

# SportsTurf

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### New “in-line” option for wetting agent applicators

Underhill's Pellet Pro wetting agent applicators now feature a new “in-line” option for more efficient operation. The in-line applicators can be connected directly to a water source, such as a quick coupler or Underhill HoseTap, taking the weight off the hand-held nozzle for more comfortable and consistent applications. PelletPro is used on golf courses and sports fields to efficiently apply wetting agents over large turf areas at up to 48 GPM. The applicator accepts all wetting agent tablets and provides a powerful, yet ultra-soft spray that applies surfactants to tight, hydrophobic soils. Pellet rotation at one revolution per second (RPS) evenly dissolves the tablets. PelletPro features Underhill's Precision Cloud-burst™ nozzle, which attaches to the hose-end and applies droplets in a broad fan pattern.

**Underhill**



### New Blindside herbicide

A new, fast-acting herbicide offering a unique solution for challenging postemergence weeds like doveweed, dollarweed, buttonweed and sedges in warm-season turf is now available from FMC Professional Solutions. Blindside herbicide can be applied to most types of warm-season turfgrass, even St. Augustinegrass, as well as Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue, providing transition zone flexibility. Dual-action Blindside works through both foliar and root uptake to deliver faster control of more than 70 broadleaf weeds and sedges. It is registered for use on established turf areas including residential, commercial and institutional lawns, athletic fields and golf course fairways and roughs.

**FMC Professional Solutions**



### Turfco CR-7 topdresser

The Turfco CR-7 topdresser and material handler is designed to handle the mid-range level of topdressing and renovation. The CR-7 is the perfect choice for sports complexes with multiple fields or for completing renovation work. The CR-7 uses Turfco's patented WideSpin technology, which gives operators the most accurate spread from light to heavy and patterns as wide as 40 feet, making it easy to topdress multiple fields. An adjustable spinner angle allows operators to drive topdressing into the turf for better integration with a total range of 26 degrees up and down. “The CR-7 was designed for sports turf managers who need to utilize a spinner topdresser with a smaller tractor, but want larger capacity to cover multiple fields quickly and efficiently,” said Scott Kinhead, executive vice president of Turfco. Turfco's new CR-7 topdressers have a 3-year warranty.

**Turfco Manufacturing**

## John Deere Golf adds reel and bedknife grinders

John Deere Golf has launched a new family of reel and bedknife grinders under John Deere's Frontier Equipment brand name. The grinders provide precise reel and bedknife maintenance, ensuring turf professionals have the tools available to provide a premium quality of cut every single day, across a wide range of course conditions. Featuring integrated tooling decals that allow for quick and efficient setup, the Frontier Reel and Bedknife Grinder line is the perfect complement to John Deere Quick Adjust 5 and Quick Adjust 7 cutting units. All models are also capable of providing a precision grind on reels and bedknives from any manufacturer.

**John Deere**

## New adjuvants and colorants

Harrell's Introduces SprayMAX, a new line of adjuvants and colorants, developed to help turf and ornamental managers stretch their budgets and get more from their turf and ornamental management spray programs. From Harrell's Crop Oil Concentrate to Harrell's Nonionic Spreader Sticker, turf managers can count on a product that will strengthen the hard work they already put into taking care of their turf and plants. Two products many turf managers use regularly to improve turf are pH buffer's and fungicide activator's, which Harrell's has included as part of their SprayMAX line. High pH of tank mixes increases the chance for alkaline hydrolysis, a process where some insecticides and herbicides decompose or split reducing the efficacy of their applications.

**Harrell's**

## Pro-Turn 200 XDZ Mowers now available w/ Kohler closed loop-EFI engines

The Gravely Pro-Turn 200 XDZ series of commercial zero-turn mowers are now available with a Kohler 29 HP Closed Loop-Electronic Fuel Injection (EFI) engine. The 200 series mowers feature a simplified design that minimizes maintenance, downtime and input costs. When equipped with the Kohler Closed-Loop EFI, the Gravely Pro-Turn 252 and 260 mowers' performance and efficiency are further enhanced, making the top-of-the-line system even better.

The Kohler engine improves fuel economy on the Pro-Turn 252 and 260 by as much as 20 percent, according to calculations by Gravely product engineers. Kohler calculates with gasoline at \$3.70 a gallon, the Closed-Loop EFI will pay for itself in less than 400 hours. After payback, savings continue at approximately \$0.96 per hour at \$3.70 per gallon for gas.

**Kohler Engines**



# Membership Application



Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

Fax to: (785) 843-2977

Or mail with payment to:  
Sports Turf  
Managers Association  
P.O. Box 414029  
Kansas City, MO 64141

Name	Title		
Employer/ Facility			
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Home		
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Home phone	Work phone	Cell phone	
Fax	Email		
Signature			
Direct Supervisor Name			

## Membership Category:

- ☐ Sports Turf Manager \$110  
☐ Sports Turf Manager Associate\* (Additional member(s) from the same facility) \$75

Please select the primary facility type where you are employed:

- ☐ Professional Sports ☐ Higher Education ☐ Schools K-12 ☐ Parks and Recreation

- ☐ Academic \$95  
☐ Student (verification of enrollment) \$25  
☐ Commercial \$295  
☐ Commercial Associate\* (Additional member(s) from the same commercial company) \$75

- ☐ Affiliate (Person who is indirectly or on a part-time basis, involved in the maintenance/management of sports fields) \$50

- ☐ Chapter Dues (contact headquarters for amount)  
Chapter name) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Contribution To SAFE Foundation (research, education and scholarship): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Method:

- ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Purchase Order #: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\*There must already be a national sports turf manager from your facility or commercial member from your company before you may sign up in the Associate category.

*"I know I am a better sports turf manager because of this association. As sports turf managers, we take the challenge seriously to make our fields the best possible for the next game. The resources I have access to through STMA helps me do it."*

— Bob Campbell, CSFM  
Higher Education  
Membership Segment

Phone: 800-323-3875

www.STMA.org

## STMA members to vote on Bylaws

**INCLUDED WITH THE ELECTION BALLOT** will be a Bylaws change presented to the membership. All changes to the Bylaws must be voted on by the STMA voting membership. To pass, an amendment must have the approval of a majority of members casting ballots.

The Bylaws changes are twofold: adding an honorary classification of membership to the voting and non-voting classifications and the renumbering of the Bylaws due to this change. STMA has always had honorary and lifetime categories of membership. But these were under the voting classification and allowed its members to vote and hold office. There are situations where this can be problematic. For example, a past president is always made an honorary member at the conclusion of his/her presidential service. The Bylaws language allowed the past president to hold office again and to vote. This is in direct conflict with a past president who obtains employment in the commercial sector. Thus, the addition of an Honorary Classification of Membership allows the employment status of a member to determine if he/she can vote and hold office.

The Bylaws Committee made this final recommendation to the STMA Board of Directors at its recent fall meeting to present these changes to the membership. The Board unanimously approved them. The Bylaws Committee is chaired by Mike Trigg, CSFM; its members include Jesse Driver, CSFM, Mary Owen, Scott Pippen, David Reiss, and Troy Smith, CSFM.

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## SAFE Board Chair Montgomery steps down

**BOYD MONTGOMERY, CSFM, CSE**, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields for Everyone (SAFE), has resigned his position effective Jan. 20, 2013.

Montgomery has chaired STMA's charity, SAFE, since 2006, replacing Michael Schiller, CSFM whose term ended that year. Under Montgomery's leadership, SAFE launched several initiatives beginning with changing its mission, its name (formerly The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments), and its bylaws. These changes paved the way for the creation of an industry-wide initiative: Sports and Recreation Fields – Safety First. Its core purpose is to fund education, outreach, research and scholarship to advance the safety and sustainability of playing surfaces and reduce sports field injuries.

This initiative is in its second year of fundraising with a goal of \$1 million by 2016.

Montgomery is stepping down due to work and family commitments. "Our Board of Trustees has worked very hard to move SAFE forward. With my work and family schedule it has become increasingly difficult to give SAFE the time it deserves", said Montgomery. "I am confident that its new leader can keep the momentum going forward."

SAFE has engaged its Nominating Committee and the new chairman is expected to be in place as Montgomery steps down.

The SAFE Board of Trustees includes Cathy Bradley, Ken Curry, Gil Landry, PhD, David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP, Chard Price, CSFM, CFB, Doug Schattinger, Jay Warnick, CSFM, and Steve Wightman. The Foundation's mission is "To enrich communities through championing safe, sustainable sports and recreation fields for all athletes."

## STMA's Digital offerings extend and enhance learning experiences

**FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE 2013 STMA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION** in Daytona Beach, FL, STMA is offering the opportunity to view conference education sessions live. STMA is partnering with Peach New Media to bring you four education sessions featured at the conference on Wednesday, January 16, 2013. Featured sessions include:

- "Making Plant Growth Regulators Work for You" – Thomas Serensits
- "The Reality of LEED Certified Landscape and Site Management" – Larry DiVito
- "3 Keys to Providing High Quality, High Traffic Athletic Fields" – Jerad Minnick
- "Back To Basics: Getting the Most from Your Granular Fertilizers" – Brad Jakubowski and Dr. Tom Samples

Anyone can access the education. Registration is \$10 for each of the morning sessions and \$20 for the three hour afternoon session. Stay tuned for registration information.

Peach New Media will also be recording education sessions throughout the entire STMA Conference. These recorded sessions will be available following the conference for a nominal charge for attendees and at the regular rate for non attendees. If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Althouse at [kalthouse@stma.org](mailto:kalthouse@stma.org).

Additionally, STMA's enhanced digital conference brochure is online now for all interested parties to check out. Visit [stma.org](http://stma.org) to learn more and experience our brochure digitally like never before!

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## GrasStains needs your photos & video clips

**PRODUCTION IS STARTING** on the annual GrasStains video, which is a fun and integral part of the STMA Awards Banquet. As always your photos and video clips of your year, crew, and other memorable moments are desired. Two areas are specifically requested:

- 1) 7th inning stretch videos of your grounds crew's work.
- 2) Photos of your "younger" days in sports turf management. Every single member has old photos of himself/herself, so start looking, scanning and sending! GrasStains Productions is unable to receive large files. Please open a free Dropbox.com account, upload your photos and videos, and send the link to Production Director Steve Legros at [Steve@turfandirt.com](mailto:Steve@turfandirt.com). Or, burn your photos to a CD or DVD and send to Steve Legros, 91B Partridge Circle, Carlisle, PA 17013.



# STMA Financial Review - Year End Auditor's Report 2011

The firm of Kohart, Accounting, PA conducted the annual review of STMA's finances and accounting practices in May. STMA's Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, Secretary/Treasurer David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP met in-person with the auditing firm in June to receive the results. The results were subsequently reviewed with the full Finance and Audit Committee who endorsed the audit and recommended the audit figures to the STMA Board at its July Board Meeting. The Board approved the Audit and per its Finance and Audit policies, moved 75 percent of the excess income over expenses to the Restricted Fund.

## **SportsTurf** MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

### **INCOME**

Dues, Fees & Investments  
\$303,319  
(2010 \$422,994)

Magazine & Sponsorship  
\$153,596  
(2010 \$166,413)

Annual Conference, Expo  
\$605,197  
(2010 \$567,098)

**TOTAL INCOME**  
\$1,062,112  
(2010 \$1,156,505)

### **EXPENSES**

Administrative & HQ Expenses  
\$444,596  
(2010 \$427,630)

Marketing, Chapter & Member Services  
\$155,315  
(2010 \$195,330)

Annual Conf & Expo  
\$441,330  
(2010 \$403,173)

**TOTAL EXPENSES**  
\$1,041,241  
(2010 \$1,026,133)

## **SAFE** The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields

### **INCOME**

Gifts & Grants	\$19,384
Auction, Raffles & Golf	\$28,633

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$48,017</b>
(2010 \$24,882)	

### **EXPENSES**

Scholarship & Grants	\$22,500
Administrative	\$12,417

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$34,917</b>
(2010 \$51,121)	



# STMA 2013 Election Information

## THE STMA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

presented the 2013 Board of Directors Slate of Candidates to the STMA Board at its recent Fall Board meeting. STMA voting members will have received their ballots in late November; ballots are due December 15.

Due to the resignation of Martin Kaufman, CSFM, who was the President Elect, the current President, James Michael Goatley, Jr., Ph.D., will serve a second term, per the STMA Officer Vacancy Ascension SOP. (Kaufman resigned due to a change in employment, which made him ineligible to hold the office of President). David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP, the current Secretary/Treasurer, will ascend to the President Elect position. Troy Smith, CSFM, will remain Immediate Past President.

Directors serve 2-year terms as does the Commercial Vice President. Serving the second year of their term and not up for election are Rene Asprion, Commercial Vice President, Diamond Pro/TXI, Dallas, TX; Jeff Salmond, CSFM, Higher Education Director, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK; Jeffrey Fowler, Academic Director, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Franklin, PA; and Debra Kneeshaw, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland, OR.

### Officers:

For President - James Michael Goatley, Jr., Ph.D.

For Immediate Past President - Troy Smith, CSFM

For President Elect - David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP

For Commercial Vice President - Rene Asprion

For Secretary/Treasurer - Allen Johnson, CSFM or Mike Tarantino, CSFM

### Directors

**For the Director Representing Professional Facilities: Tom Jones or Phil McQuade**



**TOM JONES, FC Dallas, Frisco, TX**

Tom is the Vice President of Complex Management and has managed the Complex fields at FC Dallas Stadium & Complex for seven

years where he oversaw the design and construction of the fields. Tom started in the grounds business with Texas Rangers Baseball working tarp crew during college.

Vision for STMA: My vision for STMA would involve education and camaraderie. I believe in the philosophy that if you are not learning and growing you are regressing. So, continual education of the latest techniques or shared ideas from your peers is vitally important to growth.



**PHIL MCQUADE, Dicks Sporting Goods Park, Commerce City, CO**

Phil has worked as Assistant Turf Manager at Dick's Sporting Goods Park since 2006 (while under construc-

tion). This complex is home to the Colorado Rapids MLS soccer club. DSG Park has 25 fields. There are 2 sand based fields, 2 synthetic fields and 21 native soil fields.

Vision for STMA: My vision for the STMA is to see the continued growth of membership and a continued push to educate non-members on turf. I would also like to see turf managers become more eco friendly. I would also like to see the STMA expand worldwide.

**For the Director Representing Schools K-12: Andrew Gossel or Rich Watson**

**ANDREW GOSSEL, Covenant Christian High School, Indianapolis, IN**

Andy Gossel is the Director Athletics at Covenant Christian HS in Indianapolis, IN a



post which he has hold for over 9 years. In addition to running the athletic department, Gossel is the head varsity baseball coach, works in the school weight room in the summer,

and oversees all of the athletic field maintenance for the school's soccer field and baseball field.

Vision for STMA: I see STMA as a great tool for sports turf managers to learn, network, and grow. I want to help continue and even improve the means by which sports turf managers at all levels are able to work together and not improve their own fields and grow personally, but help others around them do the same.



**RICH WATSON, Pine Hill Public Schools, Pine Hill, NJ**

Rich has been involved in the turf industry since 1988. His career started as a groundskeeper and since then he has

worked hard to achieve his current position as Grounds Supervisor for Pine Hill Public Schools. The areas under his management include about 30 acres of sports turf, four building sites and the management of two municipal parks in Pine Hill.

Vision for STMA: I think the STMA is a great organization and has done a lot of great work. My vision is pretty simple. I would love to see us give back to the organizations that need us the most. These would include youth organizations, schools and park and rec. I know we do a lot of good things currently, but I think we still have a long way to go.

**For the Director Representing the Commercial sector: James Graff or Eric Simmons, PLA**

**JAMES GRAFF, Graff's Turf Farms, Inc., Ft. Morgan, CO**

James Graff is the co-owner of Graff's Turf Farms, with long time production manager Marty Thiel. The business is highly automated using the most select turfgrass



inputs and the most advanced processes in the turfgrass industry.

**Vision for STMA:** This past year serving on the board has been a great learning process. I am excited for the opportunity of

a two year term after completing my one year appointment by President Goatley. I believe my contributions as a business owner have been beneficial to the membership.



**ERIC SIMMONS, PLA, Hunter Industries, Great Lakes Region, Oswego, IL**

Eric is the Specification Sales Manager for Hunter Industries, where he has worked for 6 years. In this role,

he works closely with landscape architects, engineers and professional irrigation consultants to develop system designs throughout the great lakes region.

**Vision for STMA:** To continue providing

the growing membership with outstanding support and educational opportunities at ALL levels of the profession. STMA does a fantastic job of supporting everyone from students to those managing the premier professional venues across the country- and all those in between!

**For the Elected At-Large Director: Tim Van Loo, CSFM or Brian Winka, CSFM**



**TIM VAN LOO, CSFM, Iowa State University, Ames, IA**

Tim VanLoo, CSFM, is Manager of Athletic Turf and Grounds at Iowa State University. Tim came to the Athletic Department in

March 2010. He oversees Jack Trice Stadium, Johnny Majors Practice Facility, Cyclone Sports Complex (soccer/track/softball), Bergstrom Multi-purpose Indoor Facility and all other athletic department grounds. Previous to Iowa State University he was the Associate Director of Facilities/Agronomist at Northwestern University from 2007-2010.

**Vision for STMA:** My vision for the STMA is to continue to be a world leader in information, networking, and education for the Sports Turf manager. I would also like to see our organization continue to include and fund the participation of our student members.



**BRIAN WINKA, CSFM, City of Chesterfield, Chesterfield, MO**

Brian Winka, CSFM is the Sports Turf Manager for the City of Chesterfield Missouri, a position he has held since 2005. He holds a

B.S. in Agronomy from Missouri State University and attained certification as a Certified Sports Field Manager through STMA in 2008.

**Vision for STMA:** Today's sports turf manager jobs are about more than just growing grass. Today you have to be an agronomist, botanist, chemist, the HR rep, the motivational speaker and the teacher all wrapped in one. We, as members of the STMA, have an opportunity to increase awareness of all the great accomplishments that we do on a daily basis. ■

## STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

**Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:**  
arizonastma@gmail.com

**Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
www.cstma.org.

**Florida #1 Chapter (South):** 305-235-5101  
(Bruce Bates) or Tom Curran CTomSell@aol.com

**Florida #2 Chapter (North):**  
850-580-4026, John Mascaro, john@turf-tec.com

**Florida #3 Chapter (Central):**  
407-518-2347, Scott Grace, scott@sundome.org

**Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:** www.gatewaystma.org.

**Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
www.gstma.org.

**Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** www.stmalabasin.com.

**Illinois Chapter STMA:** www.ILSTMA.org.

**Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** www.imstma.org.

**Indiana -FORMING -**  
Contact Clayton Dame, Claytondame@hotmail.com or Brian Bornino, bornino@purdue.edu

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
www.iowaturfgrass.org.

**Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
www.kystma.org.

**Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org.**  
(KAFMO/STMA): www.kafmo.org.

**Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association**  
(MiSTMA): www.mistma.org.

**Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
www.mpstma.org

**MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
www.mokanstma.com.

**Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu

**New England STMA (NESTMA):**  
www.nestma.org.

**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:** www.sfmanj.org.

**Sports Turf Managers of New York:**  
www.stmony.org.

**North Carolina Chapter of STMA:**  
www.ncsportsturf.org.

**Northern California STMA:**  
www.norcalstma.org.

**Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):**  
www.ostma.org.

**Oklahoma Chapter STMA:**  
405-744-5729; Contact: Dr. Justin Moss

**Oregon STMA Chapter:**  
www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org  
oregonstma@gmail.com

**Ozarks STMA:** www.ozarksstma.org.

**Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
www.pnwstma.org.

**Southern California Chapter:**  
www.socalstma.com.

**South Carolina Chapter of STMA:**  
www.scstma.org.

**Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):** www.tvstma.com.

**Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
www.txstma.org

**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
www.vstma.org.

**Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
www.wstma.org.

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December 2012 - Expires May 2013 - RS1212

**1 What is your company's primary business? (check ONLY ONE)**

- F ☐ Sports Complex G ☐ Athletic Field and/or Park Architect/Designer  
T ☐ School, College or University P ☐ Park  
H ☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Which of the following best describes your title? (check ONLY ONE)**

- A ☐ EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATOR — President, Owner, Partner, Director, General Manager, Chairman of the Board, Purchasing Agent, Athletic Director  
B ☐ MANAGER/SUPERINTENDENT — Superintendent, Landscape/Ground Maintenance Manager, Foreman, Supervisor  
C ☐ GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL — Government Commissioner, Agent, Other Government Official  
D ☐ SPECIALIST — Architect, Designer, Consultant, Agronomist, Horticulturist, Certified Specialist  
F ☐ COACH E ☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**3 Do you have the authority to buy, specify or recommend products and/or services for your business or organization?**

- Y ☐ Yes N ☐ No

**4 Yearly operating expenditures (excluding salaries)**

- F ☐ Over \$1 million C ☐ \$50,001 - \$100,000  
E ☐ \$500,001 - \$1 million B ☐ \$25,001 - \$50,000  
D ☐ \$100,001 - \$500,000 A ☐ \$25,000 and under

**5 Please also send a free subscription to the following people at the same location**

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That's what slow- and controlled-release fertilizers do. When you feed grass steadily and constantly—as the roots need it—the fertilizer doesn't have a chance to get lost.”

By gradually delivering nitrogen and other nutrients to correspond to plants' uptake, slow- and controlled-release fertilizers can virtually eliminate nutrient loss. Steady feeding minimizes surge growth and reduces the number of fertilizer applications needed during a season.

The advantages and benefits of EEFs are becoming an important part of the new legislative trends. As industry experts, scientists, stakeholders and policy makers look for ways to alleviate nitrogen runoff, EEFs are tested alternatives that can be a significant part of the solution.

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Fertilizer advocates and industry leaders have adopted the “4R Nutrient Stewardship,” a science-based approach to best management practices. The 4R system calls for the Right Product to be applied at the Right Rate, Right Time and Right Place. When those criteria are met, plants should thrive and fertilizer should stay where it's intended to be.

“Proper use of plant nutrients can actually improve water quality, while banning them could have the opposite effect,” said Blaylock. “Properly fertilized plants are healthier, so they're better able to utilize the nutrients in the soil and protect the soil from degradation. Unhealthy plants

have poor root systems and stimulate less biological activity in the soil. They don't use nutrients efficiently, which leads to greater probability of nutrient and soil loss.”

“People are accepting the idea of EEFs, and we continue to learn how to better use these tools,” Blaylock said. “The advances in technology are amazing in terms of what we can do to control fertilizer release and minimize pollution,” added Fox. “It's exciting to realize we have the knowledge and abilities to do this right.” ■

*Rob Stevenson is a writer for Canyon Communications, Mesa, AZ. Reprinted with permission from the Turfgrass Producers International's Turf News.*

# Q&A



**BY DR. DAVID MINNER**

Professor, Iowa State University

## Questions?

Send them to  
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Or, send your  
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# Aerial ryegrass shoots?

*We're having some problems getting our high school football field to withstand traffic as well as we would like. I'm going to send you a series of pictures. Hopefully pictures will be good enough to indicate the problem. Is it Poa trivialis that's causing the problem?*

*Doug Watt, West Marshall, IA*

When Doug called and submitted Figure 1 it sure looked like this was an open and shut case of bentgrass contamination since the picture seemed to fit the problem. Creeping bentgrass is very intolerant of traffic and will become "puffy" with tufts of grass plants growing on elongated shoots when mowed at 2 inches. Tenacity herbicide would have been our recommendation to control bentgrass in Kentucky bluegrass.

But Doug was insistent that he already had a bentgrass contamination problem on his baseball infield and that the problem grass on the football field was something different. His first picture just didn't have the resolution to zoom in on what we really needed to see.

When identifying plants or pests try to take and send a focused picture that is at least two megabytes so we can zoom in on roots, crowns, ligules, leaf blights, seeds, etc. Doug took some really great pictures that are posted on a November 16 blog at [www.iaturf.blogspot.com/](http://www.iaturf.blogspot.com/).

We were also able to rule out *Poa trivialis* when he brought us some live samples. The field is a mixture of Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass that has been infiltrated with some patches of K-31 type tall fescue. Over the years it has been seeded with a mixture of Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass, including some of the newer Grey Leaf Spot

(GLS) and tetraploid perennial ryegrasses.

We are fairly confident that there is a ryegrass component in the grass that is creating the aerial shoots and poor wear tolerance. Usually we think of perennial ryegrass as a very traffic tolerant grass system. We'll follow up in the future when we get this completely figured out. Some of the other possible explanations that we are exploring are insect mites, some

type of hybrid between tall fescue and ryegrass, or atypical growth from spreading ryegrass.

Our intent is to simply determine if others have observed this type of growth and if you consider it to be a positive or negative type of turf performance. At Doug's field it's some type of ryegrass with inferior traffic tolerance and that makes it a very unusual problem. Let me know if you have seen this at your facility. ■



» Above: "Puffy" grass that looks like bentgrass but is actually aerial shoots of ryegrass.



» Two images above: Aerial shoots of ryegrass.



» Two images above: Poor traffic tolerance of aerial ryegrass shoots in field