

perform miracles. Often these claims are anecdotal. Ask to see who did the research, when and where. The growth of any plant is limited most by the essential plant nutrient present in the least relative amount (Liebig's "Law of the Minimum").

Should you "fertilize the turf" or fertilize the soil? In today's economic and environmental climate, turf managers need to verify the philosophy behind the fertilizer recommendations given by the testing laboratories, and then develop an economically feasible and defendable fertility management program.

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- Plank, C. Owen, Soil Testing-Turf, Univ of Georgia Cooperative Exten Service Pub

- Murdock, Lloyd, Evaluating Fertilizer Recommendations, 1997, Univ of Kentucky Coop Exten. Pub

- Focus on Soil Testing and Nutrient Recommendations, 1994, Maryland Coop Exten, vol. 1, issue 2

- Oldham, Larry, Nutrient and Soil Management, Mississippi State Univ Exten Service, Nov. 8, 2000

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only mandatory measurements. All other measurements are "recommended" distances

9. Be graded so as not to allow standing water to accumulate either on the infield or in adjacent turf areas be it fair or foul territory

a. Sand slit drainage should be utilized in turf areas adjacent to skinned areas to eliminate the potential for standing water where existing slope is ineffective

10. Include dugout areas as a criteria for evaluating safety and playability

11. Include backstops and fencing as a criteria for evaluating safety and playability

12. Employ a proactive management plan designed to maintain safety and playability ♦

## Field Tip

### Certification Practice Test Questions To Go On Line

*Do you know the answer to the following question?*

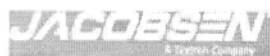
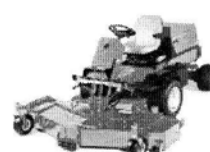
*Perennial ryegrass plants do not produce:*

- roots*
- stillers*
- stolons*
- shoots*

By the end of December, you will be able to "practice" taking the certification exam to help you prepare for the actual exam. Look for the announcement on the home page to access the questions and the answer key. To be eligible to take the test, you must have at a minimum, a high school diploma or equivalent, and achieve a minimum of 40 points earned through a combination of education and experience. To receive a full packet outlining the application process, contact [lcraig@sportsturfmanager.com](mailto:lcraig@sportsturfmanager.com) or call 800-323-3875. *(The answer is C = stolons)* ♦

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