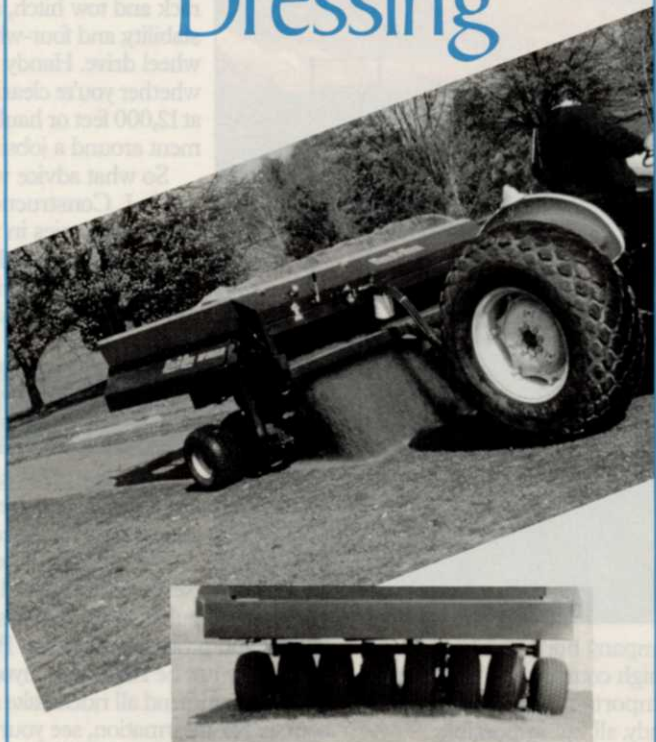


TURFCO

A New Angle on Athletic Field Top Dressing



Since 1961, Turfco's **Mete-R-Matics** have been setting the standards in the top dressing industry, and now we're expanding that expertise to your athletic fields. The **Large Area Top Dresser** is an innovative breakthrough in technology for any playing field that seeks a thicker, plusher turf.

Benefits of the **LA2** include:

- **Front Spread Design** blankets 6 feet wide; better soil penetration and easy monitoring of flow and sand level.
- **Unique 8-wheel design** evenly distributes weight and contours to terrain, **resulting in low PSI.**
- Thatch reduction for healthier turf.
- **Evenly spreads top dressing 1/16" to 1/2".**
- Levels turf in high playing areas.

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Patent Pending

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Irrigation should be uniform

■ Uniformity of coverage is the key to effective irrigation, according to Rain Bird Irrigation's Lynda Wightman.



Lynda Wightman

"No irrigation factor can be more efficiently utilized than uniformity of coverage," she told the Sports Turf Managers Association recently.

Application rates also play a big role in irrigation efficiency, she notes. "If you don't know your application rate in inches per hour, you can't efficiently manage irrigation," Wightman says.

Two considerations that should take high priority are soil type and water pressure. "Pressure is the biggest variable for an existing system," she says. "Higher pressure can cause problems, but lower pressures can save money, increase pump life and reduce misting."

She suggests conducting a visual site inspections, checking out the installation height of heads and leaks.

"Cut back water until further reductions would stress the turf," she stresses. "A wet field tears up much quicker than a dry field."

"There's no magic," insists Neal Beeson of BC Turf. "It's a lot of hard work and common sense—and you'd better maintain a sense of humor."

Irrigation traps

- Sally Prusia of Rain Bird lists seven traps in irrigation system design:
 - 1) Do not stretch the dollars.
 - 2) Know the area and type of coverage needed.
 - 3) Choose the right equipment.
 - 4) Specify available watering time.
 - 5) Don't forget the pump plant.
 - 6) Take into account design considerations.
 - 7) Insist on a quality installation.