



SIDELINES

Providing education and training for safer and healthier sports turf facilities

**Texas Sports Turf
Managers
Association**

txstma.org
Fall 2019

As the boys of summer conclude their final season of baseball at the Ball Park In Arlington this marks the beginning of Fall in our great state. Our temps may not reflect that the Fall season is upon us but our calendar tells us that summer is over. What does that mean to you? For us here at Moneygram Soccer Park, Fall marks the beginning of overseeding and budgetary planning for the next fiscal year.



Troy Crawford
Moneygram Soccer Park
TXSTMA President

Fall also marks the second round of field days in our great state! We have some great locations lined up and phenomenal speakers to help us gain some knowledge. We have our first field day on October 15th at TCU, in Fort Worth. Our second field day will be on November 7th at All Seasons Turf Grass Farms, located in Brookshire, Texas. Our last field day will be hosted at Retema Park located in Selma, Texas on November 20th. The benefits for attending each field day is huge! I would highly encourage everyone to attend as many of the field days as possible.

Fall also means that the Dr. James McAfee and Cody Hobbs scholarship deadlines are approaching. Any student currently enrolled in a turf management or agronomy program is eligible for the Dr. James McAfee scholarship. The Cody Hobbs scholarship is for any professional or commercial member of TXSTMA who is looking to improve their knowledge through continuing education or correspondence courses by an accredited college or university. If you are interest please visit our website www.txstma.org and look under scholarships.

Over the last few months we, as Texans have endured our fair share of tragedy and turmoil. I would encourage everyone to remain vigil and help your fellow Texan out if you can. You just never know what Mother Nature or society might throw at you. Be strong and remember that there is nothing that we as Texans can't accomplish as long as we work together! #texasstrong!

TXSTMA President's Message

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association
2019 Fall Field Day Schedule

	October 15 - Region 1 TCU - Fort Worth
	November 7 - Region 3 All Seasons Turf Grass Farm - Brookshire
	November 20 - Region 2 Retama Park Selma



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AUSTIN FC SOCCER STADIUM: THE MAN BEHIND THE GRASS

SPECTRUM
NEWS



In September, crews broke ground on the Austin FC soccer stadium. One of the many decisions going into the planning of the stadium, is what type of grass will be on the pitch.

Westin Appelfeller received a degree in turf science and went on to work as a groundskeeper at the legendary Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox.

“I don’t necessarily dream about grass, but I have woken up from many a dreams to think about grass.” -- Westin Appelfeller, Austin FC groundskeeper. After his time at Fenway Park, Appelfeller worked for the Philadelphia Union and Columbus Crew, spending a total of 10 years in Major League Soccer. Now he’s doing what he calls his dream job by building the field Austin FC will call home.

“Working with the architects and the field designer and all that sort of thing, getting everything exactly how I want it, it’s the most exciting portion of my career by far,” he said.

While it is exciting, the job is more demanding than it appears. It’s up to Appelfeller to decide what grass will go over the turf.

“Soccer players, in general, want to play on natural grass more than anything,” Appelfeller said. There are a lot of different types of natural grass, such as Seashore Paspalum, Tiff Tough Bermuda, and Latitude 36 Bermuda. Since January, Appelfeller has been raising patches of the different grass varieties outside the team office, trying to figure out which one will make the perfect pitch.

“They get about six to seven hours of natural sunlight a day, which we feel is about similar to what the actual playing surface at McKalla Place will have,” Appelfeller said.

**AUSTIN FC FIELD WILL HAVE REAL GRASS, NOT TURF
GROUNDSKEEPER USED TO WORK AT FENWAY PARK
CURRENTLY GROWING DIFFERENT GRASS VARIETIES FOR AUSTIN FC**

At this point, the grass samples are like his babies. Appelfeller waters them, feeds them, cuts them, and studies their behaviors; learning things like how they handle the Texas heat. He also uses a tool, called a sheer tester, which mimics a player's cleat tearing up the grass.

"It gives you a number that is how much pressure the grass can hold before it gives out. And we can use that number then to see, 'Well, this grass is stronger than this grass, or this grass is stronger than that grass,'" said Appelfeller. That lets him know how quickly the grass would recover from a divot, and most importantly, how much water each type of grass would need to keep the athletes from getting hurt.

"The players have a lot of things to worry about. We want them to not have to worry about what the field is underneath them," said Appelfeller. There is a frontrunner, but the team won't make a final decision until closer to kickoff. "Whichever one we choose, it will be probably the first piece that gets installed in the stadium."

But one thing's for sure. Every decision Westin makes, will be rooted in Austin's soccer history.

"Just being involved in something from the beginning, it's exciting, the city's excited, we're excited, and I cannot wait for that opening match," said Appelfeller.

The team is also looking at environmental factors as they make this decision, hoping to limit the stadium's carbon footprint. Some grass types require more or less water than others, some can take organic fertilizers, and some would require more electricity based on lights and fans needed to make up for a lack of sunlight.

[Click here for full video story from Spectrum News spectrumlocalnews.com](http://spectrumlocalnews.com)

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Texas Sports Turf Managers Association Spring Field Day - Region 1



TCU

October 15

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

Join us on the campus of TCU in Fort Worth hosted by Andrew Siegel, Sports Turf Manager. Our day will be packed with facility tours and great opportunities to learn from the professionals who manage these outstanding facilities. Including lots of great networking opportunities with your peers and colleagues.

Schedule:

8:00 AM Registration and Trade Show
9:00 AM Education and Field Tours
11:00 AM Lunch and Trade Show
12:00 PM Education and Vendor Presentations
1:00 PM Education and Field Tours
3:00 PM Adjourn

[REGISTER HERE](#)

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR IN WEST PALM BEACH!

STMA's Annual Conference & Exhibition allows members to share information with other successful members of the sports turf industry at exciting locations. In addition to educational seminars, hands-on workshops and the latest technology on display, conference attendees are able to tour professional, college and municipal facilities that offer a range of insights to take back home. There is simply no better conference around! *Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.*

Registration will open October 1, 2019. [Click here](#) to view a Schedule-at-a-Glance for the 2020 Conference.



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NEW MEXICO: 1429 South Camino del Pueblo Bernalillo, NM 87004



Texas Sports Turf Managers Association Spring Field Day - Region 2

Schedule:

8:00 AM Registration and Trade Show
9:00 AM Education and Facility Tours
11:30 AM Lunch, Vendor Presentations and Trade Show
12:30 PM Education and Facility Tours
3:00 PM Adjourn



RETAMA PARK - Selma
November 20

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

Join us at this unique venue for the Region 2 Fall Field Day on November 20. Our special day will include facility tours by our host, James Rodriguez. James and his staff will discuss the unique challenges of maintaining a horse racing facility and surrounding landscape areas. The event will also feature a mini-trade show along with demonstrations of products and services by our great affiliate sponsors. We are planning a special educational program as well. Stay tuned for more details.

REGISTER HERE



Toro is pleased to announce the 19th annual Toro Super Bowl* Sports Turf Training Program. In January 2020, one lucky turfgrass science student will travel to Miami Gardens, Florida, to help the grounds crew prepare the field for the biggest game in football. With an extensive history of supporting student scholarships and educational activities, Toro and the National Football League are proud to offer this unique learning experience.

Toro equipment and representatives have been involved in preparing the stadium and practice fields for the Super Bowl for over 50 years. Starting with the inaugural World Championship in 1967, the NFL grounds crew has relied on Toro for its expertise and equipment in preparing the game field and multiple practice facilities. In 2002, the organizations partnered to establish the Toro Super Bowl Sports Turf Training Program.

ENTRY DEADLINE: OCTOBER 11!

Through the Sports Turf Training Program, Toro and the NFL's Super Bowl grounds team collaborate to offer a program aimed at enhancing the skills of emerging sports turf professionals. This program provides hands-on experience in establishing and maintaining one of the highest quality and safest playing surfaces in the world. This year's recipient will work alongside NFL field director, Ed Mangan, George Toma, and the Super Bowl grounds crew at Hard Rock Stadium on natural turf maintenance, logo painting, field preparation for media day, halftime preparation and field clean-up. Beginning on January 25, 2020, the winner will be on hand at Hard Rock Stadium preparing the field leading up to the game on February 2, 2020.

To be considered for the program, applicants must complete and submit an application form, as well as a 500-word typed essay, describing the applicant's professional goals. A reference and résumé are also required.

Entries must be received by October 11, 2019. Applicants must be enrolled in at least the second year of a two-year turf program, or in at least the junior year of a four-year turf program. The application must include the contact information of a school advisor or representative, as well.

The winner will be notified no later than October 25, 2019. Applications can be completed online here. For additional information, potential applicants can learn more about the program by consulting with their school's turf program.

Any questions or comments can be directed to boyd.montgomery@toro.com.

* Super Bowl is a registered trademark of the NFL.



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SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 9TH, 2019

TEXAS A&M TURFGRASS FIELD DAY

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

MORE INFO COMING SOON | AGGIETURF.TAMU.EDU



2019 Texas A&M Turfgrass Field Day at College Station

Wednesday, October 9th

Scotts-MiracleGro Lawn and Garden Research Facility \$55
(early registration) - Lunch is included.

[Registration: Click Here](#)

The Texas A&M Turfgrass Field Day offers an opportunity for members of industry and the general public to see and hear about current research activities in the Texas A&M turfgrass program and select related programs in entomology, pathology, and soil science. Attendees will have the opportunity to earn CEUs for professional development, visit the trade show floor to see some new products from industry, and enjoy a delicious lunch alongside fellow turf professionals and enthusiasts!

SAFE

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields

SAFE, STMA's charity, conducts a variety of fundraising activities during the STMA Conference to raise funds for scholarship, education, outreach and research. The continued success of these fundraisers is credited toward the generous donations from STMA members. But all the fun won't be possible without your help!

How can you help, you ask? Easy. Donate! It is impossible for us to do this without you!

1. DONATE FOR THE SILENT/ LIVE AUCTION

2. DONATE FOR THE RAFFLE

3. MAKE A CASH DONATION TO THE SAFE FOUNDATION

4. BECOME A TITLE SPONSOR FOR THE SAFE BOWLING EVENT

5. SPONSOR A HOLE AT THE SAFE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Auctions: How to donate!

If you would like to donate an item for the live or silent auctions, we ask that you fill out our Donation Form. We would love to share with you the amazing auction items we have in store as we get closer to the event, so please consider mailing donated items prior to the conference.

Learn more at www.safefields.org.

Our Mission

To enrich communities through championing safe, sustainable sports and recreation fields for all athletes.



Field Safety Videos Educate Volunteers

[CLICK!](#)

SAFE recently completed four videos targeted to parents, coaches, volunteers, and other non-turf personnel about field safety. These videos are available for download at no charge. SAFE will be extending this training to four, hands-on sessions in partnership with Little League to further educate volunteers.





Texas Sports Turf Managers Association Spring Field Day - Region 3

Facility Tours, Networking

Opportunities, Education,

Field Demonstrations,

November 7

All Seasons Turf Grass Farm

32601 FM-529,

Brookshire TX77423

Trade Show

and Product / Service

Demonstrations.



ALL SEASONS
TURF GRASS



Schedule:

8:00 AM Registration and Trade Show

9:00 AM Education and Field Tours

11:30 AM Lunch, Vendor Presentations and Trade Show

12:30 PM Education and Field Tours

3:00 PM Adjourn

Our great partners and host for this Fall Field Day will be All Seasons Turf Grass. They will roll out the red carpet for attendees to tour their production facility and to learn about their agronomic programs and techniques to maintain and provide high level turfgrass for their customers. Several vendors and sponsors will also be in part of the program to discuss their products and services. We are looking forward to a special educational program.

REGISTER HERE

Save the 2019 Dates!



Winter 2019 Conference
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Among his beliefs, John Wallace has great respect for the military and serving others.

He was able to do both at the same time recently when he and his company JLWALLACE Landscape Professionals, in Bedford, participated in Project Evergreen's GreenCare for Troops program.

Wallace was assigned to help Matt Jacobsen and his family following their recent move to Duncanville. The program pairs landscape professionals with military families who have members deployed or are considered totally disabled, helping with lawn care.

"I saw the opportunity to give something to the families whose loved one is deployed fighting for our freedom. It was an easy yes," Wallace said. "My grandfather retired from the American Red Cross. Respect for those who serve should be a given. My parents showed us how to be charitable, especially for matters of the heart."

Wallace, 52, was in the ROTC while in college.

Wallace said he worked on the Jacobsens yard for about three months, tending to it once every 10 days or so. The initial visit required about six hours of work, followed by about two hours each subsequent visit. His work included leaf removal, general cleanup and mowing.

FORT WORTH
Star-Telegram

"I breathed a huge sigh of relief. I had been calling on friends and family, but to have a professional come in and do this was amazing," Jacobsen said.

Jacobsen, 39, spent 17 years in the Army, including special operations. He enlisted in the aftermath of 9/11 and served in Afghanistan, Iraq, and parts of Central and South America.

Jacobsen said Wallace's help not only made for a better looking yard, but also made for a safer one for his three children.

"If the grass is high, it doesn't take much for a kid to find a critter," he said.

Jacobsen's recent deployment, during which Wallace helped, was six months.

"That's a long time, and it's hard having that responsibility while a spouse is deployed," said Ki Matsko, Program Director for GreenCare for Troops and SnowCare for Troops. "People don't always realize what military families go through when a loved one is deployed."

GreenCare for Troops was started in 2006. SnowCare for Troops, which helps military families in colder climates, started in 2010. Matsko said both feature a mission to help families, but also to make a positive impact on the planet.

"Our program is dedicated to creating a greener, cooler earth," she said. "Our program gives people in the green industry a way to give back to these military families. We got the ball rolling, and it's volunteers like John who make it happen."

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION PRESENTS:

THE TALE OF TWO PLAYING SURFACES

HOST: FC Dallas | DATE: October 16, 2019
PROGRAM LEADER: Chrissie A. Segars, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

7:45	-	8:20 am	Registration & Breakfast
8:20	-	8:30 am	WELCOME <i>Chrissie A. Segars, Ph.D. Extension Turfgrass Specialist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension</i>
8:30	-	9:15 am	<i>Synthetic Field Construction</i> <i>William Chaffe President Paragon Sports Constructors, LLC</i>
9:30	-	10:15 am	<i>Synthetic Field Maintenance</i> <i>Grant Trenbeath Sports Turf Manager Arizona Diamondbacks</i>
10:15	-	10:30 am	BREAK
10:30	-	11:30 am	<i>Natural and Synthetic Field Performance Testing</i> <i>Philippe Aldahir, Ph.D. Director, Turf Research and Innovation Shaw Turf/Inc.</i>
11:30	-	12:30 pm	LUNCH
12:45	-	1:30 pm	<i>Player Performance Testing</i> <i>Allen Reed Director of Stadium Grounds FC Dallas</i>
1:30	-	4:30 pm	<i>Hands-on Performance Testing Workshop on FC Dallas Fields</i> <i>Philippe Aldahir, Ph.D. and Allen Reed</i>
4:30 pm			CONCLUSION



**Wednesday
October 16th**

Host:

**FC Dallas
Dallas, TX**

Cost: \$20

Registration information:
Coming soon. We will post more information on our website in the coming weeks and send another email out when registration is open.

Does the title of this work-

shop take you back to that time you had to read, "A Tale of Two Cities"? I promise you that this workshop will be a whole lot more fun! This will be an interactive workshop where you can learn about different playing surfaces, player safety, field testing, and actually perform the tests yourself! This is a rare opportunity to hear from some of the best in the industry about topics that are becoming a lot more popular and talked about in the industry. You've likely heard by now that the Texas Rangers are installing a synthetic surface on their new field. Well, you are in for a treat! The Arizona Diamondbacks is the only other field to have the exact surface that the Rangers will install next year. If you attend the workshop, you will have the opportunity to learn what it was like to go from a natural surface to this brand-new synthetic surface that was developed by Shaw Turf. The cost of the workshop will be \$20/person and will include CEU's from the National STMA Certified Sports Field Manager program and the Texas Turfgrass Association Certified Professional Turf Manager program. The registration fee will also include breakfast, lunch, a giftbag from our sponsors, and door prizes. Don't miss this fun opportunity to learn. More information about how to register will be sent out through email.



Athletic field managers work hard to maintain quality and highly playable fields throughout the year, but summer maintenance for cool season sports turf managers offer a specific and demanding set of challenges. Keep an eye out to fall maintenance as well. High heat, excessive dry or wet conditions, and traffic all lead to a high potential for a loss in turfgrass vigor, recovery, and growth. Consider doing less, not more, to effectively manage challenging situations and remember to take advantage of what you can control. This includes decisions about irrigation schedule, selection and timing of crop protectant application, nozzle selection, equipment calibration, aeration and nutrient application timing, and seeding rate and timing. Think about agronomic basics that promote optimum vigor and plant recovery including height of cut, fertilization, and crop protection and water management. Let's start with a more in depth discussion about vigor, growth and playability and keep you moving forward to keep turf growing aggressively for the rest of the season!

Turf managers must become keen observers to determine levels turf vigor. Consider the definition of vigor: physical strength, energy or force; capacity for natural growth and survival. Ask questions while you observe, for example, how do plants recover from environmental or mechanical stress? How do plants respond to fertilizer applications? How do plants respond to or compete with pests? Turf management on a very basic level centers on competition. Creating a scenario where the desired plant has a

competitive edge, right? That's it in a nutshell. Add in traffic and the situation changes again making the job even more challenging. An enhanced base level of vigor means more opportunities for better playability, the ultimate goal. With increased vigor, you can control and fine tune other factors more aggressively such as height of cut and water management to further 'fine-tune' playability. Maximizing plant vigor offers a buffer. How do we maintain it for cool season grasses in the summer?

Nutrition

Choose the correct source, dose and timing for nutrient applications for the rest of this summer and fall. Spoon-feed with an efficient foliar and soluble nutrient source, particularly nitrogen (N). This approach offers control of shoot growth, promotes rooting, and ensures the supply of adequate nutrition when environmental factors including soil physical properties (temperature/water status) may limit growth. Roots are key to getting through the growing season and N plays an important role. When seeding, foliar nutrition promotes faster establishment after germination. In the fall, apply higher doses of N and utilize more granule formulations. Consider granule formulations with at least 50% slow release nitrogen; this approach provides metered N release throughout the fall when N demands are high. Look for balanced formulations or tank mixes, particularly the liquid/foliar formulations that offer compatibility with crop protectants.

Pest control

Use history as a guide. Do not make pesticide applications based on a calendar date and always read the label before applying. Develop a integrated pest management (IPM) program by utilizing all options, focus on scouting and mapping, develop tolerance levels, and consider the safety to applicators, non-target organisms and the environment. Triple rinse all application tanks and equipment to ensure cleanliness, keep accurate records and store pesticides in a clean, dry and dark location. Since pre-emergent herbicides have likely been applied, focus now on post emergent weed control, particularly in high wear areas. Hold off on any herbicide application until the seeds have germinated and seedlings have reached the 3-5-tiller stage unless otherwise stated the



STMA offers two-year memberships through the SAFE Leo Goertz Grant, to field managers who have not been a member of STMA for at least five years. Tell your chapter members who are not national members or other peers to go to stma.org to apply or nominate someone.

Pioneer Athletics generously funds this program.

The deadline to apply or submit a nomination is Oct. 15.

label. Some herbicides are safe to apply prior to, or during, seeding.

Understand key timings and indicators for disease and insect pests. At this time of year, consider the management of late summer and fall diseases including pythium blight, brown patch, summer patch, and gray leaf spot. For insect pest pests, turn your attention to the control of sod webworm, white grubs, and chinch bugs.

Additional factors to consider: Correct pest identification Nutrient/pest interactions, Pesticide target (soil or foliar) Rotating chemistries (contact v. systemic) to manage pest resistance, Turfgrass species and cultivar selection, Thatch and organic matter management

Select the correct nozzles (water droplet size), pressure, and water volume carrier. Select these factors based on target pest, coverage required, drift reduction, and tank mix partners. Generally, flooding nozzles work best at lower pressure and higher water carrier. Contact fungicides require adequate coverage that is best achieved with nozzles that produce a finer droplet size. It's worth noting that the last piece of equipment the spray solution touches before the turf canopy and soil are the nozzles, so pay close attention to those decisions. Remember to focus on factors in your control. Maintain turf vigor through sound cultural practices. Plant resistant cultivars and enhance soil microbial activity to most effectively reduce pest pressure without crop protectants.

Seeding, traffic and cultivation

Focus on high wear areas for seeding. Attempt to create a seedbed through cultivation and topdressing and roll for adequate seed/soil contact, if possible. Time the seeding immediately after games/events and as long as possible before the next event. Mid/late August represents the best timing for cool season turfgrass establishment. Avoid pesticides or high doses of soluble N in high heat where seedlings are immature as plant injury can occur.

To manage traffic, rotate field use were possible. Cultivate, groom, and topdress high use areas to reduce compaction and increase shear strength. Avoid aggressive cultivation during environmental stress. Focus on thatch reduction and aeration in the fall, which typically should occur in conjunction with inter-seeding or establishment of larger areas.

Mowing

During environmental and/or traffic stress or low metabolic functioning, it's best to raise the height of cut. The

greater leaf surface area affords the plants increased light capture and photosynthetic activity. A higher mowing height also protects turf crowns, and promotes deeper roots. Based on your management strategies and observation, when plant vigor is high, you can lower the height of height of cut to improve playability, for example ball roll and speed, bounce consistency, player traction, and player running speed. In addition, a relatively lower height of cut promotes tillering, thus uniformity and shoot density. Always keep mowing heights within the recommended range based on breeder and National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) evaluations and never lower the height of cut by more than one third. And finally, an effective turf manager must also correctly manage thatch before lowering the height of cut to avoid scalping.

Water management

Having access to an irrigation system makes it possible to control water inputs. When inputs are in your control and turf vigor remains high due to the other successful management strategies implemented, a valuable opportunity arises: to keep the surface dry using a deep and infrequent irrigation approach. Too much water at the surface of a sports field will limit rooting and gas exchange, leading to a handful of problems. Managing turf on a deficit irrigation schedule keeps soil moisture above the wilting point, but below field capacity. There are various ways to determine when and how much water to apply such as basing it on evapotranspiration loss or soil volumetric water content. Water deficit management will encourage plant acclimation to drought, build plant strength and improve rooting. In addition, you can expect better playability parameters such as reduced divoting, improved traction, and a 'faster' field surface.

Keeping the turfgrass growing during the season requires an integrated approach. Every situation is different including site, grass type, rootzone properties, resources, level of traffic, number of fields, etc. but one thing remains the same—a focus on the basics and what you control, plus keen observation, will provide the best chance for success. This includes nutrient management, pest control, and cultivation with an emphasis on building turf vigor, making it competitive! Keen observation allows you to determine what might be limiting or cause a loss of vigor and then correct the problem with the appropriate input(s). And with a solid base for vigor in place and when the timing is right, manage more aggressively for playability, the ultimate objective.

Gordon Kauffman III, PhD, is turf and ornamental technical manager for Brandt Consolidated.

 **BARENBRUG**



MONACO

BERMUDAGRASS

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SIDELINES



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Texas Sports Turf Managers Association

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

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