

# YOUR ULTIMATE SPORTS TURF TOP DRESSER

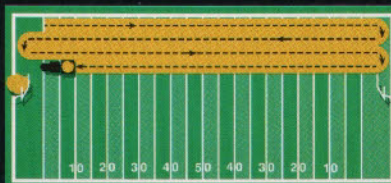


## The Mete-R-Matic XL makes top dressing simple and fast.

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.



THE LEADER. SINCE 1961.



## OUR ATHLETIC PROGRAMS ARE BASED AROUND A BLUE-COLLAR WORKING MENTALITY. TO BE SUCCESSFUL, WE HAVE TO ALL WORK TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOAL OF WINNING.

I do not aerate in the fall or early spring until the team has completed spring ball, as I want the surface to be as solid as possible. With 90 percent sand, 10 percent silt clay root zone, the field dries down and plays very firm and fast, which gives me some added security in those years when it is 90 degrees all summer long and the plant does not come out of the summer in optimum health.

**ST:** What “off the field” (or “soft”) skills do you find most important in your job?

**Fouty:** Communication is of first and foremost importance of the “soft” skills. How to Win Friends and Influence People, by Dale Carnegie, helped me learn many techniques in effective communication. I believe in being direct, clear, patient, honest, and understanding. I try my best to empathize and under-

stand other’s perspectives and work together to find the most productive common ground when at an impasse.

When it comes to my employees, I try to inspire those who work with me to be self-motivated, taking pride and ownership in our fields. If you are not excited to get up and come in each morning this is not the job for you. I have found that you can’t teach self-motivation, but only try to draw that out and nurture that passion.

I am also fortunate to work in an environment that promotes a team approach in our daily working environment. Our athletic programs are based around a blue-collar working mentality. To be successful, we have to all work together for the common goal of winning. I take the same approach with my management style and personal daily work ethic.

**ST:** How do you balance your family life with work demands?

**Fouty:** My husband and I met at Michigan State and have been married for 8 years. Being a golf course superintendent and sport turf manager is not just a job, it’s a lifestyle. We both are very fortunate to work for people who value family and time together with family. We take a lot of time off together in the winter and head to our cabin in northern Michigan where we recharge the old batteries by riding snowmobiles and entertaining family and friends.

We do our best during the growing season to schedule around major events, making time for each other and our kids as often as we can to keep that balance. My husband and I both understand the demands placed upon each other, and it comes down to accepting

that, during the eight months a year of our seasons, "his" golf course and "my" athletic fields are our children. We have found it difficult, yet possible, to give 100% to all areas of our life.

**ST:** How do you see your job changing in the next 10 years?

**Fouty:** I feel my position is already rather progressive. Along with my daily responsibilities, I participate in marketing, fundraising, academics, alumni functions, future facility planning, and event management. The more versatile I can be, and the more I interact with the other areas within the athletic department, the more I can participate and interject my experience into the business of athletics.

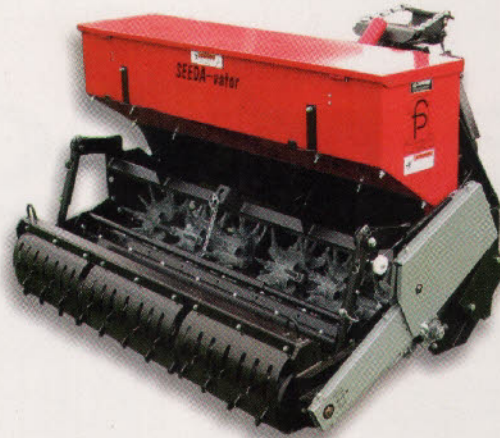
**ST:** How has being female in a predominantly male profession affected your career? Do you have any advice other women who might follow your footsteps?

**Fouty:** This is one of those questions I don't like to address because I do not look at myself as a female in a male profession. I think of myself as a professional in my chosen field. When I started out in the golf industry, my superintendent gave me some "real world" advice—if I wanted to be successful in the turf profession I would have to work harder, smarter, and overall be better due to being a predominantly male profession. I accepted that as fact and considered it a challenge, rather than it being an obstacle to overcome. I also asked for his support to do this. Since that time, every person I have ever worked for has nurtured and supported my drive to learn new things and continually strive for professional perfection.

If I could offer advice to other women it would be to find those individuals who will mentor and guide you like you are "one of the guys"—where being, learning, and working in an environment where there are no special favors or accommodations for being a woman. Put yourself in constructive situations to grow and look at the people you work with as professionals, not men and women. Keep a positive attitude, work hard each day, keep your eyes on your goals, and no matter what, you will be a success. Use the resources and contacts from STMA and always remember to act like the professional you wanted to be treated as. ■

[www.sportsturfmanager.org](http://www.sportsturfmanager.org)

# SEEDA-VATOR™



**Mark J. Vessell Sr.**  
St. Louis Youth  
Soccer Assoc.  
St. Louis, MO



The Seeda-Vator allows us to perform all of our seeding, which includes 18 soccer fields, in a very short weather window. We can aerate and seed during playing season without disturbing the turf. This one pass do-it-all machine saves us time, fuel and labor cost.

**f First Products**  
INNOVATIVE TURF EQUIPMENT

164 OAKRIDGE RD TIFTON GA 31794

CALL FOR A FREE VIDEO TODAY

**800-363-8780**

SALES@1STPRODUCTS.COM

WWW.1STPRODUCTS.COM

Fill in 123 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/9137-123>



## Tested for Toughness In the NFL

**TIFSPORT**  
CERTIFIED BERMUDAGRASS

For Detailed Information and a List of Licensed Growers Visit:

[www.tifSPORT.com](http://www.tifSPORT.com)

Fill in 124 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/9137-124>

# Painting tips

Thanks to World Class Athletic Surfaces for putting together these tips for painting athletic fields and logos:

→ To mix concentrate properly, **use an electric drill** with a Jiffy mixing blade.

→ Regardless of the quality, **strain all paint.**

→ It's a good idea to **have extra spray tips**, strainers, and spare machine parts.

→ A 20-lb. CO2 cylinder will spray about five games.

→ To paint a regulation **soccer field** you need about **12 gal. of mixed paint.** That's about 3 gal. of concentrate mixed at 3-1.

→ To paint a regulation **football field** including numbers and hash marks, you need about **10-15 gal. of concentrate** mixed 3-1 depending on the sprayer used.

→ **Five gallons of concentrate** mixed 3-1, will be enough to paint all **6 ft. numbers and arrows** on both sides of the field.

→ It takes about **1 gal. of mixed paint** at 3-1 to paint an average **20 ft. tall letter** in the endzone.

→ It takes approximately **25 gallons** of concentrate mixed 3-1 to paint a **6 ft. border.**

→ When painting lines for baseball on clay, simply **dampen the clay** and apply the paint directly.

→ **Don't go by the rule "If a little looks good, a whole lot will look great!"** Too much paint in a confined area of the field (even water base) can be harmful to the turf.

→ When painting logos, **paint a white base first**, and allow it to dry. Then paint your colors on top, for the brightest and sharpest colors.

→ On most logos and letters, a border around each, will make your work stand out on the field.



→ On your game fields, mix your paint 2-1 or 3-1. On your practice fields mix your paint 3-1 or 4-1. **One quality of paint, less storage.**

→ It is imperative that the sprayer, tips and all lines be **thoroughly cleaned** after use.

→ When **storing aerosol paint**, stack boxes upside down. This will make the marble break loose easier in the can.

→ **Do NOT let paint freeze or overheat.** Store inside at room temperature to insure top performance.

→ When **painting in cold conditions**, fill a 5-gal. pail with hot water. Put your aerosol paint in it to heat the cans up and make it easier to get paint to mix and spray.

→ When painting graphic stencils, **paint from the inside out.**

→ **In dry weather**, try not to paint right after cutting the grass without giving the grass a "drink" of water. This will prevent the grass from sucking up the moisture from the paint and causing a "burning" effect.

## IF YOU MAKE AN ERROR IN LINING THE FIELD, DON'T PANIC. GREEN AEROSOL AND BULK PAINT CAN COVER THE ERROR.

→ When shaking the cans, **first turn can upside down** and pat against the palm of your hand while rotating the can. The marble will break loose much quicker by doing this. Then turn can right side up and shake for a minute.

→ **Remember the tip on the can will rotate.** Wide side spraying will give a wide line; narrow side spraying will give a narrow (2-in.) line no matter how far off the ground.

→ It takes approximately one case of aerosol to stripe a regulation high school football field. That's all of the lines, coach's boxes and the hash stripes. It takes about 1 case to paint the numbers and tick marks

on the field. Please **remember your gait walk determines how far each can goes.** The paint is coming out at the same speed whether you are standing still, walking, or running with the can. Each can is designed to spray a 4-in. wide line between 350 and 400 ft.

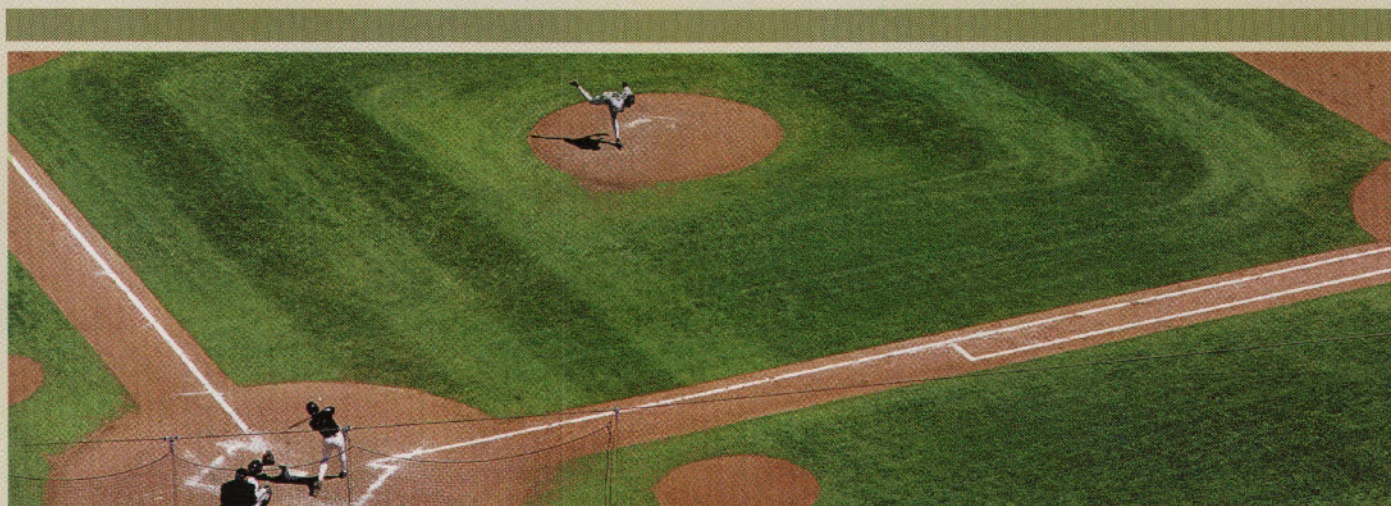
→ **When dotting stencils, we recommend using aerosol** to do it. The paint will dry faster and allow faster painting.

→ If number **stencils become warped, place on concrete and allow the sun's heat to correct it.** They will flatten out in a couple of hours.

→ Always **keep striper in clean working order.** It's always a good idea to wash them down after each use.

→ **If you make an error in lining the field, don't panic.** There exists green aerosol and bulk paint that will cover the error. It's always a good idea to keep a case of green aerosol or 5 gallons green bulk paint around in case of emergencies.

→ To **remove dew off the field,** simply connect two 100-ft. water hoses together and, with one person on each end of the hose, start in the endzone and drag the hose the length of the field several times. ■



**BUILDING** better **IN** FIELDS

since 1941



Toll Free: 800.648.1166

**RED** INFIELD CONDITIONER

**SELECT** PREMIUM INFIELD CONDITIONER

**rapidDRY** DRYING AGENT

**PRO** mOUND PACKING CLAY

www.proschoice1.com

Fill in 125 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/9137-125>

# A Day in the Life of a Sports Turf Manager

By Dale Getz, CSFM



Dale Getz, CSFM, checks the soil at Notre Dame Stadium.

**W**hat a great profession. As a sports turf manager you have it made. You get to hobnob with great players, provide playing conditions that help mold the next great players, and attend every sporting event. Your stress level is low because you love your work.

Not quite true? Well, this is the perception that others may have of you. Whether or not any job is, in fact, this idyllic, one thing remains true of sports turf management: it is an exciting, challenging, and often rewarding profession, even if most people do not realize what it is you actually do.

As the former Athletic Facilities Manager at the University of Notre Dame, my days (and sometimes nights) were filled with a multiplicity of duties. This is not unlike what many of you may find in your pro-

fessions whether at the municipal, K-12 school, or college/university level. It seems most turf management jobs have evolved into facilities management. Allow me to describe a typical day in the spring, when baseball, softball, men's and women's tennis, and men's and women's lacrosse were in full swing.

Remember, the grass is growing faster now than at any other time of the year, summer help is not yet available because school is still in session, football and soccer are in the middle of their off-season training schedules—and the weather forecast is calling for rain four of the next seven days.

**5:30-6:45 a.m.** I arrive at least a 1/2 hour before my staff in order to write the assignments on the Job Board, answer email and voice mail messages, and review the day's schedule. Each assignment is conveyed

the **only** system  
designed to be  
pushed **OR** pulled  
around your jobsite

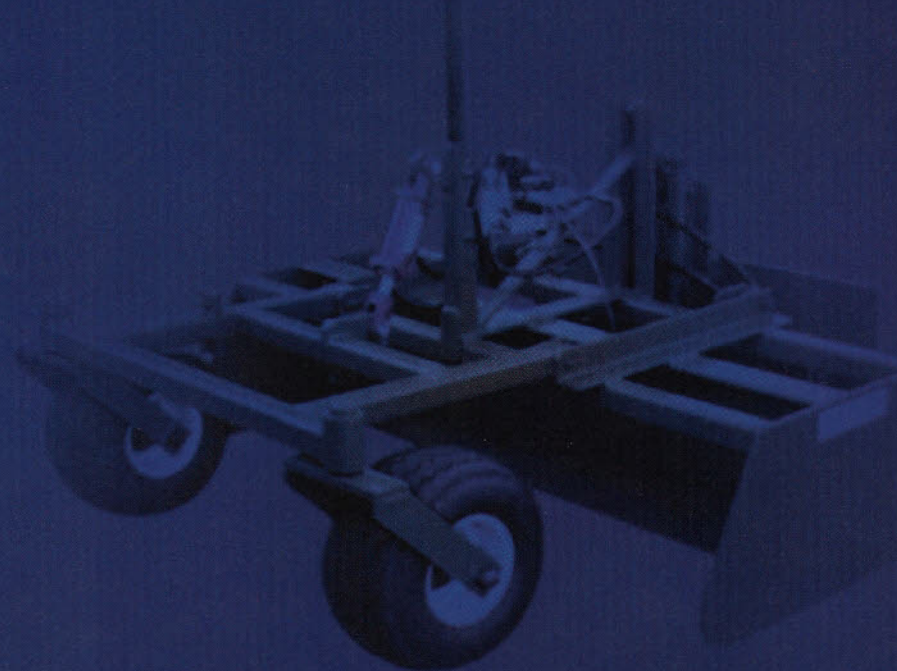


SkidMaster Pro by LaserLeveling


The SkidMaster Pro has been designed to handle any type of finish grading and represents the very best in precision leveling systems. This unique skid-steer grading system is built around our patented push-pull design to ensure greater usage on any jobsite.

The SkidMaster Pro is manufactured to the highest standards using our unique PILOT hydraulic system giving you proportional valve technology at a fraction of the traditional cost. In addition, the SkidMaster Pro is engineered for use with our laser machine control packages which offer 1/4" accuracy and automated operation.

For more information, please call and speak to one of our grading specialists, or visit us on the web at [www.laserleveling.com](http://www.laserleveling.com).



800.622.5777 [www.laserleveling.com](http://www.laserleveling.com)

a  **Trimble** partner

I WILL HAVE TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN PROPOSAL, EXPLAINING WHERE WE WILL SET UP THE TABLES AND CHAIRS FOR THE PLAYERS, HOW WE WILL SIGN-POST THE EVENT, AND HOW WE WILL ORGANIZE QUEUING STATIONS SO THAT THE CONCOURSE WILL NOT BE BLOCKED.

verbally to a staff member in case any questions arise. They will be out the door by 6:10 to work on their designated areas.

**6:00 a.m.** Twenty of the 35 intramural sports turf acres still need to be mowed this week and the fields need to be lined daily. I do not like to mow when it is raining, but I cannot afford to get behind on my mowing this time of year. The additional labor needed for picking up the clippings is simply not available. I decide to send two wide-area rotary mowers out and instruct the staff to monitor their radios in case they are needed to help remove the tarps for baseball. They begin mowing the "better draining" fields first.

**6:05 a.m.** The four-person field preparation crew has been lining fields every day for the past 2 weeks, often rescheduling their work due to rain. They have had very little time to clean and maintain their equipment and they have already used up the bulk tank of mixed paint. They will need to complete a pre-game lining for baseball today and also complete a final lining if the weather cooperates. In addition, four

soccer fields and the men's (white) and women's (blue) lacrosse fields still need to be lined before the Friday night and Saturday day games.

I instruct the crew to thoroughly clean the equipment and check the shut-off valves for dried paint. Then, mix and fill the bulk tank (using 1/2 oz per gallon of Primo in the paint to slow the growth rate of the turf on the intramural and practice fields). Be ready to paint by 9 a.m. in case the weather breaks.

**6:10 a.m.** Because of last night's thunderstorm, the tennis courts are flooded. This is generally not a problem since the tennis teams start practicing at 3:30, giving the courts enough drying time. The courts, however, are covered with night crawlers and if they are not removed in the morning, they will dry and the 11:30 phys ed classes will smash them into the surface. This staining is difficult to remove and we need to keep the courts in pristine condition. Our nationally ranked women's tennis team may be hosting the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

I decide to send a four-person crew to the tennis courts with water brooms and squeegees to remove the worms and prepare the courts.

**6:15-8:00 a.m.** My first priority of the day is actually baseball. The team ended up covering the infield late last night because of the thunderstorm. It is still drizzling this morning. Rain is forecast until 9:00, the game is scheduled for 3:00, and the field must be ready by noon for batting and infield practice. We absolutely need two hours to get the field game ready, and we still have to drag the skin, repair the mound and home plate areas, mow the infield and outfield, clean the dugout and stands, and empty the trash receptacles. The baseball coach, who has already called this morning, is concerned about the field condition for today's pivotal game. We agree to meet at 7:30 to survey the field and see how much water is actually on the tarp.

It is still drizzling when I arrive at the stadium to find the coach is already there, talking with my staff. We spend half an hour discussing possible solutions and options. At 8:15 the rain suddenly stops and the sky begins to brighten.

I tell the coach that I will check the weather data and call him. In the meantime, two staff members will begin pumping the excess water off the tarps. They will then start cleaning the dugouts, etc., and possibly begin dragging the warning track and mowing the outfield if weather permits. They are also instructed to notify me by radio if the weather changes so that we can make arrangements for the tarp removal. Otherwise, we will pull the tarp at 9:15.

**8:15 a.m.** This leaves the mechanic and the spray technician. The mechanic, who works a later shift so that he can prepare and repair the equipment used during the regular shift, informs me that the lever arm on the Triplex game field mower is broken. The part has been ordered, but will not arrive until Friday.

## THE GAME MUST GO ON.



An Airfield is the ultimate sports turf drainage system whether you are playing on natural or artificial turf.

### Artificial Turf Benefits:

- Drains remarkably faster
- Reduces installation time
- Reduces G-Max
- Eliminates rubber migration
- Eliminates standing water
- Strong enough for vehicles
- Below entire playing surface
- Air void for heating and cooling
- Allows flushing and sanitizing
- Maintains level playing surface

### Natural Turf Benefits:

- Drains remarkably faster
- Reduces installation time
- Reduces irrigation requirements
- Extends playing season
- Eliminates standing water
- Reduces maintenance costs
- Below entire playing surface
- Superior perched water table
- Greater root mass
- Gas circulation through soil



405.359.3775  
airfieldsystems.com

Fill in 163 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/9137-163>



The spray technician has been busy applying pre-emergent control to selected areas, spot fertilizing, and overseeding the fields that were not completed in the fall. This has left very little time for equipment maintenance and recordkeeping.

I decide the mechanic will have to re-set the height on our backup Triplex and make sure it is ready to go by 9:00. The spray technician will clean the spreader and update the pesticide application records. They should both be prepared to work at the baseball stadium as well.

**9:00 a.m.** The radar and weather forecast look good. I call the coach and tell him that the game is on. He will call the opposing team and umpires, and I will notify the crew to pull the tarp at 9:15. In the meantime, I reassign the spray technician to mow the outfield and pull two of the tennis complex crew to assist in field preparation. The lining crew will begin chalking and lining the field at 10:45. I will stay and assist the baseball crew for the remainder of the morning and my assistant will supervise the other crews. The baseball setup goes smoothly, and I am called by radio to the tennis courts.

**11:30 a.m.** The tennis courts were resurfaced last fall and only non-scuffing tennis shoes can be worn on the courts. The phys ed tennis instructors, however, failed to enforce this rule and the students have scuffed the courts. I meet with the instructor to discuss the situation, but a solution cannot be reached. I make a mental note to send a memo on

the tennis complex rules to the Physical Education Department Chair.

**12:30 p.m.** On my way to an afternoon meeting, I stop by the baseball stadium to check on the crew and discuss how preparation has progressed. Before leaving, I grab a 'dog' from the concession stand for lunch.

**1:00 p.m.** I attend a meeting about the annual Blue & Gold Spring Football scrimmage. Due to construction in the stadium, the upper concourse must be barricaded in order to restrict access. The other main topic is determining how the post-scrimmage autograph session will be conducted. In past years, we allowed the crowd to walk onto the field; this year we decide to move the autograph session to the concourse. Although this decision will protect the grass from the 10,000+ visitors, it requires special approval from Risk Management and Safety. I will have to submit a written proposal, explaining where we will set up the tables and chairs for the players, how we will sign-post the event, and how we will organize queuing stations so that the concourse will not be blocked.

**2:30 p.m.** On the way back to my office, I meet with my assistant to review the day's activities. The baseball setup went well and we were even able to finish the mowing. But we experienced a flat tire on the 455-D and lost 1 1/2 hours before it was fixed, so we are still behind on our overall mowing.

## The Best Dressed Sports Fields Start Out In Our Hands.



America's leading sports fields use America's best field marking paints and custom stencils. When great teams choose to decorate their fields, they turn to World Class.



**We Make The Games Look Better • [www.worldclasspaints.com](http://www.worldclasspaints.com) • 1-800-748-9649**

Fill in 127 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/9137-127>

# 25TH ANNIVERSARY

I decide that if we cannot complete the mowing during the day tomorrow, we will have to bring in a crewmember over the weekend. My assistant will check to see how the lining crew is doing and will then reassign the tennis complex crew to trim mowers and string trimmers.

**3:30 p.m.** Not quite the end of the day. My staff has left except for the two who are working at the baseball stadium. I begin working on the Blue & Gold Scrimmage Proposal for Risk Management when I hear a commotion in the hallway. My office is located inside the football stadium near the locker rooms, and it turns out that an assistant coach has broken his key off in the lock, preventing the players from getting into the locker room.

Having a master key to the stadium, I lead the players through the service entrance, and then call the locksmith to get the key out.

**5:30 p.m.** With the proposal finished and the memo to the phys ed chair sufficiently underway, it is time to head home. While recapping the day's events, I am satisfied. Despite the rainy start, the baseball game went off without a hitch, and we even caught up on some mowing and lining. We will see what tomorrow brings, but one thing is clear: this is a great profession!

*Dale Getz, CSFM, managed the general grounds as well as the golf course before spending 10 years managing the sports turf at Notre Dame. Getz was one of the first five members of STMA to earn the Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) distinction. He now is the national Sports Fields and Grounds Sales Manager for The Toro Company. ■*



## power to move mountains

Save time & money with TYCROP's MH-400 Material Handling Unit

Call 1.800.845.7249 or visit our new website  
[www.tycropturf.com](http://www.tycropturf.com)

Nothing's built like a TYCROP.



We'll be at the Golf Inc Conference, Amelia Island, Florida, September 25-27

Fill in 136 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/9137-136>

## product spotlight

### Par Aide maintenance tools

Par Aide Products has introduced a new line of grounds equipment and accessories called Professional FieldCare, specifically geared toward sports turf managers. Par Aide has created durable products that will help Sports Turf Managers do their jobs.

#### Par Aide/FieldCare

For information, fill in 055 on reader service form or see <http://www.oners.hotims.com/9137-055>

## PlanetAir



The PlanetAir Turf Aerator incorporates a planetary gear system and patented shatter knife technology to create an arthroscopic incision at the turf surface while the planetary motion creates a pocket below the surface to allow for soil expansion.

#### PlanetAir Turf Products

For information, fill in 058 on reader service form or see <http://www.oners.hotims.com/9137-058>

## LebanonTurf New Ryegrass

Lebanon Turf introduces three all new gray leaf spot resistant ryegrass varieties: Secretariat, Exacta, and Charismatic. These developed in conjunction with Rutgers University. They all scored very high in the new NTEP data that was published this summer, with Exacta the #1 ranked variety for Gray Leaf Spot Resistance. Available in limited quantities after harvest in fall 2006, and will also be available in the ultimate disease resistant 3-way ryegrass blend called Trifecta.

#### Lebanon Turf

For information, fill in 065 on reader service form or see <http://www.oners.hotims.com/9137-065>