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**THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN HALF-TIME**  
AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
COLORADO SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION  
**SPRING 2026**

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**Spring Seminar**  
**Thursday, May 28th**  
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**The Rocky Mountain Half-Time  
is published quarterly by the  
Colorado Sports Field  
Management Association  
[www.CSFMA.org](http://www.CSFMA.org)**

**CSFMA  
4255 S. Buckley Road #426  
Aurora, CO 80013**

**Editor - Robert Sedlak  
[robert@rockymountainsportsfields.com](mailto:robert@rockymountainsportsfields.com)**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## JOHN FRANKENFELD

---

Greetings CSFMA,

I hope all of you have had a chance to rest up, get some valuable training in, and recharge over the winter. While it has been a very dry winter, we are heading into a season that will give us all an opportunity to showcase our athletic field management skills.

As many of us know, we are likely facing a challenging season with substantial water reductions that will be coming our way due to the ongoing Colorado drought and potential shortages. With these water restrictions on the horizon, it's more important than ever that we go above and beyond to manage our fields as efficiently and safely as possible.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to your peers for advice and share ideas as we navigate these uncertain conditions together. As sports field managers, we are often on the front lines when water restrictions impact our industry and our facilities come under the microscope. I look at this as an opportunity for us to help educate the public and elected officials on how we conserve water while still providing safe, high-quality fields for our athletes.



I'm pleased to announce that our Spring Seminar will be hosted by the City of Aurora at the Aurora Sports Complex. This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow field managers and industry partners as we head into the busy season. The Aurora Sports Complex is regarded as one of the premier sports complexes in the country, and their staff will be leading several hands-on training sessions including:

- Infield maintenance – lip management, mound and home plate maintenance
- Irrigation management – system testing, sprinkler head adjustments, and irrigating turf during drought conditions
- Irrigation pump station operation – covering the basics of pump station operation and what to look for when monitoring your system
- Athletic field painting – basic field stenciling, robot operation, and demonstrations

This seminar provides a great opportunity to network with other field managers, vendors, and turf professionals while picking up ideas and practical skills that can be applied at your own facilities. Whether you manage baseball, softball, soccer, football, or multi-use complexes, there should be something useful for everyone as we prepare for the peak season ahead.

We are very appreciative of our vendor sponsors who continue to support CSFMA and our events. Please keep them in mind and reach out to them if you need products, services, or support as you prepare for the upcoming season.

The board is also working on some exciting new opportunities for our membership to connect and network. We are currently looking at new locations for our Fall Seminar with the goal of providing more opportunities for members to engage with one another across the region.

Stay tuned for more information as the year unfolds, and thank you all for the work you do.



**PRESIDENT**

**John Frankenfeld, CSFM**

Town of Erie  
150 Bonnell Avenue  
Erie, CO 80516  
Work & Cell: 720-355-5411  
Email: jfrankenfeld@erieco.gov

**PAST PRESIDENT**

**Drew Barber**

Rain Bird  
Cell: 970-846-7163  
Email: abarber@rainbird.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**Robert Sedlak**

Rocky Mountain Sports Fields  
7992 S. Otis Court  
Littleton, CO 80128  
Cell: 402-310-7565  
Email: robert@rockymountainsportsfields.com

**COMMERCIAL OFFICER**

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**Alec Grimes**

Colorado Golf & Turf  
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**DIRECTORS**

**David Alexander**

Town of Erie  
150 Bonnell Avenue  
Erie, CO 80516  
Cell: 720-843-8726  
Email: dalexander@erieco.gov

**Dr. Tamla Blunt**

C129 Plant Sciences Bldg. Dept. 1177  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1177  
Work: 970-491-7498  
Cell: 970-481-6029  
Email: tamla.blunt@colostate.edu

**Jason Bulmer**

City of Greenwood Village  
10001 E. Costilla Avenue  
Greenwood Village, CO 80122  
Cell: 303-877-4527  
Email: jbulmer@greenwoodvillage.com

**Matt Krebsbach**

City of Aurora Parks & Recreation  
13645 E. Ellsworth Avenue  
Aurora, CO 80012  
Work: 303-326-8146  
Cell: 720-290-9957  
Email: mkrebsba@auroragov.org

**Ryan Zawacki**

Carbon Valley Recreation  
701 5th Street  
Frederick, CO 80530  
Cell: 303-833-3660  
Email: rzawacki@cvprd.com

---

**CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Christi Clay, CSFM**

Denver Summit FC  
Cell: 720-935-3840  
Email: cclay@denversummitfc.com

**CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Tara Jordan**

City of Greenwood Village  
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**CALENDAR  
OF  
EVENTS**

**MARK  
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CALENDAR**

**Wednesday,  
April 22nd**

Continuing Education  
Core Credits  
Webinar

**Monday,  
July 6th**

Lawn Mower Open  
Pinery Country Club,  
Parker, CO

**Thursday,  
May 28th**

Spring Seminar  
Aurora Sports Complex

**TBD**

Fall Seminar  
Location TBD

**Wednesday,  
December 2nd**  
Annual Meeting  
RMRTA Conference



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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.



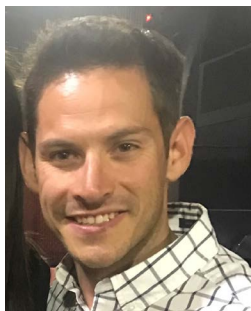
**JOHN FRANKENFELD** - President

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**

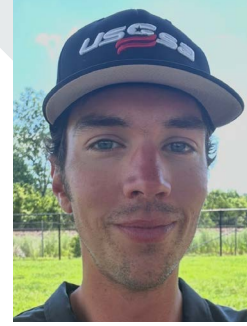
Dr. Tamla Blunt is a Continuing, Contract, Adjunct Faculty Instructor at Colorado State University in the Agricultural Biology Department. Dr. Blunt is familiar with a variety of plants that include greenhouse, forest, landscape, turf, and cropping situations and the associated disorders that accompany 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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## WINTERKILL OF TURFGRASS

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K. W. FRANK  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

**W**interkill is a general term that is used to define turf loss during the winter. Winterkill can be caused by a combination of factors including crown hydration, desiccation, low temperatures, ice sheets and snow mold. Because of the unpredictability of environmental factors and differences in other factors such as surface drainage, the occurrence of winterkill on golf courses is variable and can vary greatly between golf courses and even across the same course.

**Crown hydration**

In general, annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) greens and fairways are the most susceptible to crown hydration injury. During the warm days of late winter, annual bluegrass plants start to take up water (hydrate). Potential for injury exists when a day or two of warm daytime temperatures in late winter is followed by a rapid freeze. The most common time for winterkill associated with crown hydration and refreezing to occur is during the late winter and early spring when there is snowmelt or rainfall and then refreezing of the water that has not drained away. Crown hydration is a problem during these events because ice crystal can form in the crown of the plant, rupture the plant cells and ultimately cause the plant to die.

Annual bluegrass is more susceptible to crown hydration injury than creeping bentgrass because it emerges from dormancy and begins taking up water. Creeping bentgrass remains dormant longer and, therefore, does not take up water and is not as susceptible to crown hydration injury during the late winter.



It can be very unsettling when areas don't green up in the spring.

**Desiccation**

Winter desiccation is the death of leaves or plants by drying during winter when the plant is either dormant or semidormant. Desiccation injury is usually greatest on exposed or elevated sites and

areas where surface runoff is great (Beard, 1973). Winter desiccation injury to turfgrass in Michigan is normally rare, though sites similar to those described above can be prone to desiccation injury on a regular basis.



Some areas are prone to collecting water.

**Low-temperature Kill**

Low-temperature kill is caused by ice crystal formation at temperatures below 32 degrees F. Factors that affect low-temperature kill include hardiness level, freezing rate, thawing rate, number of times frozen and postthawing treatment (Beard, 1973). Soil temperature is more critical than air temperature for low-temperature kill because the crown of the plant is in the soil. It is difficult to provide absolute killing temperatures because of the numerous factors involved. Beard (1973) provided a general ranking of low-temperature hardiness for turfgrass species that were autumn-hardened.

Low-temperature hardiness	Turfgrass species
Excellent	Rough bluegrass Creeping bentgrass
Good	Kentucky bluegrass Colonial bentgrass
Medium	Annual bluegrass Tall fescue Red fescue
Poor	Perennial ryegrass

## Ice sheets

Ice sheets are often blamed for killing turf when, in fact, it is crown hydration and subsequent refreezing that has resulted in the kill. The reason for the confusion is that, as snow melts and refreezes, creating ice sheets, the ice sheets are often in poorly drained areas where crown hydration can occur because of the standing water. As the ice sheet melts away, the area damaged closely mirrors where the ice occurred, and therefore, the conclusion is that ice sheets caused the kill. Beard conducted research on ice sheets on three turfgrass species: Kentucky bluegrass, creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass. Kentucky bluegrass and creeping bentgrass survived 150 days of ice cover without significant injury; annual bluegrass was killed somewhere between 75 and 90 days of ice cover (Beard, 1998). The author concluded that cause of death for the annual bluegrass was most likely from toxic gas accumulation under the ice sheet.



Winterkill on a putting green, exacerbated by cross country skiing.

## Snow mold

The two diseases commonly called snow mold are *Typhula* blight (gray snow mold) and *Microdochium* patch (pink snow mold). Gray snow mold requires extended periods of snow cover; pink snow mold can occur either with or without snow cover. If snow mold injury is a recurring problem, preventive fungicide applications are the best control option.

## Steps in recovery

To assess if damage has occurred, samples can be taken from turf areas, moved inside and placed in a warm, sunny area to see if the turf greens up. If there is no green-up within a couple of weeks, the turf was killed.

Reestablishing turfgrass in damaged areas can be very challenging in the spring because of the cool, cloudy conditions that often persist. Depending on the extent of damage, either seeding or sodding may be necessary to facilitate recovery. In areas where the turf was killed in a manner that left well-defined margins between dead and living turf, it may be feasible to strip dead turf and sod the area. In areas where the kill was more scattered, it may be easier to seed the area. Seeding can be difficult, especially on damaged areas of greens. Interseeding creeping bentgrass into dead areas on the greens has given mixed results. The best results with interseeding have occurred when the lowmow, high-density creeping bentgrasses, such as the A and G series bentgrasses, have been used. Tools such as the Job-Saver aerator attachment, which produces numerous small, shallow holes, also increase the success of an inter-seeding program. The interseeding process should continue weekly until the damaged area has completely recovered. On greens that are predominantly annual bluegrass, often it is better to scratch the surface of the dead areas to allow the annual bluegrass to germinate and fill in the voids. Keys to success for renovating winterkilled areas are to divert traffic from newly seeded areas, apply light fertilizer applications to stimulate growth, and irrigate to ensure that the seedbed or sod is moist throughout the establishment period.

## Literature Cited

- Beard, J.B. 1973. *Turfgrass: Science and Culture*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall.
- Beard, J.B. 1998. Winter ice cover problems? *TURFAX*. 9(1):1-2,5.



# SPRING SEMINAR

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8:00	President's Message
8:15-9	1st Round of Training
9:15-10	2nd Round of Training
10:15-11	3rd Round of Training
11:15-12	Final Round of Training
12:30	Lunch

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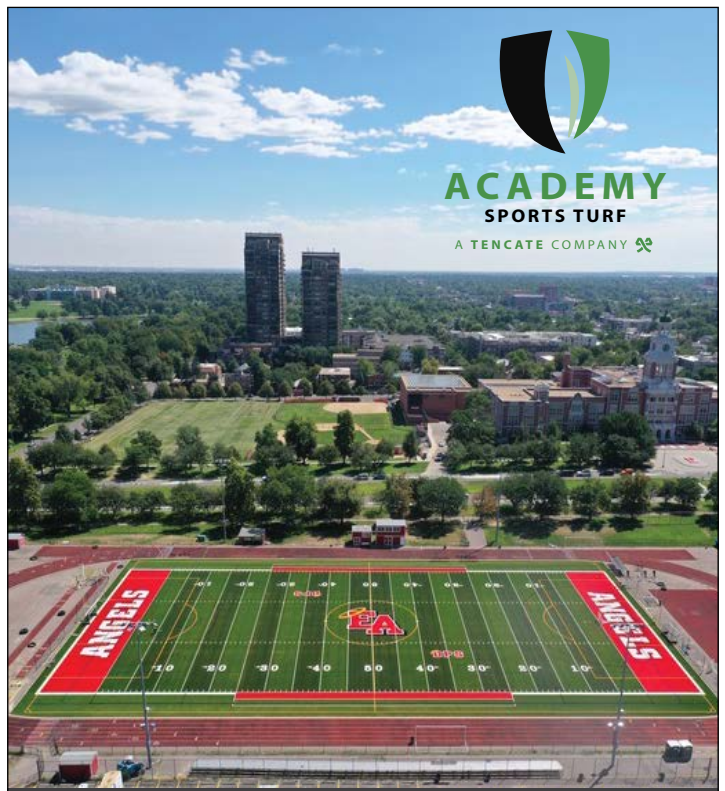
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## **FOUR STEPS TO SUCCESS WITH YOUR SPRING LAWN**

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**GREEN VALLEY TURF COMPANY**

**S**pring is the perfect time to start waking up your lawn and giving it a little extra love before the heat of the summer really kicks in. By spending a little more energy on your lawn in the spring, you can set it up for success in the coming months. Here are our 4 steps to success with your spring lawn!

### 1. Aerate

Aeration is an important part of spring lawn maintenance because it opens up the soil. This allows your lawn to get more of the essential nutrients it needs to thrive. Aeration also helps to reduce thatch. Thatch is the layer of decomposing organic matter that settles just above the ground. The combo of thatch and hard, compact soil are especially prevalent after winter when your lawn has been dormant and packed with snow for several months. This combo of thatch and hard soil can suffocate the grass and prohibit oxygen and water from penetrating into the soil if it's not managed regularly.

You never want to aerate a dormant lawn, but aerating during the spring months when there is active growth helps your lawn recover more quickly and strengthen itself. Aeration allows an easy flow of oxygen, water, and nutrients to the root system to create a happier, healthier and more resilient lawn. After all, your lawn is a living organism and it needs fresh air just like we do!

### 2. Mow

After you've aerated, it's a good idea to mow your lawn. Mowing helps to thicken your lawn by promoting new growth. It cuts off the dead layer leftover from the winter months of dormancy and gives the new, green grass sprouting room to grow. Plants rely on their leaves to soak up the sunlight in order to perform photosynthesis. They grow much better when there is lots of leafy, green surface area to absorb that light. Cutting your lawn also allows more sunlight to reach the ground, which heats up the soil and stimulates growth.

After you aerate, you are left with dirt plugs in your lawn. By mowing, it helps to dissipate those plugs and can act like a top dressing for your lawn. Top dressing is when you put soil or sand over your existing sod to mix in with the organic matter, or thatch as we discussed above, and dilute that matter so more light can shine through. By breaking up those plugs you are doing just that, which ultimately leads to a thick, healthy, and beautiful lawn.

### 3. Fertilize

Next, you should fertilize. Fertilizing is a great way to give your lawn the tools it needs to grow stronger, thicker, and root more deeply. Overtime, soil loses its natural nutrients, so fertilizing is really important! By feeding your lawn in the spring, it can flourish

and have the strength to withstand the hot and dry summer months. Fertilizer also makes your grass grow more quickly, which helps to thicken your lawn. We recommend our 20-20-10 fertilizer with iron. It covers all of the essential nutrients for plants — nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium to ensure that your lawn gets everything it needs. The added iron helps to maintain that lush green color.

Timing is imperative here as you want to be sure to fertilize when the grass is completely dry. If the blades are wet, the fertilizer can stick to them and will actually burn your lawn instead of nourish it. Make sure to time your fertilizing just before a storm (or turn on your irrigation system afterwards) so that the nutrients melt right into the soil and infiltrate deeply into the ground. By watering after fertilizing, it activates the fertilizer and pushes it into the soil where it can start nourishing your lawn.

### 4. Water, naturally!

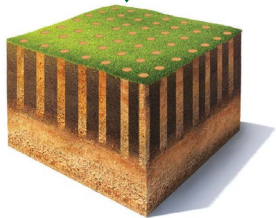
Spring is an amazing time to take advantage of natural precipitation. Rain and snow storms are common and can really help you save on your water bill while making sure your lawn is getting properly watered. When your lawn is waking up it needs to be watered roughly twice a week, so it's pretty easy to let mother nature do the work here. Make sure you keep your irrigation system off of a timer and only turn them on as needed. You would never want your sprinklers to be on during or around a rain or snowstorm — that's wasting one of the world's most valuable resources! Plus, as an added bonus, the water from rain and snow has a lower pH that is actually better for your plants than the city water. So be sure to take advantage of our wet springs!

**In summary**, by putting in a little extra work with your lawn in the spring, you can help set it up for success in the summer. Aerating and mowing to alleviate compacted soil and reduce thatch helps your lawn breathe and allows an easy exchange of nutrients to the root system. After you've opened up the soil, feed your lawn with our 20-20-10 plus iron fertilizer to make sure it has all of the nutrients it needs to grow thick and lush before the stress of hot, dry summer. Then, let mother nature do the rest by giving your lawn plenty of water as it wakes up from its long winter nap. By following these four easy steps, you will help your lawn grow stronger and deeper roots, which ultimately allows it to use less water and grow more resiliently in times of stress. And once again, happy spring!

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## ATHLETIC FIELD MANAGEMENT IN THE SPRING

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SPORTSTURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATE

Your turf survived the long, hard winter and now it is time to get your field ready for play again. Hopefully, you prepared your field for the winter during the fall and you are heading into the spring with a strong, healthy turf stand. Even if your field is not in the condition you want it to be in at the beginning of spring, there are things you can do to get it ready for the first game.

## HAVE A PLAN

- Be prepared. Take time during the winter to plan out your maintenance schedule so as soon as the weather warms up, you will be ready to go.
- Take a soil sample and send it to your local testing facility (most universities can test your soil). You will get a report back with fertilizer recommendations that you can use to set up your fertilizer program. You will also find out if you need to correct your soil pH.
- Be sure to have all equipment, seed, and fertilizers on hand before they are needed.
- Get ready to battle Mother Nature. Spring rains can create water-logged fields. Make sure all of your baseball tarps are in good condition and explain the consequences of playing on a saturated field to the coaches, administrators, parents, and players.



Figure 1. Base your fertilizer program on soil test results.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN SPRING HAS SPRUNG

- Survey your fields. Identify potential problem areas like high wear areas, and on bermudagrass fields, look for areas affected by winterkill and spring dead spot. Be sure to give extra attention to these areas so they can recover quickly.
- Consider rotating or sliding your fields to spread out the wear. Sometimes sliding a field over just 10 yards can make a big difference.
- If you used growth covers over the winter, remove them after 4 or 5 consecutive days of warm temperatures, but don't put them away. Be prepared to put the covers back on if you get an early spring cold snap.
- Seed or sod high wear areas and areas that did not

survive the winter.

- Fill in low areas with sand or soil to prevent puddles from forming and seed or sod them. If you fix the problems now, you won't be battling them all year long.
- Prepare your irrigation system. Once you charge the system, check for broken heads and leaky pipes that need to be repaired.



Figure 2. Adding soil and seeding or sodding bare, low-lying areas like goal mouths early in the spring eliminates having to deal with these areas all year long.

## COOL SEASON GRASSES

The following are recommendations for managing Kentucky bluegrass and/or perennial ryegrass sports fields in the spring.

### Mowing

Mowing properly can make a big difference in the look and performance of your field. It is important to keep up with your mowing schedule, especially in the spring when the turf is growing quickly.

- Begin mowing as soon as the turf begins to grow.
- Be sure to use sharp blades so you get a clean cut.
- Do not remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade per mowing.
- Mow frequently. You will improve the density of your turf with more frequent mowings and you will not leave unsightly clumps of grass behind. You may need to mow three times per week during the spring flush of growth.
- Delay mowing on waterlogged fields to prevent ruts.

### Fertilization

When temperatures are consistently in the 50's, cool

season grasses begin to grow and require fertilizer for healthy growth and development. Springtime fertilization can help your field recover from fall damage as well as prepare the turf for the upcoming season.

- Follow the recommendations in your soil test report to provide your turf with the required amounts of nutrients. By applying only the amounts the plants need, you are not only being environmentally responsible, but you are also saving money.
- Apply 1.5 to 2 lbs. of nitrogen per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> during spring. It is best to split the amount into two applications – one in early spring and one in late spring.
- Combine your fertilizer applications with your cultivation practices (i.e. aerification).

### Cultivation Practices

Spring is an important time to perform cultivation practices that relieve soil compaction, increase water infiltration, remove thatch, and increase soil oxygen flow.

- Aggressively aerify your field with hollow tines. Removing plugs of soil with hollow tines is the most effective way to reduce surface compaction. The soil should not be too wet (the sides of the holes will glaze over) or too dry (the tines will not penetrate the soil).
- Consider using a deep-tine aerator, which has long tines that penetrate deeper into the soil. This relieves compaction by shattering the soil. The soil should be dry so it shatters easily.
- Using a spiker, slicer, or hydroject will help improve soil conditions but should only be used in the spring when surface disruption must be kept to a minimum. These are not acceptable substitutes for hollow tine aerification and/or deep-tine aerification.
- Applying 1/4 inch of quality compost prior to aerification will improve your soil. After the compost has been applied and aerified, drag the field to help incorporate compost into the soil. Do not use compost on sand-based fields.
- If compost is not used, following aerification, topdress the field with a layer of sand, seed with Kentucky bluegrass and/or perennial ryegrass, and fertilize according to soil test recommendations.
- If your soil requires lime to correct your pH (based on your soil test), apply the recommended amount after cultivation and drag the field to allow the lime to work into the soil.



Figure 3. Hollow-tine aerification temporarily disrupts the soil surface, but it is one of the best things you can do for the health and performance of your field.

### Weed Control

Not only is your turf waking up and growing when the warm temperatures hit, so are the weeds. In addition to preparing for the usual crabgrass and goosegrass outbreaks, knotweed can be a problem on highly compacted fields.

- You must decide if it is more important to seed your field in the spring or prevent weeds from germinating – you can't do both. If you apply a preemergent herbicide, your grass seed will not grow.
- Seeding early in the spring will repair your field from wear and then you can apply postemergent herbicides to kill any weeds later in the spring or summer.
- If knotweed is a major problem early in the spring, you can apply a broadleaf herbicide after it germinates and then seed after waiting the required period of time (see herbicide label for seeding instructions).

### BERMUDAGRASS

The following are recommendations for managing bermudagrass fields in the spring.

#### Mowing

Bermudagrass begins to green-up when temperatures hit the 50's, but it does not begin active growth until temperatures reach the upper 60's. Once it does begin to grow, the same guidelines for springtime mowing

that were presented in the cool season grasses section should be followed. Here are some additional tips for bermudagrass fields:

- Reduce mowing height several weeks before expected bermudagrass green-up to allow more light to warm the soil. Lowering the mowing height also stresses the overseeded ryegrass in preparation for removal.
- Mowing regularly will also help knock down actively growing weeds that can flourish early in the spring in slow growing bermudagrass.

### Fertilization

It is important to not push the bermudagrass too soon with fertilizer because if the weather turns cold, there is an increased risk of cold temperature injury.

- After there is no longer a threat of frost and the bermudagrass is actively growing, begin fertilizing based on your soil test results. Bermudagrass typically needs about 1 lb. of nitrogen per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> per month during its growing season.
- Quick release nitrogen (urea and ammonium sulfate) usually works best for bermudagrass.

### Cultivation Practices

Cultivation practices should be done after the bermudagrass has fully greened-up and is actively growing (late spring and summer). If you perform these practices any sooner, you are increasing your risk for cold damage and weed invasion.

### Removal of Overseeded Grass

If you overseeded in the fall, the ryegrass must be removed to allow the bermudagrass competition-free growth in the summer. Many perennial ryegrasses have high heat and drought tolerance and will often persist well into the summer and limit bermudagrass growth. Remember, bermudagrass needs at least 100 days of competition-free growth in the summer.

- If you don't need the green color from the overseeded grass in the spring, spray the field with Roundup (glyphosate) before temperatures warm up, making sure the bermudagrass is COMPLETELY dormant. This is the best case scenario for the bermudagrass because it can green-up without any competition.
- Cultural methods such as verticutting and aerifying are often ineffective at completely removing the

overseeded grass.

- Prepare to use transitional herbicides like Revolver (foramsulfuron), Tranxit (rimsulfuron), and Monument (trifloxysulfuron). These are effective at removing overseeded ryegrass without injuring the bermudagrass.
- Temperature affects the amount of time it takes for the transitional herbicides to remove the ryegrass. It will take longer to kill the ryegrass if it is cold.
- Timing is key. If you spray too early, your bermudagrass will still be brown when the ryegrass dies out and if you wait too long, you will be holding back the bermudagrass. The best time to treat is dependent on your location. If you time it perfectly, your ryegrass will be dying out just as your bermudagrass is beginning active growth.

### Weed Control

Winter weeds can be a serious problem in dormant bermudagrass. For example, annual bluegrass thrives in the cool, damp conditions of late fall and early spring. Weed control at the beginning of spring is an important step to providing a great field.

- If the bermudagrass is COMPLETELY dormant, apply Roundup (glyphosate) to kill all actively growing weeds.
- Applying a preemergent herbicide in the late fall or early spring will prevent weeds like annual bluegrass, crabgrass, and goosegrass from germinating. Use a product with the active ingredient oxadiazon (Ronstar). Other products inhibit stolons from anchoring into the soil.
- For broadleaf weed control, use herbicides that contain more than one active ingredient (i.e. Trimec) for broad spectrum weed control.
- MSMA can be used for selective control of dallisgrass and other grassy weeds.
- If you overseeded, use Velocity (bispyribac-sodium) to selectively remove annual bluegrass from overseeded ryegrass.

Spring can be both an exciting and stressful time for field managers. Make it easier on yourself by developing your maintenance plan before the weather breaks so you are ready to go as soon as the turf greens-up. Spring maintenance practices such as mowing, fertilization, cultivation practices, and weed control lay the foundation for season-long success.



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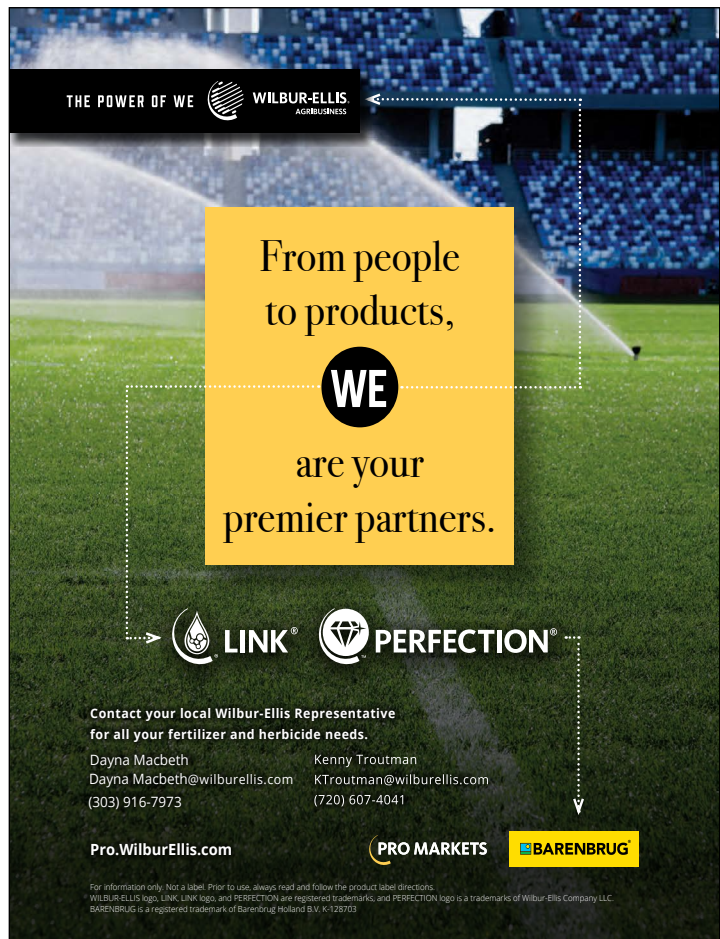



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## PRE-SPRING SEASON CHECKLIST FOR ATHLETIC FIELDS

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**ADVANCED TURF SOLUTIONS**  
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**VICE PRESIDENT OF SPORTS TURF SALES**

It won't be long before baseball, softball, and soccer seasons officially take off across the country, and there is always a lot to do in preparation for the opening of the season. Groundskeepers and field managers stuck in the cold can get a head start by spending this time doing the pre-season work that can be brought indoors.

## Baseball and Softball Pre-Season Work

When I was a field manager, I always used this time of year to get all of my screens, padding, and nets ready to go so that once the weather turned favorable I could solely concentrate on the field(s).

If the screens are outside, bring them in somewhere where you can work on them without the weather affecting you. Inspect the screens for:

- Holes in the net
- Net material fatigue
- The condition of the string that is anchoring the net to frame (if not using sock nets)
- The condition of the frame and transport wheels (where applicable)
- The condition of any protective padding on screens

Repairs can be made when it's reasonable to do so. The first priority is to ensure that safety isn't compromised for the coaches and players who will rely on these screens and nets for protection. Pitching screens (L-Screens) tend to get the worst abuse and usually require the most work. Also, don't forget about the big on-field portable backstop. If it's collapsible, open it up, and inspect all locations where the net and the backstop pad are anchored to the frame, especially along the bottom of the backstop frame where it typically comes in contact with the ground. Abrasion can speed the wear causing the net and pad to become loose or unattached on the bottom of that frame.

Next, you can check the health of the batting cage nets. For indoor batting cages, check to make sure that all the connections are tight and that the net is not sagging. For outdoor batting cages, stretch the net out somewhere to check for holes in them. Mice and rabbits love to chew through the string near the base of the nets for nesting materials. They can be easily repaired on the ground BEFORE you hoist these nets back up into position for the season. Do a full inspection of all hardware and cable on outdoor batting tunnel net systems as rust and oxidation can work to seize things up if stainless steel or galvanized hardware was not used.

Plates, bases, and pitching rubbers should also be checked now. Confirm that bases are the right distance apart before moving on to the infield. Start by edging, then roll the infield. You may want to roll the entire field to settle any frost heave from harsh winter weather.

Finally, topdress the infield to the desired depth, and mat drag to create a smooth surface. Come spring, you'll be glad for the pre-season maintenance you've completed.

You'll also want to inspect windscreens and padding during this time. No one wants to start their season with ripped up windscreens. Also, be sure to check those mound and plate covers as they are vital for optimum playing conditions. Covers work to keep mother nature out, but more importantly, they help to keep the moisture in the clay on the mound and in the boxes thus requiring fewer repairs during the season.

## Soccer Goals, Nets, and Accessories

The running theme on this post is that NOW is the time to start checking your equipment, not the week that practices start. We recommend you perform a check-up on your goals at a minimum once every year. When available, follow manufacturer's guidelines for regular maintenance.

- Routinely inspect goals and keep an eye out for any loose hardware.
- Check the strength of welds.
- Check for any corrosion.
- Check for proper anchoring.
- Check for any other damaged or missing parts.

Doing this will not only make your goals safer for use but will also greatly extend the life of your investment.

Soccer nets and clips, corner flags, and anchors or weight bags are just a few other items that should be on a pre-season checklist. Nets that can't be repaired need to be replaced. Do not wait until the last minute to order your nets and screen replacements. You don't want to start the season putting your players and coaches at risk if your particular size or shape is out of stock. It's best to start your net assessment and reordering process early on after the start of the new year. If your budget allows, slowly build a backup supply of nets for each of your screens and goals. This is the best way to prepare for unexpected damage such as vandalism. Keep in mind, the best way to prepare for a favorable user experience is to be proactive when it comes to safety.

Be sure to reach out to your ATS sports turf specialist to help you with equipment and materials needed to complete your pre-season checklist!



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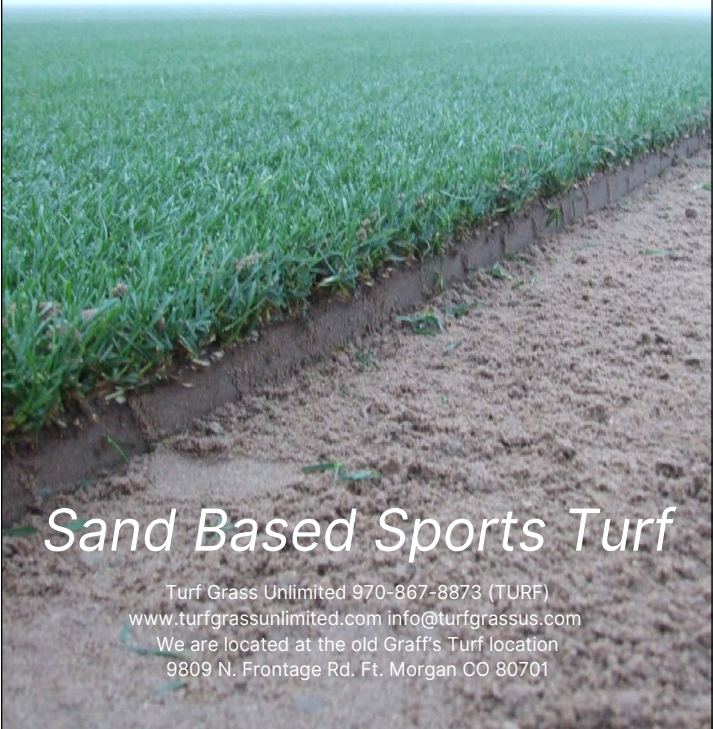
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MEMBER  
PROFILE**ADAM GOLDEN****CARBON VALLEY PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT  
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR****Where are you from and how did you end up where you are today?**

I was raised in Firestone, Colorado. The area was very small when I was growing up but grew rapidly. I met a lot of different types of people as more moved into the area and I enjoyed learning from new perspectives. When I was 19, I started working as a part time laborer for Carbon Valley. By the first couple of years, I was promoted to full time and was given more responsibility of maintaining our sports fields. I began to really enjoy seeing the results of the finished products I was creating each day. My hard work must have paid off because I was eventually promoted to supervisor of my department. Now I get to help others learn and grow in their sports field knowledge. That has been the best reward.

**What attracted you to the sports turf profession?**

To be honest, I didn't have a lot of interest in it when I started. But as I continued in this industry, I started to love caring for our fields and all the details that go into sports field management. I started to see it as an amazing blend of art and science that seemed limitless.

**What types of fields do you care for?**

We take care of multi-use baseball/softball fields and soccer fields mainly. As a smaller parks and rec district, we partner with our surrounding towns to utilize their parks for our sports and recreation programs. We have varying degrees of responsibility at each location. At some parks, we take care of everything from mowing, irrigation, turf maintenance, and sports field maintenance. At others, we only take care of whatever our sports program needs and the town handles the rest of the park's needs. It's been an interesting balance to strike.

**What do you enjoy most about the sports turf industry?**

I enjoy the passion that people have in this industry and how they are always willing to teach others. It feels like a collective of people that really wants to see everyone succeed. I also enjoy the gratification you get after finishing up a field for the day and getting to see the results of your work.

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

The challenge of balancing budgetary restrictions versus the quality of fields you want to produce. I think this is a struggle that we all have in common. We care so much about our fields, but we are limited in what we can put into them. I think it forces you to be more creative and help choose what to prioritize, but it can be frustrating, nonetheless.

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

Get as familiar with all your field as you can. This may sound obvious, but every field has different nuances and learning these little details is what will give you the best chance of having them all perform at their best.

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

Be prepared to work very hard and have a lot of long days and nights. But also, be prepared to have a lot of fun! Also, always ask questions to everyone you can. Everyone has a piece of knowledge for you.



# TYLER LOPTIEN

## COLORADO GOLF AND TURF COMMERCIAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE



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

Colorado Golf and Turf, Commercial Sales Representative, I have been in this position for 6 months.

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

Based out of Littleton, CO and cover all of Colorado and Wyoming.

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

Colorado Golf and Turf provides high-quality equipment and service to the golf, turf, and commercial industries. We offer a wide range of mowers, turf equipment, and utility vehicles used in both golf course and commercial property operations. We're proud to support the CSFMA and always enjoy attending events, connecting, and networking with others in the industry.

**What might we be surprised to know about your company?**

Our company has been in business for over 40 years, and while our name may suggest a primary focus on golf, we support resorts, hospitals, municipalities, schools, and many other commercial operations.

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

I graduated from San Diego State University with a major in business marketing.

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

I'm relatively new to the golf industry. Before this, I worked in the software industry, but I've always been heavily invested in sports. When the opportunity came up to get involved in this field, I was

excited to jump on board. One of the things I've enjoyed most, aside from getting to see so many great courses, is the relationships you build in this industry. It seems like once people get into it, they tend to stay for a long time, which says a lot about the community and the work itself.

**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 golfing, playing in rec leagues, camping, and traveling. I grew up in Colorado and my family is all Colorado-based so we're able to get together regularly.

**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?**

The biggest change I've noticed in the profession has been the rapid advancement of technology in the industry. Over the past few years especially, we've seen a wave of new equipment with robotic and autonomous capabilities, which has pushed us as a company to adapt and stay current with the evolving technology.

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

I'm new to the industry as a whole, but I've started attending CSFMA events to network with peers and stay connected with the current happenings in the industry. The CSFMA events also provide a valuable opportunity to bring awareness to our company and brand.

**What would you like other people to know about CSFMA?**


The CSFMA hosts many great events that

provide continuous education as well as a chance to meet with peers facing the same challenges and projects that you might be.

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


A major challenge facing the industry today is the shortage of skilled labor, along with tightening budgets. However, I'm optimistic that continued advancements in technology, especially the adoption of autonomous equipment, will help address these challenges and provide more efficient solutions moving forward.





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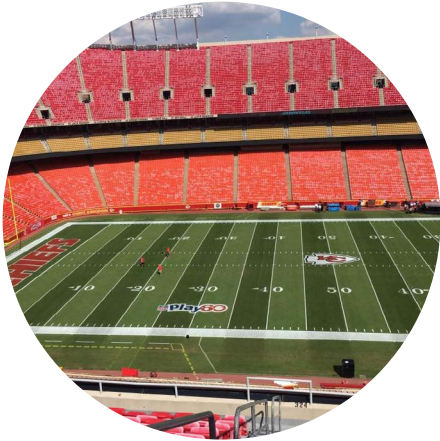
A lush carpet of spongy  
grass is more welcome  
than the most luxurious  
Persian rug.

Helen Keller



# 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**  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



## 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](http://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





## 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](http://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!

Whoever could make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together.

Thomas Jefferson



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