



THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN HALF-TIME

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
COLORADO SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

FALL 2026



**Fall Seminar
ScienTurfic Sod Farm
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JOHN FRANKENFELD

I hope everyone has had a great summer. It's hard to believe we're already getting ready for fall. This has been one of those summers that has tested all of us, with prolonged heat, drought conditions, and ongoing water shortages. I know many of you have had to make difficult decisions to keep your facilities looking their best while managing limited resources. Through it all, one thing that stands out is the commitment our members have to both their facilities and their teams. During these hot stretches, taking care of our staff has to come first, and I appreciate the effort everyone has made to keep crews safe while still getting the job done.

In July, we held our annual Lawn Mower Open at The Pinery Country Club. It's always a great reminder of what makes this association special. It was great catching up with old friends, meeting new faces, and talking shop with people who are passionate about this industry. Those conversations and relationships are what make CSFMA such a valuable organization. I also want to extend a sincere thank you to Christi Clay and Tara Jordan for their tireless work organizing another outstanding event. Their dedication, attention to detail, and commitment to our association made the day a tremendous success, and we truly appreciate everything they do.

As we head into fall, our focus shifts from managing the challenges of summer to preparing our fields for another busy athletic season. Now is the time to stay ahead with aerification, overseeding, fertility programs, irrigation system audits, and making sure our fields are safe and ready for play. With football, soccer, softball, and baseball all ramping up, the work we do over the next several weeks will have a direct impact on field quality and player safety. Even with

continued water limitations, careful planning, sound irrigation practices, and strong cultural maintenance programs will help our facilities recover and perform throughout the season. Just as important, continue investing in your staff. A knowledgeable, well-trained team is one of the greatest assets we have.

I also want to encourage everyone to join us for our **Fall Seminar on September 2 at ScienTurf Sod Farm**. This year's seminar is shaping up to be one of our best, with hands-on learning and discussions covering irrigation operations, water rights, system maintenance, and water management practices. We'll also have our outstanding vendors on hand with equipment demonstrations, discussions on new products, tools, and best management practices (BMPs). It's a great opportunity to see the latest innovations, ask questions, and learn from the experts who help support our industry, fertility and spray application best practices specific to Tahoma 31, and a behind-the-scenes look at sod production. Whether you're looking to pick up new ideas, see the latest technology, or connect with fellow sports turf professionals, this will be a great opportunity to learn and network.

Thank you for everything you do every day to support your communities, your teams, and our profession. I appreciate the dedication you bring to this industry and the willingness to share ideas and help one another succeed. I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, have a successful fall season, and I look forward to seeing many of you at Scientific Farms on September 2.

As we continue moving through a new chapter for CSFMA, I want to thank everyone for your patience and support during the transition of our Executive Director role from Christi Clay to Tara Jordan. Change always comes with new opportunities, and I know Tara will continue to build on the strong foundation that has been established.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize and thank Christi Clay for her years of dedication to CSFMA. Christi has worked tirelessly for our association and has been instrumental in making this chapter one of the strongest in the country. Her leadership helped grow one of the highest memberships in the nation, and she continually challenged and encouraged the Board to think bigger and do better. On a personal note, I know she has made me a better leader and a better person simply by having the opportunity to work alongside her. Her passion, commitment, and friendship have left a lasting impact on our association, and I know I speak for many of us when I say thank you for everything you've done for CSFMA.

As we look ahead, I'm excited to work with Tara and the rest of the Board as we continue building on that success and serving our members.



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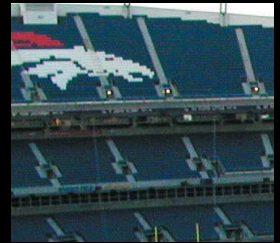
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Wednesday,
April 22nd**

Continuing Education
Core Credits
Webinar

**Thursday,
May 28th**

Spring Seminar
Aurora Sports Complex

**Monday,
July 6th**

Lawn Mower Open
Pinery Country Club,
Parker, CO

**Wednesday
September 2**

Fall Seminar
ScienTurfic Sod Farm



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2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS BIOS



CRISTI CLAY, CSFM
Co-Executive Director

Christi is the Assistant Director of Grounds for Denver Summit FC in Centennial, CO. She is responsible for managing three natural grass fields and one synthetic field at the training center and interim stadium. A native of Ironton, Ohio, Christi graduated from Denison University with her B.A. in Economics and earned her CSFM designation in 2017.



TARA JORDAN
Co-Executive Director

Tara has worked full-time for the City of Greenwood Village since 1998 and was promoted to Parks Supervisor in 2000. Her crew is responsible for the natural turf maintenance of 7 multi use athletic fields and developed parks totaling 30 acres. Outside of work she enjoys traveling with her husband, taking road trips with their dogs, reading, and spending time outdoors.



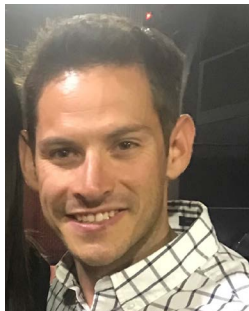
JOHN FRANKENFELD - President

John began his turf career in the fall of 1993 with Manhattan Country Club in Manhattan Kansas working part time on the golf course while attending school at Kansas State University. After graduating from KSU with a Bachelors in Horticulture and Turf Management, he accepted the position as an Assistant golf course superintendent with Salina Country Club. In February of 1998 he moved to Colorado to work for the City of Thornton where he started out as a Parks Worker and earned his Certified Landscape Technician certificates in irrigation and maintenance. John worked his way up to management staff and became a parks supervisor from 2000-2008. In the spring of 2008 John was offered the position to take over a new multi-use sports complex. In the spring of 2008 the City of Thornton opened a new multi-use sports complex and asked John to be the managing parks worker over the complex. In August 2016 John accepted a new position at the Town of Erie as a Parks Supervisor for Turf and Irrigation. John earned his Certified Sports Field Manager designation in October 2015. John is married to Stephanie and has two children.



ROBERT SEDLAK - Vice President

Robert has been in turfgrass and sports field management for well over a decade. Robert attended the University of Nebraska Lincoln earning a B.S. in Turfgrass and Landscape Management. While in college he did two internships at golf courses, Shepherds Hollow Golf Course and Ocean Reef Club as well as working on the University of Nebraska athletic fields and facilities. After graduation he worked for Camelback Ranch Spring Training of the Los Angeles Dodger and Chicago White Sox, Los Angeles Dodgers at Dodger Stadium, South Bend Cubs Single A of the Chicago Cubs, Foothills Park and Recreation District at Clement Park and Sheridan School District #2. Denver has become his home and ultimately decided to open Rocky Mountain Sports Fields so he can share his knowledge and help organizations with their athletic fields.



DREW ANDERSON - Commercial Officer

Drew is with SiteOne Landscape Supply in Denver, Colorado where he leads efforts to increase awareness and growth for municipalities, sports fields and golf sectors. With over 10 years of experience in the landscaping industry, Drew has managed successful teams across both commercial and residential landscaping. He earned his Qualified Supervisors license in 2018. Drew holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Oklahoma and received an A.A. from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. .



ALEC GRIMES - Comm. Officer Elect

Alec has been a commercial sales representative for Colorado Golf & Turf for almost 4 years. He focuses on working with parks departments, landscaping companies, municipalities, universities, resorts, and other commercial entities. He has industry experience prior to Colorado Golf & Turf through his work at golf courses and his studies at Colorado State University. While Alec graduated with a degree in finance, he also took several courses in the agricultural college for landscape architecture. Alec is a Colorado native and enjoys the outdoors in his free time. Alec enjoys hiking and playing golf in the beautiful weather. He also loves to play and watch many different sports. His favorite team is the Minnesota Vikings.



DR. TAMLA BLUNT

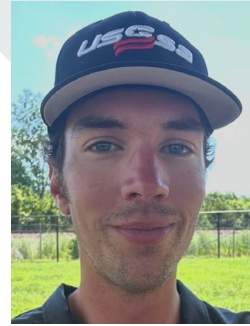
Dr. Tamla Blunt is a Continuing, Contract, Adjunct Faculty Instructor at Colorado State University in the Agricultural Biology Department. Dr. Blunt is familiar with a variety of plants that include greenhouse, forest, landscape, turf, and cropping situations and the associated disorders that accompany many of these plants. At Colorado State University, she teaches LIFE102 (first-year biology) as well as Online Horticulture Pathology classes in the Fall and Spring Semesters, and assists with Elements of Plant Pathology, a resident instruction class. She also does Apprentice and Advanced Master Gardener training in Plant Pathology and Diagnostics. Dr. Blunt also teaches Landscape Plant Health Care, Plant Propagation, and Pesticide Safety and Use at Front Range Community College campuses in Westminster and Fort Collins, CO.



DAVID ALEXANDER

David is a Parks Maintenance Supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Department for the Town of Erie. He oversees the general maintenance of the towns neighborhood parks including turf care, irrigation maintenance as well as projects within the neighborhood parks system. Prior to joining Erie in 2025, David worked for the City of Loveland Parks Department for 18 years where he was responsible for the oversight of Sport Turf, Parks Operations as well as Cemetery operations. David enjoys the ever-changing work environment and the unique challenges of Parks maintenance as well as the people he works with each day. Outside of work, David enjoys fishing, hunting, and skiing with his wife and 3 boys as well as coaching his sons in baseball.

DIRECTORS



RYAN ZAWACKI

Ryan is a dedicated Maintenance Technician III at Carbon Valley Recreation Center with over six years of experience in building and parks maintenance. His primary focus is on preparing and maintaining local parks to support Adult and Youth recreational programs. Originally from Antioch, Illinois, Ryan has lived in Colorado for the past 14 years. In addition to his professional role, Ryan has umpired baseball and fastpitch softball for more than a decade, which has fueled his passion for the turfgrass industry and exploring innovative ways to improve field conditions. Outside of work, Ryan enjoys longboarding, attending concerts, camping, and gaming.



JASON BULMER

Jason works as Park Technician II for the City of Greenwood Village. Where he is responsible for 6 parks and 2 athletic fields. Before coming to Greenwood Village, he worked for Brannan Sand and Gravel, Scotts Lawn Services, The Ridge at Castle Pines North, and the Town of Castle Rock Parks Dept. He is a native of Cedar Falls, IA but has called Colorado home since 1987. Jason married in 2020 and has 2 daughters. In his free time Jason loves golfing, vacationing with his family, and has coached girls fastpitch softball for 15+ years.



MATT KREBSBACH

Matt works for the City of Aurora as the Parks Superintendent-Athletic Fields and Irrigation. He was promoted to this position in May of 2024 after spending the last 4 years as the Parks Supervisor of the Aurora Sports Park. Originally from Austin, Minnesota, he has lived in Colorado for the past 18 years working for the City of Cherry Hills Village and City of Aurora. He graduated from the University of Phoenix with a B.A. in Business Management and from Penn State with a B.S. in Turfgrass Science. He earned his Certified Sports Field Manager designation in April of 2024.



DREW BARBER - Past President

Drew Barber is the Specification and Public Agency Manager for Rain Bird in the Rockies region and has spent his entire career in the green industry. Drew previously worked 15 years for various municipal park operations in the Denver Metro area before starting with Rain Bird in 2021. He now supports public agencies and irrigation designers to find solutions that help preserve our most valuable commodity in the West, water.

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ESTABLISHING TURFGRASS AREAS FROM SEED

TURFGRASS SCIENCE
Purdue University / University of Illinois

Turfgrass establishment is most commonly accomplished with seed, although sod can also be used. Sod offers the advantage of an “instant lawn” whereas seed takes much longer to produce a green turf. Establishment with seed is much less expensive than with sod. Establishing a lawn with seed is not an easy task that should be taken lightly. Following proper establishment procedures can produce a healthy turf that one can be proud of for many years to come.

Late Summer Seeding is Optimal

The best time to seed a cool-season turfgrass (Kentucky bluegrasses, perennial ryegrasses, tall fescues and fine-leaf fescues) lawn is in the late summer to early fall. Adequate soil moisture, warm soil, and limited weed pressure allow for excellent seedling growth. Between August 15 and September 15 is optimum seeding time in the northern half of Indiana and Illinois, and September 1 to September 30 is optimum in the southern half of Indiana and Illinois. It is critical to seed as early as possible within these windows. Even when seeding within these windows, waiting one week to seed may mean the stand will take 2 to 4 additional weeks to mature.

Dormant and Spring Seeding

Seeding in spring is difficult and often unsuccessful. However, there are circumstances that warrant a spring seeding:

- Thin turf due to winter damage
- Poor turf density due to poor recovery from previous year’s problems, i.e., grub damage, drought damage, etc.
- Construction of a new home or business.

If a spring seeding is necessary, consider doing it before the ground thaws from winter. This is called “dormant seeding” because the seed will lie dormant until the soil temperatures warm in April or May. Depending on your location in Indiana or Illinois, dormant seeding can be done as early as Thanksgiving and as late as March. The benefit of dormant seeding is that as the soil heaves and

cracks during the winter, crevices are created for the seeds which provide ideal germination conditions. Additionally, dormant seeding is easier to schedule than spring seeding, because spring rains often make it difficult to seed after March in Indiana and Illinois. Dormant seeding is more effective in the northern-half of our states because weather remains cold enough to delay germination until spring. Occasionally, warmer periods in the southern-half of our states could allow for germination and seedling death with ensuing cold weather.

Summer Seeding

Summer seeding should be avoided. Areas seeded in summer will succumb to heat and drought stress because of their limited root systems summer seedlings are out-competed by summer annual weeds resulting in a thin weak sward.

Preparing the Seedbed

A soil test should be taken from the site. The test will determine fertilizer recommendations for the area. Correct any deficiencies in nutrients or pH by following the recommendations on the soil test report. Use a rotary tiller or other cultivation equipment to work the soil to a depth of 4 to 6 inches, incorporating fertilizer or other soil amendments. Do not work wet soil because clodding usually results; in addition, overtilling will destroy soil structure and is not desirable. The soil should be allowed to settle after tilling or compacted slightly with the tires of a tractor or other suitable implement. Heavy rains and/or

Table 1. Purdue University’s 2005 phosphorus recommendations for newly planted turf and for annual fertilization of established turf.

Soil test values			New sod or seed (lb. P ₂ O ₅ /1000 ft ²)	Annual applications (lb. P ₂ O ₅ /1000 ft ² /yr)
range	ppm	lbs P/acre		
low	0-13	0-25	1.5	1.5
medium	13-25	26-50	1.0	1.0
high	25+	51+	1.0	0.0

irrigation will hasten settling. Allowing time for the soil to settle will prevent undulations and difficult mowing in the future. Just prior to seeding, rake the area to finish grade.

After the area is at finish grade, apply a “starter fertilizer” to enhance seed germination and development. Starter fertilizer is high in phosphorus which is listed as the second number in the analysis on the fertilizer bag. For instance, a 16-22-8 fertilizer contains 22% P₂ by weight. Apply the fertilizer O₅ according to the label at 1.5 lb. P₂O₅/1000 ft². Refer to Table 1 for the proper amount of starter fertilizer to apply.

Seeding

Seed should be applied using a drop spreader because rotary spreaders do not disperse the seed uniformly. However, spreaders typically do not come with calibration information about seeding turfgrasses. The easiest way to apply seed uniformly is to set the spreader adjustment very low, sow one half of the seed in one direction, and then sow the other half at right angles to the first direction of seeding. It might take three or more passes over your lawn in a single direction, but it is well worth the time to get a uniform seeding. Seeding rate recommendations are presented in Table 2.

After the starter fertilizer and seed have been applied, the area should receive a light raking followed by a light rolling to ensure good seed-soil contact. A roller designed to be filled with water, but left empty, is perfect for this job. It is critical to maximize the seed-soil contact for quick germination and establishment.

Mulching

Mulching the area will prevent erosion and conserve water. Therefore, mulching is most important when it is impossible to adequately irrigate newly-seeded areas. One bale of clean (weed-free) straw per thousand square feet will give a light covering that will not have to be removed after germination. Many homeowners apply too much mulch, which can shade seedlings and require removal later. Apply the mulch very lightly so you can still see approximately 50% of the soil through the mulch layer. Some professionals use hydromulch which is a paper-based mulch blown on the soil by a specialized sprayer, which is an ideal method.

Watering

Seedlings are susceptible to desiccation, and the seedbed should not be allowed to dry. A newly-seeded lawn will need to be irrigated two to four times daily depending on the weather. Water frequently enough to keep the top 0.5 to 1.0 inch moist, but avoid over-watering and saturating the area. Once the seedlings are two inches high, gradually reduce the frequency of irrigation and water more deeply. After the turf has been mowed two or three times, deep and infrequent irrigation is most effective. Refer to AY-7, Irrigation Practices for Homelawns, for more information.

Mowing

Mowing a new lawn will encourage the turf to fill in quickly. Mowing should begin when the first few seedlings are tall enough to mow. You may only mow 10% of the plants in the first mowing, 20-30%

Table 2. Recommended seeding rates for lawns in Indiana and Illinois.

Seed Blend or Mixture	Seeding rate	
	lbs./1000 ft ²	lbs./acre
100% Kentucky bluegrass	1.5-2.0	65-87
85-90% Kentucky bluegrass + 10-15% perennial rye	3.0-4.0	130-175
50-70% Kentucky bluegrass + 30-50% fine fescue	4.0-5.0	175-220
100% tall fescue	6.0-9.0	261-348

of the plants in the second mowing, and so on. Most wait too long to mow a newly seeded lawn, so mow early and often. Initially mow Kentucky bluegrass, perennial rye, and fine fescue at 1.5 inches and tall fescue at 2.0 inches. After the first three to four mowings, you can adjust your mower to the permanent mowing height which is 2.0 to 3.5 inches for Kentucky bluegrass, perennial rye, and fine fescue and 2.5 to 4.0 inches for tall fescue. As always, never remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade at any one mowing.

Fertility

New seedlings have poorly developed root systems and thus they cannot effectively absorb nutrients from the soil. Therefore, it is important to fertilize frequently after seeding to encourage establishment. Apply 0.75 to 1.0 lb N/1000 ft² four to six weeks after germination and again eight to ten weeks after germination. Assuming seeding in mid-August, these applications would be mid- to late September and again mid- to late October. For more information on fertilizing lawns, refer to AY-22, Fertilizing Established Lawns.

Weed Control

There is little weed pressure in the fall so weed control may not be needed. Broadleaf weeds may become a problem in the fall, but these can be easily controlled with a broadleaf herbicide application in October or November, after the third or fourth mowing. Avoid using broadleaf herbicides in newly-seeded areas until seedlings have been mowed at least three times. Quinclorac and carfentrazone are the only broadleaf herbicide that are safe to use on seedling turf.

Annual grasses such as crabgrass can be easily controlled with preemergence herbicides applied in the spring. With dormant seedlings or seedlings made very late in fall where the lawn is not fully established by winter, avoid applying a preemergence herbicide in early spring because it may damage late-developing seedlings. In this case, consider using a postemergence crabgrass herbicide later in summer to control crabgrass. Do not use preemergence crabgrass controls (except siduron) at the same time as a spring seeding. As a general recommendation, delay use of these materials until new seedlings have been mowed four to eight times, depending on the herbicide. Check the herbicide label for exact recommendations. Siduron is the only preemergence herbicide that can be used at the time of seeding, but will only control crabgrass for only 3 or 4 weeks. Quinclorac can be used for postemergence control of summer annual grassy weeds in seedling turf with little risk to the desired seedlings. Always apply according to label instructions, and refer to AY-10, Control of Crabgrass in Homelawns and AY-9, Control of Broadleaf Weeds in Homelawns.



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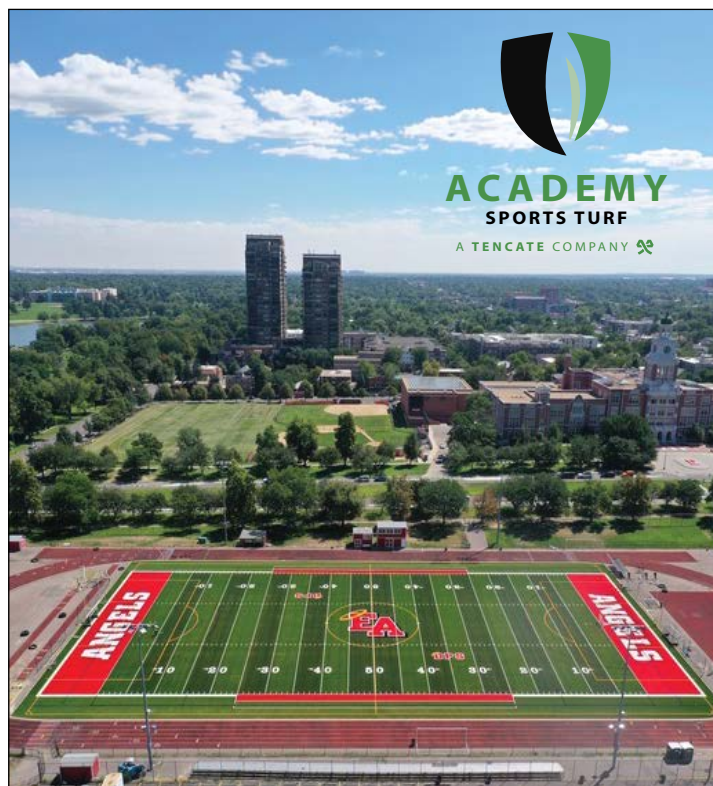
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BENEFITS OF LATE FALL FERTILIZATION

A.J. KOSKI AND JOHN R. STREET
CFAES TURFGRASS PATHOLOGY PROGRAM

Late season nitrogen fertilization has been practiced by professionals for some time, but the wisdom of this technique continually needs to be reviewed and this fall more than ever due to the brutal summer weather and recuperation/recovery needed on many turf areas.

It is important that late season fertilization not be confused with dormant and/or winter fertilization

Late season nitrogen fertilization, sometimes referred to as fall fertilization, has been utilized by turf managers for years. This type of fertility program involves the application of much of the season's nitrogen during the late season months of September through December. It is important that late season fertilization not be confused with dormant and/or winter fertilization. The latter method implies that fertilizer applications are made after the turf has lost most or all of its green color and is not actively growing. This differs notably from the "late- season concept", which requires that nitrogen be applied before the turf loses its green color in the late fall.

Late-season fertilization has become popular because many of the agronomic and aesthetic advantages attributed to its use supposedly are not realized when mostly spring and/or summer fertilization are practiced. Purported advantages of the late season concept include: better fall and winter color; earlier spring green-up; increased shoot density; improved fall, winter, and spring root growth; and enhanced storage of energy reserves (carbohydrates) within the turf plant. Some claimed disadvantages include: increased chance of snow mold injury and decreased cold tolerance.

The effects of late- season nitrogen applications on creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis palustris* Huds.) were documented by Powell et al. (2 & 3) and Snyder and Schmidt (3) in research conducted in Virginia during the late 60s and early 70s. In those studies, it was clearly shown that the quality and root production of creeping bentgrass grown in the transition zone could be enhanced by using late-season nitrogen applications and avoiding early aggressive spring nitrogen fertilization.

While researchers and turfgrass practitioners alike have demonstrated that the year-around quality of Kentucky bluegrass can also be enhanced by late- season nitrogen fertilization, research efforts concerning effects on root growth and plant carbohydrate status have been lacking. This article will review past studies which have examined late-season nitrogen fertilization and relate those findings to the results of research at Ohio State University that assessed how the timing of nitrogen application can influence the quality, carbohydrate status, and root growth of Kentucky bluegrass.

Turf Quality

Signs of spring green-up have been shown to occur two to six weeks earlier if the turf has been fertilized during the previous fall

Turf fertilized in September and again during October, November, or December (northern, central and southern Ohio, respectively) is generally shown to possess better fall and winter color than a turf which was not fertilized at that time (1-4). In addition, signs of spring green-up have been shown to occur two to six weeks earlier if the turf has been fertilized during the previous fall. Most importantly, the enhanced rate of spring greening is realized without stimulating excessive shoot growth that accompanies the early spring nitrogen applications called for in most turf fertility programs. This can help homeowners and clients avoid the "spring mowing nightmares caused by very rapidly (easily resulting in the breaking of the 1/3 mowing rule).

The winter color of turf fertilized only during the spring and summer is decidedly inferior to that of grass which receives fertilizer during the previous fall. The rate of spring green-up is often slow as well, with acceptable color being attained only after nitrogen is applied during March or April. Although turf color then becomes equal to that of turf which receives late-season nitrogen applications, the excessive shoot growth which accompanies spring fertilization is undesirable.

Ohio State University research found that the spring color of late-season-fertilized turf remained quite good until late May or early June, when the effects of nitrogen applied the previous fall began to "wear off ". A 0.75 to 1.0 lb. follow-up application of nitrogen is recommended at this time (late May-June) to maintain an acceptable level of turf quality throughout the summer period.

It is important to remember that the nitrogen source for the fall applications be relatively independent of microbial activity to insure adequate nitrogen release due to colder air and soil temperatures in late fall.. This means that urea, sulfur-coated urea (SCU), IBDU, ammonium sulfate and the more high-activity methylene ureas are the ideal most efficient nitrogen sources for the late season applications. Although SCU and IBDU are referred to as controlled-release fertilizers, the rate at which nitrogen is released from these fertilizers is mainly dependent upon soil moisture

level and not on the degree of microbial activity. The use of microbially-dependent (e.g., UF-types, polymer-coated ureas and natural organics) nitrogen sources for late-season nitrogen applications may not elicit the desired fall/winter color response because they do not provide enough available nitrogen for plant uptake when temperatures are low. However, these latter slow-release nitrogen sources would be ideal for spring and summer use.

Carbohydrate Relations

Plant carbohydrate levels during early fall do not appear to be greatly affected by timing of nitrogen application. From December to February, however, the carbohydrate content of late season-fertilized turf may be lower than that of turf fertilized only during the spring and summer. This probably occurs because: (1) energy must be expended to take up and assimilate fall-applied nitrogen; and (2) nitrogen applied during the fall and winter has been shown to increase respiration during the winter months⁽⁵⁾. Regardless of timing of nitrogen applications, carbohydrates are accumulated by the slowly-growing turf plant during the fall and winter months, reaching a peak sometime during the December-February period.

The early-spring (March-April) carbohydrate content of turfgrass plants fertilized the previous fall is often higher than that of those plants which did not receive late season nitrogen. The ability to store energy at this time is a result of the earlier greening realized through the use of late-season nitrogen fertilization. Photosynthesis occurs in the still slowly-growing turf plant, thus allowing it to accumulate carbohydrates. In fact, green turfgrass tissue will continue to photosynthesize at temperatures close to freezing but of course at a much slower rate.

As root and shoot activity and plant respiration rates increase during the late winter and early spring, plant carbohydrate content generally decreases. This decline may be quite significant when the turf receives an early season (February-April) nitrogen application, as compared to grass that has not been fertilized since the previous fall. The rapid decline occurs because carbohydrates are needed to support the increased shoot growth resulting from nitrogen applications made early in the season. Conversely, the more slowly-growing, late-season-fertilized turfgrass plants may possess a larger carbohydrate pool during the spring period. As will be discussed later, the process of spring root production can benefit from this greater concentration of carbohydrates from a late-season application.

Another possible advantage resulting from late-season fertilization is that the levels of stored carbohydrates are higher than those found in spring-fertilized turf as summer approaches. The higher levels of carbohydrates are desirable at this time of the year since greater stress tolerance and/or increased ability to recover from pest-, traffic-, or stress-induced damage may be realized.

Root Growth

For years, researchers have claimed that fall and winter root growth of cool-season turfgrass species should be stimulated by late-season and/or winter nitrogen applications. This stimulation should occur as fall temperatures decline to the point that root growth is favored over shoot growth. Previous research at Ohio State has shown that root growth of cool-season turfgrass species does indeed occur during the fall after shoot growth has slowed or ceased. This situation develops because roots grow quite well when soil temperatures are between 40 and 65 degrees F, while shoot growth is favored at temperatures in the 60-75 F degree range. In fact, some root growth will occur as long as the soil remains unfrozen.

In the Virginia study conducted by Powell and his associates (2 & 3) on creeping bentgrass, no significant stimulation of winter root production by late-season nitrogen applications was observed. In fact, heavy and/or frequent nitrogen applications during the winter months (December and February) appeared to reduce the amount of roots produced during the winter. Research at Ohio State has similarly revealed no noticeable stimulation of fall or winter root growth in response to late-season nitrogen applications.

Three possible reasons for the absence of increased root production can be offered here. The first is that soil temperatures optimal for root growth may not be sustained for a long enough period of time in the fall and early winter, thus preventing any noticeable stimulation by late nitrogen applications from occurring. Secondly, it is possible that the fall "hardening-off" process (during which rapid accumulation and storage of carbohydrates occurs) effectively competes with the roots for available energy stores. Finally, uptake and assimilation of fall-applied nitrogen are energy-consuming processes that may also compete for carbohydrates. It is conceivable that singly, or in combination, these factors may prevent the stimulation of root activity that many thought would occur with late-season nitrogen fertilization.

The true advantage that late-season fertilization provides to turfgrass root growth is realized during the following spring

The true advantage that late-season fertilization provides to turfgrass root growth is realized during the following spring. It has been shown that the root growth of turf fertilized during the late-winter/early spring declines soon after nitrogen application (3 & 5). Conversely, turf fertilized using the late-season concept becomes green early and rapidly, without the need for an early spring nitrogen application, and root growth continues at a maximum rate. It appears that the excessive shoot growth encouraged by early spring nitrogen applications utilizes carbohydrates that may otherwise be used for growing roots.

Disease and Winter Injury

It has been claimed that late-season fertilization reduces turfgrass cold hardiness and may increase the risk of winter damage by the snow mold diseases. Ledebor and Skogley (1) and Powell et al. (2) reported that late-season nitrogen applications caused neither problem in their respective studies. Observations over two winters at Ohio State detected no damage caused by either disease or cold injury. However, both types of injury potentially can occur when high rates (more than two pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet) of a quickly-available nitrogen source are used at one or more application dates and/or applications are not timed properly.

Why Timing is Important

For the late-season concept to work successfully, it is essential that the turf be green when the late (October / November/December) nitrogen application is made. In central Ohio, this means that 0.75 to 1.0 lb of quickly available nitrogen (such as urea, urea/PCSCU, urea/IBDU or highly-active MU, etc.) should be applied during September. This will ensure that the grass will remain green late into the fall when the actual late-season application will be made. It is also important, however, that excessive shoot growth not be encouraged by over-application of nitrogen during September. The production of lush, succulent growth then may decrease cold tolerance and increase the incidence of the snow mold diseases during the winter and following spring. For the same reasons, the (late-season) October/ November/December) application should be delayed if

extended periods of unusually warm weather (average daily temperatures greater than 55-60 F degrees) are being experienced, or are forecast. In Ohio, the general timing recommendation is late October, November and late November/December in northern, central and southern Ohio, respectively.

Summary

Late-season fertilization lengthens the fall/winter green period and enhances the rate of spring green-up without stimulating excessive shoot growth, thus allowing the turf plant to maintain higher levels of carbohydrates than when spring/summer fertilization is used. This provides both aesthetic and physiological benefits to the plant and customer/client. Nitrogen applied during early spring increases shoot growth rates and decreases the levels of available carbohydrates in the plant, resulting in depressed root growth rates. Late-season nitrogen applications have no similar negative effects on root growth and, in fact, increase root growth during mid winter to early spring. Better carbohydrate storage and root growth ultimately result in a more stress tolerant turfgrass plant during stress periods. No winter damage or snow mold injury occurred as a result of late-season nitrogen applications in OSU research.

The authors of this paper are A.J. Koski and J.R. Street. (Dr. Koski is now a Professor at Colorado State University. Dr. John Street remains a Professor of Agronomy at The Ohio State University).

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2. Powell, A.J., R.E. Blaser, and R.E. Schmidt, 1967. Physiological and color aspects of turfgrasses with fall and winter nitrogen. *Agron. J.* 59:303-307.
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AERATION RESEARCH

by Ohio State University

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Background

An in-depth university field study was conducted from May to September 2009 evaluating putting green aeration techniques, including DryJect sand-injection and conventional hollow-tine coring. One green tested was a push-up style, one was a sand green.

Within each green, the treatments were arranged in a randomized block design with 3 replications and plot dimensions of 15 by 4.25 feet. The same sand material was used for both aeration treatments.

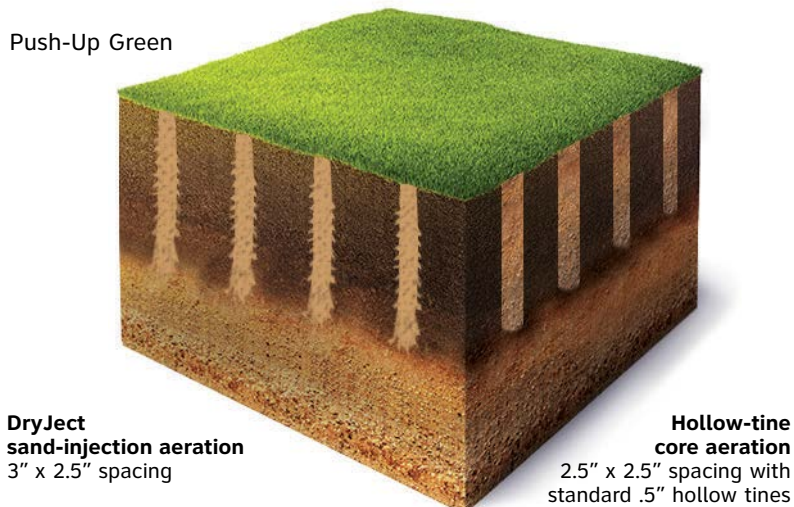
Following treatment application on May 18, 2009, a variety of physical, cultural and playability measures were collected approximately 1, 7, 14, 30, 60, and 90 days after treatment. Specific measurements included: soil organic matter and bulk density to a 3-inch depth, ponded water infiltration at the surface and at a 3-inch depth, degree of soil compaction as determined by a penetration resistance to 6 inches deep, soil O₂ and CO₂ measurements, green surface hardness, green speed, and ball roll trueness rating. For all measurements, treatment means and standard error values were calculated and subsequently graphed.

As a further note on conditions, the time frame of the research occurred during an unusually wet period, with local rainfall measured at 9.6 inches over the 90 day testing period.

KEY FINDINGS FOR PUSH-UP GREENS

- No significant difference in organic matter control between DryJect and core aeration
- Firmer surface with less root zone compaction below 2" depth with DryJect

Push-Up Green



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR PUSH-UP GREENS

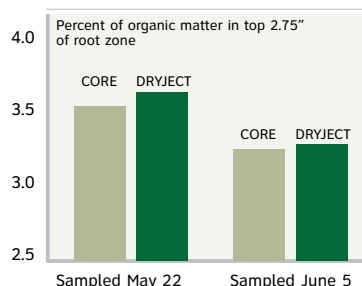
Surface Infiltration

The highest infiltration was obtained with a combination of DryJect and core aeration. DryJect alone increased the infiltration rate more than core aeration alone. The aeration effect exceeded 30 days.

Surface Hardness

In the top 1" DryJect alone showed a firmer surface than hollow-tine coring alone. This effect exceeded 20 days while maintaining the infiltration rates and a less compacted root zone.

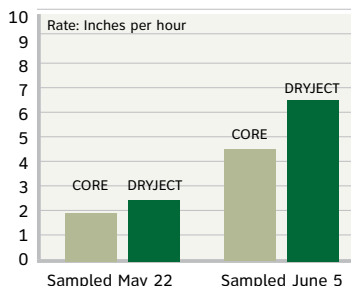
Organic Matter Content in Push-Up Green



Organic Matter

There was no significant difference in organic matter control between DryJect and core aeration.

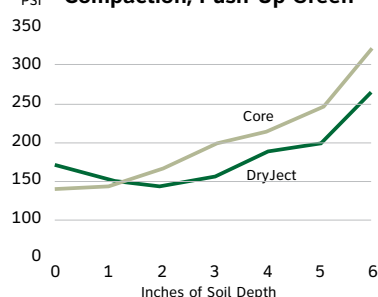
Infiltration at 3" Depth



Infiltration at 3" Depth

The highest infiltration was obtained with DryJect aeration, and with DryJect in combination with core aeration. The effect lasted over 80 days. For the first 15 days the infiltration rate was approximately double the control.

Compaction, Push-Up Green



Root Zone Compaction Below 2"

DryJect aeration, and DryJect with core aeration, showed a softer, less compacted soil with the effect exceeding 60 days while maintaining a firm surface.

Research performed at North Olmsted Golf Club, North Olmsted, Ohio, Matt Welch Superintendent.

Research conducted by Dr. Ed McCoy, Ohio State University. More details available on request to DryJect. 215-444-0310, www.DryJect.com.



AERATION RESEARCH

by Ohio State University

Summary

The two greens examined in this study were seemingly well maintained as indicated by the low organic matter contents, reasonable water infiltration rates and high O₂ values of the control treatments. Consequently, the aeration treatments did not have a large effect on the physical property and playability measures of this study. Yet, differences due to the aeration treatments of this study did exist.

The aeration treatments created a denser surface layer for at least 2 weeks after treatment application, increased water infiltration for at least 1 month after treatment application, reduced subsurface compaction for at least 10 days after treatment application, and created a harder green surface for at least 15 (sand) to at least 30 days (push-up) after application.

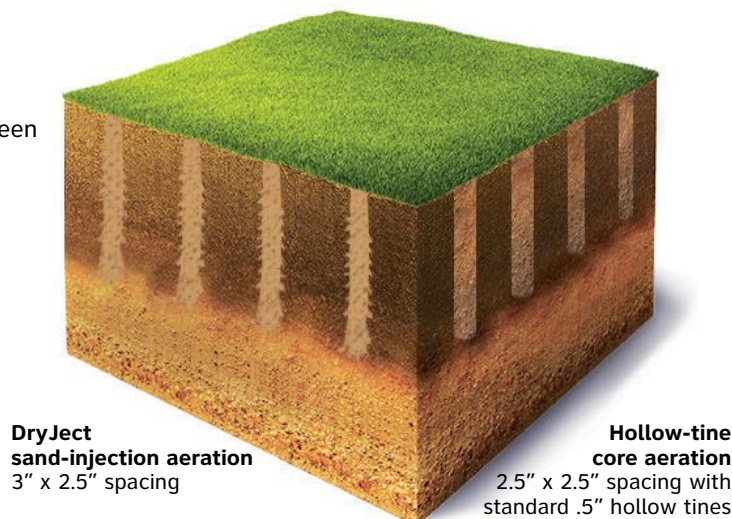
The surface layer of both greens was slightly denser for the DryJect than the coring treatment on the first sampling date. On both greens and for at least 1 month after application, both treatments that contained a DryJect application yielded slightly greater surface infiltration rates than coring alone. This same treatment contrast was observed for the 3-inch depth infiltration measurement but for a longer period within the push-up green (at least 85 days) than the sand green (at least 16 days). Presumably the greater infiltration rates for treatments using DryJect was due to the deeper reach within the green of this method.

DryJect sand-injection aeration essentially yielded improved water infiltration due to deeper soil penetration and fractures in the soil created by the DryJect sand-injection technique.

KEY FINDINGS FOR SAND GREENS

- No significant difference in organic matter control between DryJect and core aeration
- Firmer surface with less root zone compaction below 2" depth with DryJect

Sand Green



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR SAND GREENS

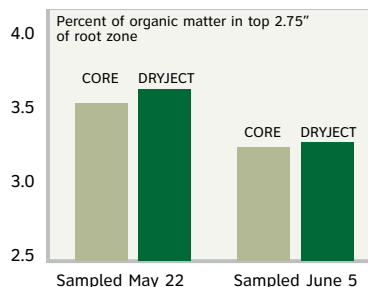
Infiltration at 3" Depth

The highest infiltration was obtained with DryJect alone, and with DryJect combined with core aeration. At 16 days DryJect alone showed infiltration at 10" per hour, compared with 6.2" per hour with core aeration alone.

Surface Hardness

Compared to hollow-tine aeration, in the top 1" the combination of DryJect and core aeration showed the firmest surface with the effect exceeding 15 days, while maintaining less compaction in the root zone.

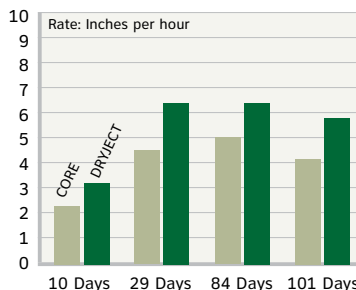
Organic Matter Content in Sand Green



Organic Matter

There was no significant difference in organic matter control between DryJect and core aeration.

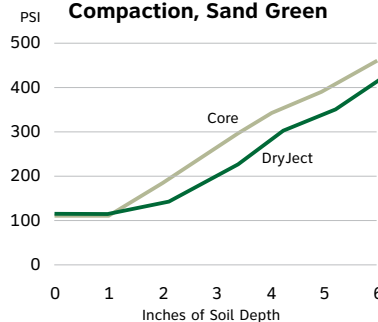
Surface Infiltration



Surface Infiltration

The highest infiltration was obtained with a combination of DryJect and core aeration. DryJect alone increased infiltration more than core aeration. The aeration effect exceeded 30 days.

Compaction, Sand Green

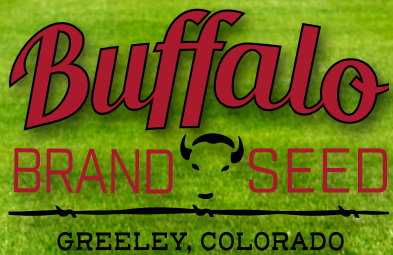


Root Zone Compaction Below 2"

The combination of DryJect and core aeration showed a softer, less compacted soil compared with other techniques tested, with this effect exceeding 15 days while maintaining a firm surface.

Research performed at North Olmsted Golf Club, North Olmsted, Ohio, Matt Welch Superintendent.

Research conducted by Dr. Ed McCoy, Ohio State University. More details available on request to DryJect. 215-444-0310, www.DryJect.com.



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WHY RECOGNITION IS SO IMPORTANT

MATT TENNEY

Research has shown that happy workers use their time more effectively and are more productive, often working faster without sacrificing quality. There are many ways leaders can make their teams happy and boost their performance, such as fostering a caring culture. In this article, we will discuss the importance of recognition.

Recognition is so important because it meets a core human need for both the employee and the manager. Meeting this need is a key aspect of a strong company culture because it increases job satisfaction, employee engagement and retention, and quality of work.

Successfully cultivating both appreciation and recognition is a great leadership move and yields a variety of positive results.

As Mike Robbins explains in a thought-provoking talk at TEDxBellevue, recognition, not just on its own, but as a part of a caring culture that values and appreciates people beyond achievements, is an important factor in employee satisfaction.

Here are seven reasons recognition is so important.

Recognition Boosts Employee Engagement

There is strong evidence that suggests recognition is a great way to engage employees because it boosts self-esteem and personal competency.

Employee engagement continues to be a hot-button issue in the business world, with leaders scrambling to figure out ways to boost engagement and improve performance.

There have been many studies conducted over the last few decades that confirm what we already suspect—that employee engagement is not only a problem but a tricky one to solve.

For example, Gallup's State of the Global Workplace: 2021 Report showed that, following a steady rise over the last decade, employee engagement has decreased globally from 22% in 2019 to 20% in 2020.

A decrease of two percentage points might not seem like a big deal, but, considering how low those engagement numbers already were, it is significant.

As leaders, when we see statistics like these, it should concern us enough that we start considering where we are failing our employees and how to move those numbers in a positive direction to improve engagement.

It should inspire us to seek ways to start building a happier workforce where engagement is the norm and employees are recognized for their contributions.

Motivation is a huge factor in employee engagement. When it comes to motivators, recognition is one of the best ways to improve employee engagement in your organization.

When employees are recognized for their contributions to the organization, they feel a sense of ownership and will likely continue to perform at a high level. It will also build trust between leaders and their teams.

Recognition Lowers Turnover

There is an undeniable link between employee recognition and employee retention. Unfortunately, employees feel their highest achievements and best efforts are often ignored.

Companies that recognize employee achievements see less turnover than companies that do not make employee recognition a part of their organizational culture.

According to Gallup, employees who do not feel adequately recognized are twice as likely to say they'll resign within the next year.

Gallup also points out that recognition provides a sense of accomplishment and makes employees feel valued.

In addition to boosting individual employee engagement, it also increases productivity and loyalty to the company, which improves retention.

Recognition Attracts Better Employees

Engaging and retaining highly-skilled employees is important, but you also want to continue to attract the best talent as your company grows.

Having a consistent program for employee recognition that can be utilized in the recruitment process is a great way for companies to attract top talent.

Because talented candidates are looking for more than high salaries and competitive benefits, a successful employee recognition program is a useful recruiting tool.

Highly-skilled job hunters are seeking jobs with organizations that will not only make use of their talents, but where employers will demonstrate appreciation for their achievements and help them grow professionally and personally.

When employees are appreciated and feel that they are having a measurable impact in an organization, they feel good about what they are doing at their jobs. As a result, they feel happier in their personal life.

This can lead to a reduction in sick days (or “mental health days”) and tardiness.

This is a benefit that leaders should not underestimate, particularly leaders of small businesses, because absenteeism can have a devastating impact on productivity and profits.

Absenteeism can be bad for employees too. The absent employee might lose pay or struggle to play catch-up, while other employees have to pick up the slack for the absent employee.

According to Quantum Workplace, “When employees are recognized for a job well done, they don’t have to worry about whether they’re putting in good work.”

Recognition lets employees know their efforts are vital to the health of the organization, which can not only boost engagement, but also provide them with the sense that their absence from work has a real impact on short- and long-term success.

Recognition Helps Employees Find Meaning

If you are already practicing a culture of care in your organization, you know that, within that structure, you are helping your team find and create meaning.

Recognition plays a major role in helping employees find meaning. It allows them to connect the dots between their day-to-day activities and the bigger mission of the company and how they are a part of achieving a vision.

This can be particularly important as an organization evolves or when it experiences growth or change.

According to Great Place to Work, recognizing employees on a regular basis will motivate them to perform at their best.

This can help them develop a sense of security in the value they bring to the organization and make their work more meaningful.

Recognizing Employees Helps Managers Find Meaning

While they might have started (or accelerated) the recognition-seeking trend, it’s not just Millennials who crave recognition.

A large segment of the entire workforce, across generations, is now looking for organizational cultures that provide them with acknowledgement.

Forward-thinking leaders will view their employees’ need for recognition as another opportunity to demonstrate a culture of care for their employees.

But, beyond that, being able to provide something

so vital to the success and happiness of your employees can help you find your own meaning as a leader.

By showing your employees that the job they do is important through recognition, you are also acknowledging how important your role is in helping them find meaning in their jobs.

This, in turn, makes your work more meaningful by allowing you to see the positive impacts you're making in the lives of team members.

Recognition Reinforces the Positive

Recognition reinforces what we want to see more of, thereby allowing us to see more good work and better performance.

Many organizations have yearly formal reviews that provide employees with insight they need to determine how to grow in their position or develop the skills needed to move up.

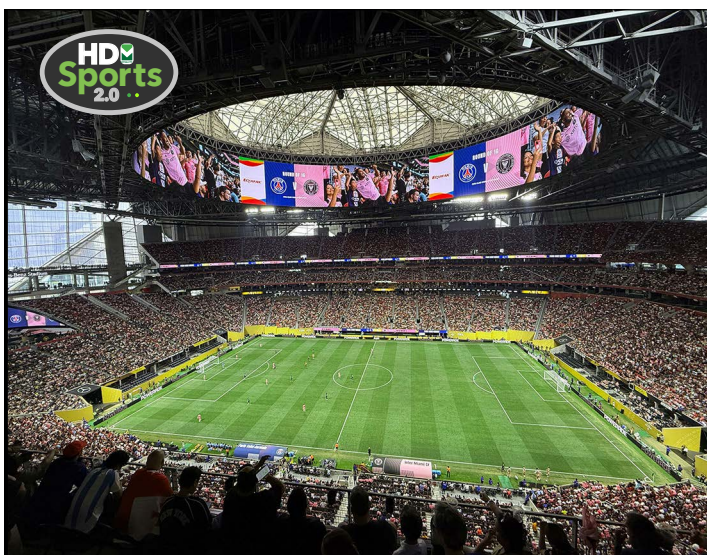
These can be extremely useful in the professional development of employees.

However, it's the daily "micro messages and nudges" that leaders provide to employees that have the most profound impact on employee performance and reinforce more positive behaviors.

When you recognize employees for doing a good job, it shows them you are paying attention and invested in them as people. This will make them want to work harder for the good of the organization, not just for their own personal gain or for incentives.

Recognition, whether it's in the form of an award, a bonus, a promotion, a raise, or a simple "thank you" will show your employees that you care, especially if it's done authentically and consistently.

Matt Tenney has been working to help organizations develop leaders who improve employee engagement and performance since 2012. He is the author of three leadership books, including the groundbreaking, highly acclaimed book *Inspire Greatness: How to Motivate Employees with a Simple, Repeatable, Scalable Process*.



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MEMBER PROFILE

NATHAN TRUJILLO

CITY OF THORNTON PARKS MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST II

Where are you from and how did you end up where you are today?

I am a Colorado native, born and raised in Thornton, CO. I started out hauling brick pavers to small landscape jobs at 16 years old in a pickup truck, to working nights at a packaging facility company unloading trailers, to working overnights at a grocery store. When I heard there was a season position for the City of Thornton, I was told to contact this gentleman by the name of John Frankenfeld. It is safe to say John is partly responsible for where I am today. I have spent the better part of my career working in Parks and Open Space division.

What attracted you to the sports turf profession?

I actually fell into sports turf when I was reassigned to the Special Events and Sports Field team for the City of Thornton.

What types of fields do you care for?

The site I manage is a multi-use site that has four baseball/softball fields and is also used for youth football. About a and half year ago we transformed our largest baseball field into a cricket field for one of the local school districts.

What do you enjoy most about the sports turf industry?

Like most sports turf professionals, I too was a former athlete. So, I can relate to the quality and playability of the fields that build confidence in all athletes. What I enjoy the most and take pride in, is that people of all ages play on the fields I maintain. What brings me joy is when someone says to me, "These fields are in great shape and our family loves playing here."

What do you enjoy the least about the sports turf industry?

I do not enjoy the lack of respect of the sports turf site from the users.

What is something that you have learned working in sports turf that you would like to share with others?

What I have learned in my years of maintenance is to take a deep breath, be patient, its very easy to get overwhelmed, whether it is baseball field or the entire complex, stay focused do not divert from your plan unless it is an absolute emergency and do not be afraid to ask question or assistance.

What would you tell someone who is considering the sports turf industry for their profession?

If you are considering diving into sports turf, go out and watch a youth tournament and or games, then high school, college level, really look around at the players, spectators, and the fields. If you feel a wow factor of feeling the excitement, then sports turf is your thing. If you can only think about how the field is getting destroyed, you should think again. Hahaha!



CHAD HINDERLITER

UNITED TURF & AG SALES REPRESENTATIVE

What is your current affiliate company and your position? How long have you been in this position?

I am a Sales Representative with United Turf & Ag and have been in this role for the past five months..

Where are you based out of and what territory do you cover?

I am based in Denver and oversee a sales territory covering the southern portion of Colorado, primarily south of Interstate 70.

What are the responsibilities of your company to our industry, and how is your company involved with CSFMA?

At United Turf & Ag, we strive to be a trusted resource for everyone involved in the turf industry. Our commitment is to support our customers' success by providing expert guidance, responsive service, and the highest level of customer support. Whether it's equipment solutions, technical expertise, or ongoing assistance, we are dedicated to helping our customers achieve their goals.

United Turf & Ag is committed to supporting the Colorado Sports Field Management Association (CSFMA) and its members. We strive to be actively involved in the organization, contribute to its initiatives, and serve as a trusted resource for sports turf professionals throughout Colorado.

What might we be surprised to know about your company?

We operate as one team and one family, with a culture that emphasizes accessibility, collaboration, and service. Whether you need assistance from your local representative or want to speak directly with our executive leadership, we are always approachable and willing to help. We believe that every customer deserves personal attention and support, and we are dedicated to being there whenever and however we're needed.

Did you go to college? If so, where and what major did you graduate with?

I graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Golf Course Management..

How and when did you begin working in the golf industry and what do you like most about it?

I began my career in the turf industry at the age of 14. My first job on a golf course was string trimming around every tree on the property. On my first day, the superintendent handed me a string trimmer and a can of gas, pointed me in the right direction, and sent me on my way, without even a cart. This gave me an appreciation for the dedication and effort that go into maintaining exceptional turf conditions. Since then, I have been fortunate to experience many aspects of the industry, but the most rewarding part has always been the people. The relationships and friendships I've built throughout my career are what make this industry so special. Much like the culture at United Turf & Ag, the turf industry is one big family. Turf

professionals are always willing to share knowledge, support one another, and work together to overcome challenges, and I am grateful to be a part of such a close-knit and passionate community.

Tell us a little about your family, and what hobbies or activities you participate in when you are not at work?

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my wife, Erin, and our three amazing daughters, Sadee, Lexi, and Chloe. Much of our time is spent supporting our children's activities, whether that's cheering from the sidelines at soccer games, spending weekends at dance competitions, or keeping up with the endless energy of our youngest daughter. Family is at the center of everything I do, and I enjoy every opportunity to be involved in my daughters' lives and activities. When time allows, I also enjoy playing golf, attending sporting events, and spending quality time with family and friends.

What are the biggest changes you have seen in the profession since you began your career? Or, what are the most important changes that the company has seen the past 5-10 years?

One of the biggest changes I've seen throughout my career has been the rapid innovation across the turf industry. From robotic mowers and battery-powered equipment to improved turfgrass varieties that can better withstand traffic, weather, and environmental stress, today's technology is helping turf professionals maintain higher-quality playing surfaces more efficiently than ever before. The industry's continued focus on innovation makes it an exciting field to be a part of..

Do you regularly attend CSFMA meetings or events, if so, why are they important?

Yes, I regularly attend CSFMA meetings and am committed to supporting the organization and its members. Prior to joining the Colorado chapter, I served on the Mo-Kan SFMA Board of Directors for five years.

What would you like other people to know about CSFMA?

The education and networking opportunities provided through CSFMA are invaluable. The ability to share experiences, exchange ideas, and learn from fellow professionals plays a significant role in the success of the turf industry. Having a network of peers to turn to for advice, support, and problem-solving is one of the greatest benefits of being involved with the organization.

You know a lot of people in our industry. What are they saying are the biggest obstacles to overcome for them to be successful?

One of the biggest challenges facing turf managers today is dealing with Mother Nature. This past year, the lack of rainfall has tested the skills and creativity of turf professionals as they work to maintain high-quality conditions with limited moisture. It's been impressive to visit different properties and

VENDOR PROFILE

see the innovative ways managers are adapting to the challenges and overcoming the curveballs that nature continues to throw their way.

Staffing has also been an ongoing challenge across the industry. Many facilities have struggled to recruit and retain enough employees to meet the high standards they set for their properties. Despite these obstacles, turf professionals continue to demonstrate resilience, dedication, and a commitment to delivering the best possible playing surfaces.

You get to see many facilities and properties. What is an interesting new or innovative practice you have seen?

What I enjoy most about the turf industry is learning from other professionals and seeing the different approaches they take to achieve outstanding results. Every facility faces its own unique challenges, and it's always interesting to hear how turf managers adapt, innovate, and develop practices that work best for their specific situation. There is no single formula for success in turf management, which is one of the things that makes the industry so rewarding. I appreciate the opportunity to exchange ideas, learn from others' experiences, and see how professionals overcome the challenges in front of them while continually striving to provide the best possible playing surface for their athletes and customers.





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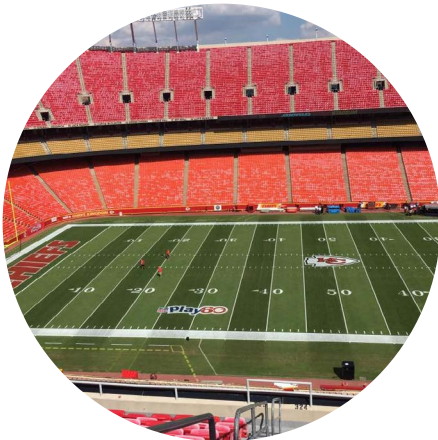
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Henry Miller



SFMA FOCUSES ON BRINGING STUDENTS TO THE PROFESSION

OUR ONLINE COURSE, INTRODUCTION TO SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT, IS OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT!



DRIVING INTEREST TO THE PROFESSION

SFMA is unveiling an on-line class that is targeted to high school students, Athletes, those in Ag Ed programs and those who simply want to explore interesting careers are encouraged to request the link to the class. This course offers great insight into how athletes can stay involved in sport and also jump starts the careers of those who are already interested in managing sports fields. SFMA will be launching a full promotional campaign starting in March.

SFMA IS SEEKING HELP FROM ITS CHAPTERS

SFMA chapter members are our ambassadors to local high schools. Please help spread the word about this online course. Attend career days, invite students to your local meetings and encourage them to take this online course. Chapter members will benefit from a local pool of students ready for internships, crew members and seasonal positions.



HOW MUCH DOES THE COURSE COST?

The course is FREE, but an SFMA student membership is required, which is \$30 annually. Students have one year to complete the course; some students finish it in one week! Each student who completes the course will receive a certificate of course completion.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COURSE, CONTACT
STMAINFO@STMA.ORG OR CALL 800-323-3875.**



SPORTS FIELD
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ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

SFMA has officially launched its Environmental Facility Certification Program. The program was developed to help document the environmental stewardship of SFMA members and is awarded to the facility. The first step is to conduct an electronic assessment of 10 areas – either for your athletic complex or for a single field.

After you have completed the assessment, SFMA will score it. If you have achieved 80 percent compliance on each of the 10 sections, you will be notified that you passed.

The next step is to engage an attester who can do a walk-through of the facility with you to validate your environmental practices. Qualified attesters include an academic in the field of turf management or a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM). SFMA will provide an electronic assessment form to the attester. If the attester verifies your practices, the facility will be designated an SFMA Certified Facility for Environmentally Responsible Management. You can choose recognition for your facility through a plaque or a banner. A \$100 fee will be charged once your facility achieves certification, which includes the recognition materials.

If you do not achieve the 80 percent passing score, you have one year to re-assess the sections that you did not pass. Certification is valid for three years; after that time period, the process will need to be repeated. If a sports turf manager leaves a facility, the facility still maintains its certification until the end of the three-year period.

If you have questions, please call SFMA Headquarters at 800-323-3875.

2026 CSFMA SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2026 Colorado Sports Field Management Association Board would like to offer you a look at continuing education or assisting in your degree program to be a Sports Turf Manager. In years past only students were able to receive these benefits. Please look over the different scholarship programs we now offer and think about furthering your education. CSFMA is committed to allowing all Sports turf personnel the option to better themselves through this new program. Visit our website at www.CSFMA.org under CSFMA Resources, to download the application and instructions to get you started down the path to receive one of these great benefits.

Two Year Horticulture Student Scholarship- \$500 each 2 Will Be Awarded

- Student must be enrolled full time at a 2 year college in Colorado
- Student must be a member of CSFMA
- Enrolled to attend classes towards a degree or certificate in a sports turf industry field

Four Year Horticulture Student Scholarship - \$1,000 2 Will Be Awarded

- Student must be enrolled full time at a 4-year college in Colorado
- Student must be a member of CSFMA
- Enrolled to attend classes towards a degree or certificate in a sports turf industry field

Employee Continuing Education Scholarship- \$500 each 4 Will Be Awarded

- Employee must be employed full time
- Employee may not be enrolled full time at a college
- Studies must be sports turf industry specific
- Employee must be a member of CSFMA in good standing

CSFM Scholarship- \$350 each

- Must be a SFMA & CSFMA member in good standing
- Scholarship will be paid once completion of the CSFM certificate is provided to the board.
- Member must work in the Sports Turf Industry
- Must apply before taking CSFM exam



colorado
SPORTS FIELD
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



SOCIAL MEDIA

We want to provide more avenues for our members to stay connected. CSFMA members can use social media for networking, sharing experiences with our peers and opening discussions about sports turf management. Please join us in our goal to keep all of our members as connected and informed as possible.

Like us on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/CSFMA and “like” our page to begin seeing our posts on your Facebook newsfeed. We will be posting information about upcoming events as well as photos from each event held. Feel free to post your own photos of your fields or your ongoing projects. We would love to see what you’re working on!

Follow us on Twitter @ ColoradoSFMA. On Twitter we can connect with turf industry professionals locally, nationally and internationally! Follow us to see our tweets on your timeline. We will

tweet information about upcoming events, photos and re-tweets of turf related topics.

Join our LinkedIn discussion group “Colorado Sports Field Management Association”. LinkedIn provides a great discussion forum to help you get information from other turf managers.

Follow us on Instagram: ColoradoSFMA

Members of our social media groups will be entered to win prizes at our CSFMA events!

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time

John Lubbock



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