Sometimes you have to fool Mother Nature

David Frey

Quietly, he went to work, building an air-inflated greenhouse, 60 x 180 ft. After seeking help from various greenhouse companies, with bids more than $150,000, he had the Cleveland stadium crew and a balloonist friend, help him build the structure in early March 1983.

On March 10, with the air-supported structure overhead, Frey and his crew seeded with a mixture of Baron Kentucky bluegrass, Manhattan and Derby perennial ryegrass. By the second week of April and the Indians exhibition game, the greenhouse was gone and the football damage was unnoticeable. The outfielders were playing on grass that didn’t move under their feet.

“You have to understand the emotions of sports fans when they enter a huge stadium, see and smell the green carpet of turfgrass, and with beer and hot dogs in hand, yell for their team,” Frey stated. “The fact the grass is real and the players have confidence in their footing, is what’s important. Indoor stadiums don’t have the same sense of outdoors that older stadiums do and that’s important to fans.”

Northern outdoor stadia, like Cleveland and Milwaukee, need answers to correcting late fall football damage in time for baseball. David Frey strongly believes he may have one solution.