

by Ron Hall, associate editor

## 'The Boss'—our buddy

"The Boss" (aka Bruce Springsteen) knocks the socks off millions of rock and rollers. When "The Boss" plays, stadiums fill and pulsate with foot-stomping fever. Last year it was Michael Jackson. Next summer, who knows?



They're the unknowing friends of groundsman who pamper ballyard turfgrass everywhere.

Because of phenomena like megastar rockers, grounds managers at stadiums with the real stuff, grass, are pushing turfgrass beyond what even they could have imagined a few years ago. Unintentionally they're also dismembering the myth known as synthetic turf.

They're demonstrating—if the decision-makers at the carpeted stadiums really want to see—that

turfgrass is tough, real tough. It can, and should, be used for more than just ball games. That's been a rap against grass.

Sports turf? Let's call it "entertainment turf." Members of the Sports Turf Manager's Association (STMA) bend the terms as they increase our knowledge.

A handful of groundsman at professional ballparks kicked off STMA five years ago to trade tips and pool collective experiences. That circle is growing. STMA is gaining members and spinning off new techniques to expand turfgrass's usefulness.

They're aided in their jobs by sophisticated satellite-radar weather forecasting, a new generation of irrigation and maintenance equipment, and improved varieties of turfgrass.

Groundsman didn't have these tools when the first roll of Astro Turf bellied up to the outfield fences in Houston's Astrodome 20 years ago.

Far-sighted grounds managers are also re-adapting and tinkering with products that have been around. Breathing, porous, geo-textile covers, previously used only in plant beds and golf sand traps, are now unfurled over turfgrass to save it from the pounding of spectators at concerts. The crunch of vehicles in motor sports events. The cleats of subs along the sidelines.

The renaissance of turfgrass in our ballyards, the new entertainment turf, is under way.

To "The Boss" and others who challenge our grounds managers: thanks.

Bushman says the articles (the last, recently mailed and titled "Fall Lawn Care") accomplish two purposes: "giving the PLCAA high exposure, as well as educating the public on proper lawn care."

Bushman tells WEEDS TREES & TURF Stauffer Chemical is investigating other joint projects with PLCAA.

## LAWN CARE

### Dow offers LCOs handy door-hanger

Lawn care operators can reassure customers about the safety of materials used on their lawns with a door-hanger designed to sort fact from fancy for homeowners.

The piece can help increase customer confidence, according to representatives from its publisher, Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich.

Dow representatives have free samples available, and bulk supplies can be ordered through the Professional Lawn Care Association of America. The brochures contain no company or product identification.

**We just treated your lawn to make it more beautiful.**

**A REASSURING WORD ABOUT THE PRODUCTS WE USE.**

If it's your property and the use of any pesticide is necessary to keep it free of unwanted weeds and pests, we will use it. We need you to enjoy a beautiful lawn because that's the treatment we used was professionally applied, only as needed, and in proper accordance with label directions. With heavy applications, we suggest that people and pets don't use the lawn until the spray has completely dried. If not instructed while drying, it will bond uniformly to the grass and will not effectively penetrate treatment to control. The lawn can be used immediately unless otherwise noted.

## SPORTS TURF

### Bossard talks dirt with top groundsman

Start baseball field renovations now, says Roger Bossard, field maintenance whiz for the Chicago White Sox.

"Late summer and fall is a logical time for local park districts to undertake a rebuilding program because vacations are over and the fields can be worked without disrupting playing schedules," says Bossard, who hosted a special gathering of groundskeepers in mid-July.