



SIDELINES

**Texas Sports Turf
Managers
Association**

txstma.org

Spring 2019

Providing education and training for safer and healthier sports turf facilities

I am always surprised by how quick the first quarter of the year flies by. It seems like we celebrate New Year's and before we know it spring is here and the boys of summer are back playing baseball. I have been celebrating the fact that the sun has made more of a consistent appearance these last few months and it isn't overcast and raining.

TXSTMA has announced the spring field days for all 3 regions. The first TXSTMA field day will be held at Sylvester Turner Park in Houston on April 25th. We are very appreciative of all our hosts to share their facilities with us. Not only do we have amazing venues to see but we have some really smart people who would like to share their wisdom with us. I would like to give a big thanks to all of them as well as all of our amazing sponsors. It definitely takes a village to put on a field day and I would like to personally thank everyone involved who help make each event happen.

I would like to announce that we will be giving away 2 trips this year to the 2020 National STMA Conference and Exhibition on January 13-16 in West Palm Beach, Florida. TXSTMA will take care of the winner's air fare, 4 night hotel stay, and conference registration. You will receive one ticket for this drawing when you pay your TXSTMA membership dues. You can also receive additional tickets by attending field days. If you attend 2 field days you would receive 2 additional entrees. If you were to attend all 6, which I strongly encourage you to do so, then you would receive 6 additional tickets to enter into the drawing. All sponsors and board members are not eligible for this drawing. We will draw the 2 lucky winners at our last field day. You do not have to be present to win. We will notify the winners and work with them to get their flights and conference registration handled. If the winner wanted to transfer their winning ticket that would need to be approved by the executive board.



Troy Crawford
Moneygram Soccer Park
TXSTMA President

I look forward to seeing you at our first field day that will be held in Houston!

TXSTMA President's Message



2019 Three Star Sponsor

Thank you to our 2019 Star Sponsors.
Your generous support is greatly appreciated.



2019 Two Star Sponsor



2019 Star Sponsor



Attention Affiliate Members: The 2019 Sponsorship Program has been distributed and spots are moving fast. Please contact the TXSTMA office - txstmainfo@yahoo.com to get your company involved!

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

ATM | SOIL & CROP SCIENCES
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



TEXAS LAWN COMPANION

Spring 2019 EDITION

Click here to
see all the great
articles from
Texas AgriLife
Extension
[@aggieturf](#)

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Spring is here and it's time to really start thinking about your turf! We've had several months of heavy rainfall, which is great for a state where rain is often scarce, but can raise some questions during spring greenup.

Here is what you'll find in this issue:

General Spring Management Recommendations

Dr. Becky Grubbs, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - College Station

Pawfect Lawns: Considerations for Pet Owners

Dr. Chrissie Segars, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Dallas

Spring Pest Considerations

Dr. Becky Grubbs, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - College Station

Shade Alternatives

Water University, Texas A&M AgriLife Research - Dallas

AggieTurf Research First Look: Landscape Conversion

Baoxin "Bob" Chang, Texas A&M University - College Station

Follow us @AggieTurf

Twitter | Instagram | Facebook

Questions about TLC?

Dr. Becky Grubbs-Bowling
bgrubbs@tamu.edu | 979.845.0603



The STMA announced its 2019 Board of Directors during the 30th annual Conference and Exhibition held in Phoenix, AZ last week. The 13-member board officially took office January 24 at the Annual Meeting.

The Executive Board is comprised of five officers. Elected to the Presidency is **Jody Gill, CSFM**, from Blue Valley School District in Overland Park, KS. Ascending to Immediate Past President is **Sarah Martin, CSFM**, City of Phoenix Parks and Rec. **Jimmy Simpson, CSFM**, Town of Cary, NC fills the President-Elect office and Secretary/Treasurer is **Nick McKenna, CSFM**, Texas A&M Athletics, College Station, TX. Serving a second term as the Commercial Vice President is **Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, CSE**, The Toro Company, Minneapolis. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BOARD ELECTIONS](#)

STMA Board Profile - Nick McKenna CSFM

Nick McKenna, CSFM, is an Assistant Athletic Field Manager at Texas A&M University. Nick returned to Texas A&M in August 2011 after having spent 4 years working for Virginia Tech overseeing their baseball and soccer/lacrosse facilities. He currently oversees Olsen Field at Bluebell Park and assists in the management of the other athletic fields at Texas A&M, including Kyle Field, the Coolidge Football Practice Fields, Ellis Field (soccer) and the Aggie Softball Complex. This is Nick's second term at Texas A&M, where he also served as an assistant groundskeeper from 2003-2005.

Nick received his B.S. from Iowa State University in Horticulture with a turfgrass emphasis. While at Iowa State, he served as an athletic field intern during his final semester in school. Nick also completed coursework and research towards an M.S. in Crop Soils & Environmental Science at Virginia Tech, and in 2007 was the recipient of the Dr. James Watson SAFE scholarship. He hopes to complete his M.S. degree by the end of 2016. Nick has served on numerous STMA committees and achieved CSFM status in January 2011. Nick briefly served on the Board of Directors for the Virginia STMA before returning to Texas where he has served on the TXSTMA Board for the last 4 years.

VISION FOR STMA

Aside from providing safe athletic surfaces on a continual basis, my primary role as an athletic field manager is to educate the public about our profession and to develop the next generation of athletic field managers. In my experience, the STMA is the single greatest resource we have to support that mission by providing us with the network, tools, and information needed to succeed in this endeavor. It would be a privilege to give back to an organization that has provided so much to me.

My vision for STMA is to continue to promote our position as "Experts in the Field, Partners in the Game". An organization is only as good as its membership, so we must strive to find ways to grow our membership and help them in as many ways as possible. We must continue to develop ideas, programs, and resources for our membership to help them advocate their positions and to educate the public about the importance of safe, environmentally responsible, and functional athletic fields.

Additionally, I would like to see the organization continue to grow and develop our professional image and to establish ourselves as true experts within the industry. We need to continue to advocate for our membership and stay on the forefront of potential issues that our industry has faced and will continue to face in the coming years.

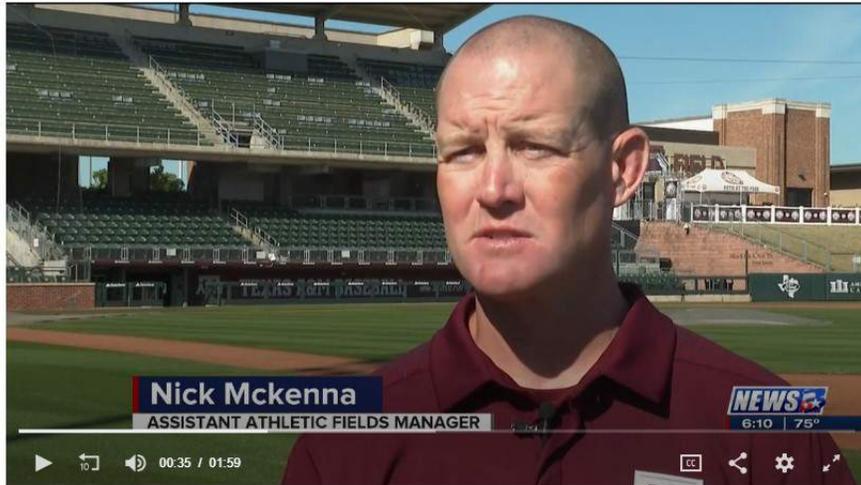
Secretary/Treasurer

NICK MCKENNA, CSFM

**Texas A&M Athletic
Department,
College Station, TX**



Meet the man behind keeping Olsen Field picture perfect



Click to see KBTX news story about TXSTMA member Nick McKenna CSFM



Nick McKenna @aggiefieldguy · 14h

Very blessed to be able to do what I do & work with the people that I get to on a daily basis! Wouldn't be possible without the help of all the awesome individuals of @aggiefieldstaff. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to highlight what our crew does! @FieldExperts



With the new **John Deere 9009A TerrainCut™ Rough Mower**, you can now mow more rough in less time without sacrificing cut quality. The 9009A features five, 27-inch decks for a nine-foot cutting width. Each deck has a unique, deep shell design with an innovative rear discharge chute. Height-of-cut can be set instantly using no tools. And the 9009A comes with the TechControl Display, letting you make precise settings of mow, transport and turn speed, as well as weight transfer, LoadMatch™ and cruise control.

The time has come for a wide area rough mower to do more. So don't just mow wide. Mow wide better. With the new 9009A TerrainCut Rough Mower.

Trusted by the Best

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

MEET THE ROUGH MOWER THAT'S BETTER BY A WIDE MARGIN.



austinturf.com

NORTH TEXAS: 2098 Valley View Lane Farmers Branch, TX 75234
CENTRAL/SOUTH TEXAS: 809 Steve Hawkins Pkwy. Marble Falls, TX 78654
FT WORTH, TEXAS: 5709 Airport Freeway Haltom City, TX 76117
NEW MEXICO: 1429 South Camino del Pueblo Bernalillo, NM 87004



Texas Sports Turf Managers Association Spring Field Day - Region 1



MAY 1

Oak Grove Park

2520 Oak Grove Loop S,
Grapevine 76051



Networking
Opportunities,
Education,
Field Demonstrations,
Trade Show
and Product / Service
Demonstrations.



Photo from 10 Year Anniversary Celebration

Hosted by STMA
Part of [CLICK FOR MORE INFO AND TO RSVP](#)
Rusty Walker and his great staff at
Grapevine. Register
today for this
"can't miss" event.

**GRAPEVINE
PARKS & REC**



2019 "Our Winning Green Space" Contest Now Open

Project EverGreen's Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids.TM initiative was created to revitalize athletic fields, recreational grounds and surrounding green spaces across the country in underserved areas that can benefit most from an improved green space.

Why? Renovated fields and play grounds will not only benefit kids/students who play there, but also create a natural gathering spot for parents, community officials and business leaders to network and work together to further sustain their community's environment.

Municipal parks and recreation departments, public works departments and non-profit agencies can enter the contest to have a chance at winning a top-of-the-line Exmark commercial mower package valued at approximately \$15,000, as well as a "Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids."™ renovation project for their city or organization.

The essay should be 250 words or less and describe what the park or athletic field means to your community. Include who uses the park or field and for what purposes. Or, if the park or field has fallen into disarray and is unusable, describe what a renovation would mean to children and families in the area.

This contest is sponsored by Exmark, STMA and SAFE.

[CLICK FOR MORE CONTEST INFORMATION](#)

STMA names Echo the winner of the 2019 Innovative Award



Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) named Echo Robotics its Innovative Award winner for its Autonomous Mower TM-2000.

The self-driving, self-charging, self-sufficient unit mows up to five acres of turf efficiently and quietly while finely mulching clippings to promote turf health. It can be remotely commanded while monitoring performance via a web platform and mobile app.

According to independent studies, its energy costs are eight times lower than traditional mowers. Boasting a 2:1 mowing to recharging ratio, it can mow approximately 16 hours a day (rain or shine) and can be scheduled to operate around field usage and watering cycles.

“As sports turf managers are tasked with more duties and greater responsibility, time becomes their most precious commodity,” says Kim Heck, CAE, CEO of STMA. “The TM-2000 allows sports turf managers to save time, money and resources.”

The “Innovative Awards Program” recognizes STMA commercial company members who’ve developed a product, service, equipment or technology that substantially enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of the sports turf manager and/or makes the playing surfaces safer and/or more playable for athletes. Chosen by STMA’s Innovative Awards Task Group, entries are evaluated on a wide range of qualities including whether or not they fill a need; are creative; save time and resources; are cutting-edge; make a task easier or more productive; improve quality; protect the environment and improve efficiency.



“At Echo, we pride ourselves on creating revolutionary high-performance products,” says Joe Fahey, vice president of Echo Robotics. “Thank you to the Sports Turf Managers Association for this prestigious award, we’re honored to play a part in enhancing the sports turf industry.”

HUNTER IS A PROUD STAR SPONSOR OF



TXSTMA

Click Ad



Scott Long

Austin
West Texas
(512) 695-6950

Ron Shelton

Dallas/Fort Worth
Wichita Falls
(817) 456-7953

Charley Huston

Dallas/Fort Worth
East Texas
(214) 577-4168

Jeff Trahan

Houston
(832) 998-1048

Ronnie Alaniz

San Antonio
Rio Grande Valley
(956) 254-3625

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL IRRIGATION | *Built on Innovation*[®]
Learn more. Visit hunterindustries.com



The Importance of Sports Turf Managers for Schools and Municipalities

by Brad Parks

SportsTurf



Trade magazine articles and educational presentations frequently address solutions to agronomic and skin surface management problems faced by sports turf managers. An infrequently addressed problem involves the lack of trained sports field managers at the school and municipal level—sectors of the turf industry that comprise the vast majority of sports field acreage and are used by athletes of all ages and skill levels. General grounds, including common areas and lawns, planting beds, and even trees and shrubs are routinely within the purview of personnel working at schools and other public sector entities. While the job title “sports turf manager” will be used throughout the remainder of this article, “sports turf and grounds manager” is likely a more accurate description of the position.

I frequently perform site visits to sports fields in a University Extension capacity and have made the following anecdotal observation concerning schools and municipalities with high quality sports fields: These institutions have personnel that include a sports turf manager with a high level of autonomy and significant decision-making authority (including purchasing) and a crew whose primary responsibility is the management of **outdoor** assets. This position may exist as a Foreman or Parks Superintendent and report to a Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, Public Works Manager, or Recreation Department Administrator.

Among the most challenging visits are those where there are high expectation levels for sports field quality but limited investment in personnel and resources to meet those standards. Playing surface quality expectations should be lowered in the absence of an experienced, trained sports turf manager. Administrators, coaches, and athletes are often uncomfortable with the concept of having to accept less-than-ideal field conditions; however, sub-par playing surface conditions are a nothing less than a reality where field use is high and trained personnel and adequate resources are not present.

The correlation between poor playing surface conditions and the absence of experience sports field management staff is so prevalent at the school and municipal level that I will frequently incorporate the following verbiage (or similar) into my follow-up report writing:

“Athletic Directors, coaches, athletes and others with a vested interest in playing surface quality must understand that the delivery of such a surface will be most likely achieved by an experienced sports field and grounds manager who is onsite on a daily basis and can react and adjust to changes in the surface as they occur. As such, expectations for playing surface quality must take into account the current turf management model that does not involve such a position.”

Sports turf managers can play many roles within municipal and school organizational structures; the entirety of roles are too numerous for the scope of this article. The objective of this article is to highlight several key roles played by sports turf managers to illustrate the importance of this position.

Communicating field conditions and managing high traffic surfaces

The proliferation of synthetic turf at schools and municipalities has provided administrators/event schedulers significant latitude in moving events from natural turf fields to synthetic surfaces when natural turf conditions necessitate such a move. Few public entities will ever have the resources to have a 100% synthetic sports field inventory; natural turf surfaces will always be part of the equation and require active management, including the implementation of time-sensitive cultural practices and traffic management.

Among the most high profile sports fields in any school system is the varsity football “game” field. North American football is played late into autumn, a time of the year turfgrasses in many regions of the United States are highly susceptible to damage caused by traffic. Bare soil (i.e. muddy surface when wet; hard surface when frozen or dry) is the end-of-season norm for those school systems that do not invest in quality sports field



TARGET
SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

JIM TRAVIS
Sales Representative
920 S. Freepoint Pkwy., Ste. 220
Coppell, TX 75019

E jim.travis@target-specialty.com
P 800 345 9387 F 972 745 4315
C 469 993 3647



target-specialty.com



Texas Sports Turf Managers Association Spring Field Day - Region 3



APRIL 25
**Sylvester Turner Park
Complex**

2801 South Victory Drive
Houston TX 77088

Networking Opportunities, Education,
Field Demonstrations, Trade Show and
Product / Service Demonstrations.



management personnel or do not value the judgment of their existing experienced staff. A sports turf manager is likely to anticipate field damage and proactively oversee prior-to and in-season to offset the inevitable loss of turf. He/she is better able to anticipate the need for end-of-season re-sodding or strategic core cultivation, seeding, and covering with a winter turf cover compared to a passive or nonexistent grounds department.

While a coach or administrator may ask the question, "How many events can be held on a natural turf sports field?" and the answer is never black-and-white, an experienced sports turf manager is the authority on the durability of his/her field(s). Coaches and administrators should view a sports turf manager with a track record of providing quality playing surfaces as a valuable resource on the question of field durability; that manager is in a prime position to communicate the "costs" associated with holding an event on a field when weather/field conditions could adversely affect playing surface integrity. His/her attempt to negotiate moving an event to a lower priority field in order to protect the higher priority field or perhaps advocate for pushing back a game time to allow surface conditions to improve should be viewed as an act of due diligence in the eyes of those with field scheduling authority.

Managing contracted services

For many municipalities and school systems, contracted sports field and grounds services involves little more than a public bidding paperwork exercise. There is typically little understanding on the part of municipal or school administrators concerning fertilizers and pesticides, particularly as it relates to what is being applied, why it is being applied, and at what rate. Complicated applicator licensing requirements, confusing state-level regulations, product storage issues, expensive application equipment, and insufficient in-house technical knowledge are frequently cited reasons for outsourcing pesticide and fertilizer applications to a contractor.

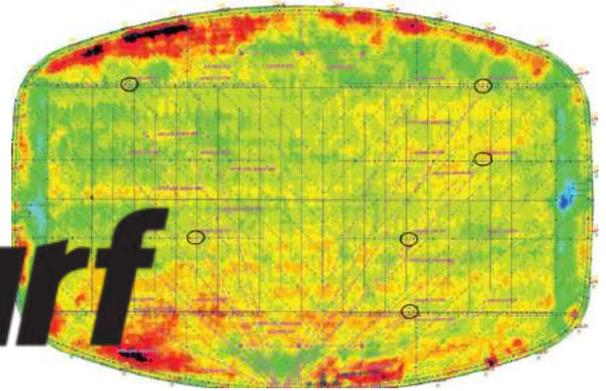
[CLICK HERE FOR THE REST OF THE ARTICLE](#)

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research and Education Coordinator, Rutgers University; a member of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Board of Directors; and 2016 recipient of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association Recognition Award.

Using 3D Laser Scanning at Paul Brown Stadium

by Crain Honkomp, PD, PS, LEED AP

SportsTurf



By using 3D laser scanning techniques commonly used to determine floor flatness, Sportworks Field Design and The Motz Group were able to identify settlement patterns connected to old utilities and calculate the exact amount of stone required for remediation at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati, long before the first strip of synthetic turf was removed. Additionally, the use of 3D scanning allowed Motz and Sportworks to deliver a precise analysis of the finished field after the synthetic turf was replaced.

“To our knowledge, this is a process that is not yet commonly used in the sports industry,” said Craig Honkomp of Sportworks Field Design. “3D laser scanning is both quick and inexpensive and is opening up a whole new set of tools to allow us more information before a project ever begins and more information after the fact to ensure it was done right. Our belief is more information means a more educated client, which allows for better decisions regarding where money should be spent.”

The project started when Bengals head groundskeeper Brett Tanner, CSFM, reached out to Honkomp following a presentation he had given at the STMA Conference last January in Ft. Worth. At the time, the Bengals were preparing to replace the synthetic turf at Paul Brown Stadium, and Tanner was concerned about several depressions in the surface; some were small “point” settlements of around a foot in diameter, while others were several yards in size. These undulations clearly had a negative effect on the planarity of the playing surface and were challenges for the grounds crew to maintain.

Knowing that the field had previously been natural grass, Tanner suspected some of the old utilities—including old irrigation heads, heating sensors and storm drainage—might have settled over time, but he didn’t have anything to back up his theory. A traditional survey, while useful, would never show all the undulations and smaller details necessary to make a connection between the unevenness of the field and whatever was causing it underneath. To compensate, Sportworks Field Design chose to use a method of measuring the field’s planarity by using 3D laser scanners.

The use of 3D laser scanners in architecture has become standard practice over time when extremely precise measurements are needed, and Sportworks Field Design’s sister company, Truescan3D, had scanned warehouse floors (a floor flatness analysis) on several occasions when a very precise grade was required. However Sportworks had never applied the technique to a field.

Using 3D laser scanners, Truescan3D was able to collect approximately 1.5 billion points of data regarding the planarity of the field, which they were then able to translate into a very precise map that showed all the dips and undulations.

Honkomp then compared the actual data to an ideal grade and was able to produce a heat map showing discrepancies. The heat map showed very few high spots, but several low spots, including places where the actual field differed from the ideal plan by up to several inches. Comparing the maps to old record drawings put into computer-aided design (CAD), Sportworks was able to identify patterns and suggest that settlement

around the heating sensors may have been causing several of the problems.

When it finally came time to dig, the heating sensors were in the exact locations Sportworks had identified. The field had settled in those locations because the heating sensors had not been backfilled properly.

When combined with field drainage tests completed by Sportworks and subgrade soil tests, by geotechnical company Terracon, Sportworks was able to provide a comprehensive analysis to Tanner to allow him to make well educated decisions on where to spend money on remediation before making improvements to the field to prevent similar problems from happening in the future.

Tanner was able to look at utilities, soil, and drainage issues and make an educated decision to spend money remediating the backfill problems above the old utilities, and to fix existing drainage problems where the stone had locked up preventing water from getting through, but not to spend the money necessary to fix some of the deeper sub-grade soils. The work could also be completed in a compressed timeframe while the team was still using the field.

Additionally, because the measurements were so precise, Sportworks was able to provide The Motz Group exact calculations of how much stone would be needed to fix the issues so they could have precisely the number of cubic yards needed available.

[Click here to read the rest of the article](#)

Craig Honkomp, PE, PS, LEED AP, is with the Sportworks Field Design division of The Kleingers Group, www.kleingers.com.

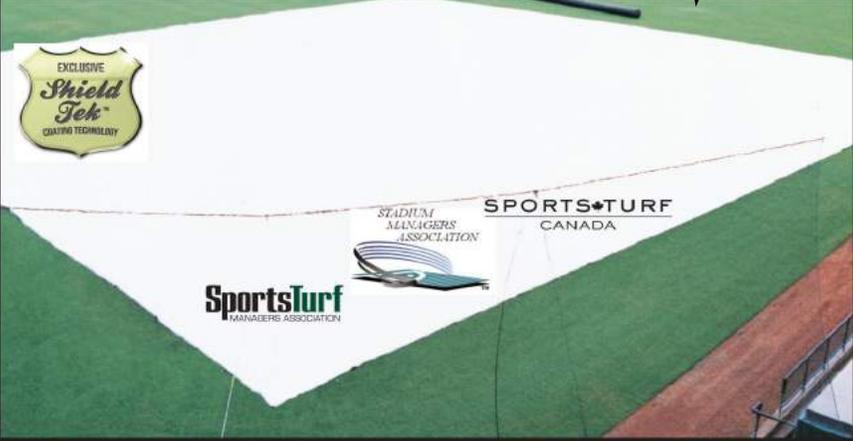
Avoid Costly Rainouts...

COVERMASTER™ RAINCOVERS

The COVERMASTER® Advantage...

- Lighter weight, superior strength, easier to handle
- Shield Tek™ coating technology for greater durability
- Outstanding heat reflective properties
- Raincover graphics available
- Largest choice of weights and colors

TARP MACHINE VIDEO!
TARPMACHINE™ makes light of handling your raincover.
WATCH THE ACTION ON LINE AT:
covermaster.com/tarpmachine/



Covers for football and soccer fields are also readily available.



TARP MACHINE™ lets you roll the cover on and off in minutes.



TARPMATE™ roller comes in 3 lengths with safety and caps.



COVERMASTER®

NO ONE COVERS IT BETTER

Call Toll Free: 1-800-387-5808
Int'l: +1-416-745-1811 • FAX: 416-742-6837
E-mail: info@covermaster.com
www.covermaster.com
© 2017 Covermaster Inc.



covermaster.com/rcad/

STMA Launches The Institute of Sportsfield Management

The [Institute of SportsField Management](#) (The Institute) is the industry's central hub promoting field safety and the sports turf profession at large. A collection of resources covering all aspects of operations is available to match the growing responsibilities of Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) members, as they advance to comprehensive facility managers. From technical resources covering natural turfgrass and synthetic surfaces to professional development and management resources, The Institute promotes a shared vision by contributing best practices and insights for the greater good.

STMA has identified a portfolio of subject-matter areas that helps form the foundation of the industry. Partnering with complementary associations, individuals greatly benefit from The Institute with fresh content on the subjects of professionalism, career development, communications, stadium operations, facility construction, event management, ticket sales and more.

The Institute brings the entire industry to one central location for pertinent information and educational resources. As the industry evolves, the organization will continue providing new resources to ensure its members have the most up-to-date information on new technology and turfgrass management techniques. STMA is the trusted industry partner working to advance the industry, and the creation of The Institute is a significant step to guide the evolution of the business.



We'd like for you to be an integral part of this launch. Log onto your social media accounts and tell us what new topics you'd like to see included in The Institute. Use the hashtag #TurfTips and tag @FieldExperts.

For more information about The Institute or to access its resources, visit

[Institute of SportsField Management](#)

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR TURFGRASS AREAS

SportsTurf MANAGERS ASSOCIATION
Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game. [www.stma.org](#)

SAFE
The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields



Pesticides are a small part of a complete turf program that is the key to safe fields. Public health and safety are always the sports turf managers top priority when maintaining athletic fields. Responsible managers combine mowing, fertilization, irrigation, and other cultural practices to maintain healthy, dense, uniform surfaces. Responsible sports turf managers utilize IPM practices on sports and recreational surfaces to create safe playing surfaces and reduce human exposure to pests and pesticides.

Removing pesticides alone will not make athletic fields automatically safe for children. In research conducted at University of Tennessee, a Tifway Bermudagrass field subjected to 15 games was compared to 15 simulated games on a crabgrass plot. Weeds and other pests can reduce playing surface strength and uniformity and lead to safety concerns. (1)



Photo credit: James Shuman, Ph.D. and John Swoboda, Ph.D.
Photos retrieved from Factors that Affect Sustainable Foliar Pesticides and Environmental Fate of Pesticides - Travis Gannon, Ph.D. - 2017 STMA Conference Presentation

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an approach to pest management that blends all available management techniques - nonchemical and chemical - into one strategy. Monitor pest problems, use nonchemical pest control, and resort to pesticides ONLY when pest damage exceeds an economic or aesthetic threshold. (2)

IPM is an environmentally friendly, common sense approach to controlling pests. Traditional pest control involves the routine application of pesticides. IPM, in contrast, focuses on pest prevention and only uses pesticides as needed. (2)

Every IPM program is designed based on the pest prevention goals and eradication needs of the situation. Successful IPM programs use a four-tiered implementation approach: Identify pests and monitor progress; set action thresholds; prevent; and control. (2)



Your Resource for Safer Fields • Brought to you by the Sports Turf Managers Association and its charitable Foundation, **The SAFE Foundation** • ph. 1-800-323-3875 • [www.stma.org](#)

Integrated Pest Management for Turfgrass Areas



IPM creates a safer and healthier environment by managing pests and reducing human exposure to pests and pesticides. IPM is an effective and environmentally-sensitive approach that offers a wide variety of tools to reduce contact with pests and exposure to pesticides. (2)

A common way to document toxicity is by oral LD₅₀ values. LD₅₀ is the amount of chemical required to provide a "lethal dose" to 50% of the test population. LD₅₀ is measured in mg of chemical administered per kg of body weight. Therefore, an oral LD₅₀ of 500 means that 500 mg of chemical was needed to obtain lethality in a 1 kg subject (such as a rabbit). The lower the LD₅₀ value, the less chemical that is required to reach lethality. A chemical with an LD₅₀ of 10 mg/kg is more acutely toxic than one with an LD₅₀ of 100 mg/kg. (3)



Herbicides often have a higher LD₅₀ value than many commonly used or consumed products. Herbicides target highly specific biological or biochemical processes within plants, such as photosynthesis and production of branch-chain amino acids. Because humans do not photosynthesize or produce branch-chain amino acids, there is no place for the herbicide to bind in a human body and therefore have very little impact. Because the herbicides do not bind in a human, they are often excreted within 24 hours of the dose. That flushing does not allow concentrations to build up to toxic levels in the body. (3)



Even though some pesticide products are considered only slightly toxic or relatively nontoxic, all pesticides can be hazardous to humans, animals, other organisms, and the environment if the instructions on the product label are not followed. Following the directions on the label for personal protective equipment (PPE) and restricted entry interval (REI) keeps applicators and the public safe. It is a violation of Federal law to use pesticide products in a manner inconsistent with the labeling. Applicators are legally responsible for any misuse of a pesticide. (4)



Your Resource for Safer Fields • Brought to you by the Sports Turf Managers Association and its charitable Foundation, **The SAFE Foundation** • ph. 1-800-323-3875 • [www.stma.org](#)

What's the deal with measuring clipping volume?

December 21, 2018

There has been a growing discussion among turfgrass professionals about measuring and recording the amount of clippings collected while mowing. This debate has picked up steam in recent months, especially with golf course superintendents. While it is very common for most turf managers to ask their employees, “How much grass did you get today?” that answer typically isn’t an actual number. Some superintendents have started to keep better track of the clipping production on their putting greens. Others seem interested, but still have several questions like how to do it, how much time does it take, and how can the data be used (Fig.1). Micah Woods, PhD from the Asian Turfgrass Center has advocated for accurate measurement and recording of clippings for years. He recently posted his free e-book on the subject to his website: <https://www.asianturfgrass.com/buckets>. It contains a lot of helpful information that answers many of those questions.



We advocate that turfgrass managers collect clipping volume instead of weight (Fig. 2). While weight is most useful, it is nearly impossible to determine in a field setting. We measure clipping weights daily for our PGR research, and it is extremely laborious. First the clippings need to be dried at 150F for 24-36 hours and then all sand needs to be painstaking removed. By measuring volume – such as liters, quarts, gallons, etc. – the complications of sand, dew, and water content is minimized. Dr. Woods advocates using mL per square meter, but liters per 100 square meters is most popular on Twitter. The metric units can be intimidating for US turf managers, so it’s convenient to know that L/100 m² is very similar to qts/1000 ft².



Figure 2. Graduate student, Jacob Fuehrer, collected clipping volume daily at the East Campus Turf Plots. Many golf course superintendents use kitchen stock buckets to quickly empty and measure clippings from their large mower buckets. Some even mount the stock bucket to the side of triplex mowers.



Plans to Build a \$225M Stadium for an Upcoming MLS Franchise in Austin Approved

Plans to build a \$225m, 20,000-capacity stadium for an upcoming Major League Soccer (MLS) franchise in the city of Austin have been approved by both the city and the project's investor.

As demonstrated in cities around the world, soccer can truly galvanize a community. That is the intention behind bringing Austin its first professional sports team, Austin FC, and redeveloping an underutilized site into a state-of-the-art soccer stadium. The new stadium will provide unparalleled benefits to the community and create a world class match-day experience in fast-developing northwest Austin.

Austin FC Stadium will be the catalyst converting McKalla Place, a former industrial site, into a thriving community space for sports, parks, performances and events that will celebrate the city's heritage and culture.

The project will be privately funded by Precourt Sports Ventures (PSV), a private equity firm based in California, owners of the Columbus Crew SC, and paid in monthly instalments to the City of Austin.

The stadium has been designed by Gensler in cooperation with CAA ICON and TBG, with works due to begin this year and completion slated for early 2021.

Austin FC, which has signed an initial 20-year lease to play home games at the venue, are yet to find out whether they will debut in the MLS in 2020 or 2021.

MLS Commissioner, Don Garber, welcomed the agreement between PSV and the City of Austin:

Austin is a thriving, dynamic and multi-cultural city, and we are very excited that the city and Precourt Sports Ventures have finalised their lease, which will allow for the construction of a soccer stadium and for the launch of an MLS club in the capital of Texas.

[Click here to read full story](#)

GLK

TURF SOLUTIONS



Balancing Innovation and Sound Agronomics



air292.com
air is everything to anything that lives™

imants

AQUA·AID
SOLUTIONS

trimax™
MOWING SYSTEMS

Call Today to See The Equipment Sports Turf Professionals Trust

Jeff Kadlec (210) 413-3045

Rick Kadlec (314) 744-0379

Sales, Contract Service, and Rental Options Available



STMA Environmental Certification Program Continues to Grow

After 4 years of development, the STMA Environmental Facility Certification program launched in 2016. Within 2 months, there were eight facilities in the program. Today, there are 34 certified with four facilities in various stages of the program.

The Waukegan (IL) Park District pursued certification as part of the city's commitment to environmental stewardship. "It was identified as a Waukegan Park District initiative under the Environmental Sustainability goal," says Noel Brusius, CSFM, SportsPark and Athletic Field Maintenance Supervisor.

At Real Madrid, (Spain) Paul Burgess, CSFM, Director of Grounds and Environment, cites their commitment to leadership as the reason they pursued certification for two fields. "As the world's biggest sports franchise, we feel it's our responsibility to lead and to work with industry partners such as the STMA, to help guide, certify and promote our work and facilities," says Burgess.

Brusius also cited leadership as a driver for their involvement in the program. "Achieving certification was an example of how the Waukegan Park District strives to be a leader in the community. We also feel this certification was a justification of professionalism offered through STMA," says Brusius.

Since the certification rollout, the program was reviewed at its one-year anniversary, and Version 2.0 was developed. That version was created after analyzing the most "missed" questions. Those questions were clarified, and several new questions were added.

Self-assessment and attestation

The program consists of a self-assessment of the facility that the sports field manager fills out electronically. STMA reviews that assessment, and an 80 percent pass rate on each section must be attained. Those sections include storm water management, fertilization, pesticides/IPM, recycling and educational outreach (considered one section), mowing, energy conservation, shop buildings/storage and irrigation. The instrument also includes questions about composting, but that section is included only as education only and the score is not included in the results. If 80 percent is not achieved on one or more sections, those can be re-taken within 6 months showing the improved practice(s).

After achieving an 80 percent pass rate on each section, attesting the facility is the next step. An attester is engaged—either a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) or an academic in turfgrass management—who completes a face-to-face walkthrough of the facility to validate that the best management practices noted on the assessment form are in place. The attester completes an electronic form and recommends the facility for certification.

This program differs from the Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) that STMA also developed and administers. The CSFM program certifies the individual on knowledge, skills and abilities through a written test and subsequent continuing education and service to the industry requirements.

[Click here to read more about the Certification Program and for a list of certified facilities](#)

 **BARENBRUG**



MONACO

BERMUDAGRASS

**CONTINUING THE LEGACY.
INTRODUCING MONACO
SEEDED BERMUDAGRASS!**



CONTINUING THE LEGACY FOUNDED BY RIVIERA

Monaco is a superior seeded bermudagrass that is excellent for use on golf courses, sports turf, and higher quality lawns. It has excellent density and wear tolerance. Bred for a genetically darker green color, it also has quicker spring green-up, high fall color retention, and winter hardiness, Monaco will make a great addition to your landscape!

Let us help you build your legacy. Contact: Ckearns@barusa.com • 903 278 2678

2019 Board of Directors

SIDELINES



Executive Directors:

President: Troy Crawford - Moneygram Soccer Park, tcrawford@fcdallas.com

Past President: Kevin Lebanik—Harrell's, Klebanik@harrells.com

President Elect: Weston Floyd, University of Texas, wfloyd@athletics.utexas.edu

1st Commercial Vice Pres: Mike Estlinbaum - Ewing Irr., mestlinbaum@ewingirrigation.com

2nd Commercial Vice Pres: Jeff Kadlec, GLK Turf Solutions, jeff.kadlec@glkturfsolutions.com

Treasurer: Nick McKenna, CSFM— Texas A&M University, nmckenna@athletics.tamu.edu

Committee Directors:

Advertising: Scott Greggo

Communication: Dan Bergstrom, CSFM — BBVA Compass, dbergstrom@bbvacompasstadium.com

Region I (DFW): Russell Coe, Tri-Tex Grass - Russell@tritexgrass.com

Region II (Austin/San Antonio): Garrett Reddehase, RS3 Sports, greddehase@rs3sports.com

Region III (Houston): Kevin Hansen, Houston Texans, kevinhanden09@gmail.com

Membership: Greg Carroll, Irrigators Supply Inc., greg@irrigators-supply.net

Scholarship: Chris Pitts, Clear Creek ISD, chpitts@ccisd.net

Chapter Executive: Carol Cloud, txstmainfo@yahoo.com, (817) 296 - 9117

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association

*Providing education and training
for safer and healthier sports
turf facilities*

Txstma.org

txstmainfo@
yahoo.com

(817) 296 - 9117

PO Box 122766
Fort Worth, TX 76121-2766

Spring 2019 Issue

Follow us @TXSTMA

twitter

For all the latest association news and information!

facebook