lesson #20:** There are many mowing rules that we have discussed over the years ([http://www.greenmediaonline.com/uploads/ST/features/0501\\_qa.asp](http://www.greenmediaonline.com/uploads/ST/features/0501_qa.asp)). When irrigation is not limited I suggest that you **select a mowing height** that

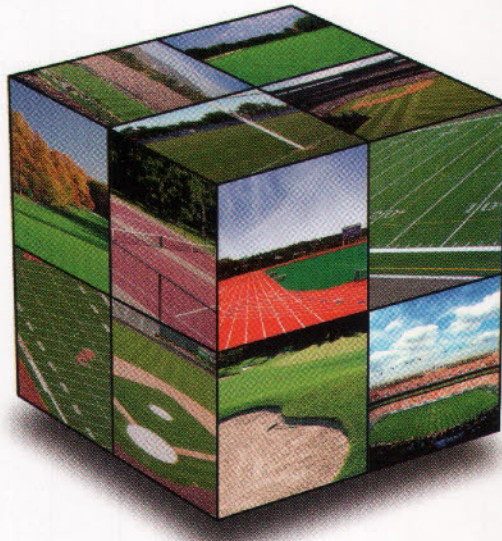
best suits the playing condition for your particular sport and then **stay within 15% of that desired mowing height**. Bermudagrass and some cool-season grass situations will benefit from "scalp mowing" to reduce the "puffiness" of the surface or in severe situations when you are renovating and smoothing fields with aerification and topdressing.

**Lesson #21:** My Dad often said **"Keep your eyes and ears open, boy."** After a few years as a young professor I thought I knew it all. But most of the important things I learned from you, when I quietly listen and observe how you do those amazing things to make grass grow, or make people listen, or get things done with limited resources. So when I borrow your ideas and pass them on to others in the profession, remember, that that is the greatest form of flattery I can offer you.

Getting older I sometimes forget where I stole some of the ideas. So do me a favor and don't forget to brag on yourself a little. I like to hear how you have been involved with the changes in sports turf management over the past 25 years. Sometimes the failures along the way to success are more meaningful and fun to talk about.

**Lesson #22:** Over the past 25 years there have been **many new products** developed specifically for the sports turf industry. Take a minute to look at the wide array of products that support this industry and are featured in this magazine. Sports turf management has truly become a highly specialized and definable commodity within the turf and landscape sector.

From the sponsors in this magazine you can choose products to mow, water, fertilize, cultivate, sweep, topdress, seed, or sod a field. You can contract with a consultant or field management company to provide services or make recommendations or completely build and rebuild your field. You can buy paint, and painting equipment, and even a plant growth regulator to help you save on painting and mowing. There are even covers to make your field grow better when it is too cold. There are many new and exciting products to help you do your job better and many turf managers are developing good working relationships with manufacturers to help them improve and develop new products. ■



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