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Field Manager. We are proud to have Don as a part of our team.

When ask, "How did you prepare for the test?" Don replied

I joined STMA in late 2003 and sent away for the CSFM packet soon after because I admired Jim Herrmann CSFM, I wanted to better myself professionally and I wanted to see how I measured up to the professional standards. After reviewing the 20 page detailed list of CSFM competencies, I saw my strengths and weaknesses and began a yearlong study to prepare myself. In Delaware, to apply fertilizers and nutrients, one must have a certification, much like a pesticide license. I prepared for the highest, most stringent nutrient management certification, the Delaware Nutrient Consultant Certification, which allows me to write nutrient, fertility and soil improvement programs for others as well as apply nutrients for paid compensation. I also took an online college course from the local community college in soil and water management. I purchased and read some of the STMA recommended books and subscribed to most of the trade magazines. I attended

field days and short courses, wore out a computer surfing the web looking for articles and research findings. I talked with many people who manage sports fields and asked them what worked for them.

Finally, in December 2004, I sent in my application, was approved to sit for the exam that was being given at the STMA conference in Phoenix. The exam consisted of 100 agronomic questions (including warm season grasses), 100 sports specific questions, 50 pesticide questions and 50 administrative questions in a multiple choice format. The questions were well written, real life problems that one encounters all of the time. The test took me 4 1/2 hours to complete.

Now that I have the certification, I have to continue taking courses for continuing education credits as well as earning industry service points for community service in order to keep it. There are only 52 CSFM's at the present time, and I am proud to be part of this elite group.

If anyone would like to reach Don with questions about this important program email him at donsavard@msn.com or call at 302.293.2693 ♦

Selecting a Field Marking Paint

Don Savard CSFM

We all use it in one form or another, and I think that we all agree that it works for most of our purposes, which is marking a boundary or a zone. Field marking paint comes in various forms, from aerosol spray cans, to bulk containers of paint that must be mixed. So which is best? All claims by manufacturers and salesmen aside, the one that is best is the one that works best for you and suits your needs. Here are some hints for selecting the product or products that are right for you.

How much painting do you do? If your answer is just little, (maybe only one or two fields) you might get by with spray cans and a four wheeled inverted can applicator. The inverted aerosol spray paint can makes a nice, bright line. (Consider using water based acrylic, as it is less injurious to the

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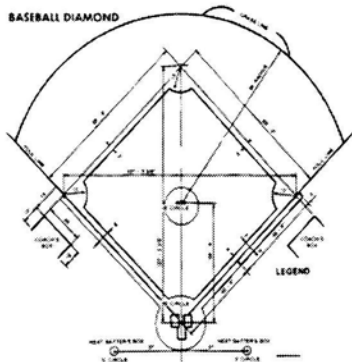
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grass.) This set up is fast, convenient and inexpensive, especially if you buy multiple cases of paint cans to get the best pricing. Just be sure to store it in a cool dry place and keep it from freezing. A soccer field might require about six (17 Oz) cans, a baseball field about four cans, depending upon how fast you walk, and how bright you mark the lines. This set up is also convenient and economical to keep as a backup if your powered paint-spraying unit breaks down, or if you need to do a quick touch up and don't want to mess up and have to clean your powered unit.

If you are painting multiple fields, you might consider using latex field marking paint that comes in five-gallon buckets. The thickness and consistency of these paints range from ready to use right out of the pail, to thicker paints that must be cut with water to your desired consistency. There are some manufacturers who sell their paints in the form of a paste, which is then cut with water. Make sure that whatever form you buy is easy for you and your people to mix and handle and that it is

compatible with your paint spraying equipment.

Some manufacturers claim that their paints are the brightest and show up best under stadium lights. If your field is a high profile, high visibility site, it might be worth the extra cost, but if you are painting practice fields, consider using a less expensive product, as long as it meets your criteria as quality paint.

When choosing an athletic field marking paint supplier, look for a supplier who stocks the product and can deliver your product to you when you need it. If storage is scarce, consider a supplier who will drop off smaller shipments frequently.

Quality paint is never injurious to turf when used according to the label directions. Quality paint is of a consistent viscosity without particles that clump or clog the sprayer apparatus. Quality paint cleans up easily. Quality paint, when dry, does not dissolve in the rain.

Remember that whatever the game, clear, visible lines help everyone do their jobs. ♦

A Sports Field Managers Point of View

By Don Savard, CSFM

Sometimes when people ask me what kind of work I do, I tell them that I am a problem solver. I say that not to diminish the professionalism of growing and managing sports fields, but because it really describes how I spend my days. You see, a problem can be defined as the difference between what you want and what you have. As professional sports field managers we are constantly helping people get what they want. Whether it is getting the soccer ball to roll faster or getting that skinned area of the baseball field dry and playable after that sudden downpour, we find ways, often creatively, to fix the problem.

We work outdoors, in an

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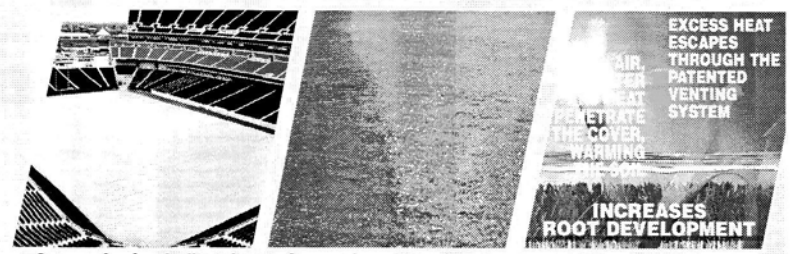
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