

worked with him since the dog would be at the school during the day. I drop him off in the morning and he comes home with me each night. Now I am not saying things went according to plan at the beginning. There were some problems but over time they worked themselves out. Andy recognizes the commands and has bonded not only with me but also with my father-in-law and my wife and kids as well. The people at the school love him and treat him great. He's turned out to be a great employee who loves this job and takes pride in this work. Sure geese still fly over the fields daily and sometimes they still try to land on them, but only for a brief second because Andy had already seen them and is in hot pursuit.

Now, I know that there are some out there who think it might be more trouble than it is worth taking care of a border collie. After all it is a great responsibility not to mention time and commitment. Some may feel that having a company that provides a service may be a better option and I don't argue those concerns. In my case I thought it was the best solution to a problem that many of us face with our fields. As with anything, you shouldn't jump in headfirst. You should take the time and do your homework before figuring on the best course of action. ▲

George Van Haasteren, CGM is an owner of Sports Field Management Systems, Inc.

SPRING IRRIGATION CO., INC.

732-821-5767

COMMERCIAL • ATHLETIC FIELDS • INDUSTRIAL

Statewide Service Since 1978
NJ Certified Contractor D.E.P. #15040
Certified Designer I.A. #180186

FAX: 732-821-0130
E-Mail: spring@ifu.net
P.O. Box 523, Dayton, NJ 08810-0523

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

QUESTION: I am currently working on a project to repair infields of various baseball fields. I was wondering if you could tell me where I could find a Spec for infield dirt. What we are trying to do is take soil samples from the various fields and have a mechanical analysis done and then compare the results to a Spec, however we are unable to find a Spec for baseball infields. Any information you could provide would be very helpful. Thank you very much.

Michael Green, Neglia Engineering

ANSWER: Michael, It is refreshing to see that you are looking to the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey for direction and assistance. Hopefully other engineers will follow your lead. In reference to your inquiry, The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has recently completed publication F2107 "Standard Guide for Construction and maintenance of Skinned Areas on Sports Fields". The standards provide a very broad specification and it is therefore necessary for you to have an understanding of a few contributing factors and how they affect the selection of an infield mix for your client. Some of these factors are:

1. Budget
2. Level and intensity of play
3. Level and intensity of maintenance

I have attached an article printed in our March newsletter that refers to publication F2107. You can acquire this publication by contacting ASTM directly at 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, 610-832-9585(phone) 610-832-9555 (fax) or service@astm.org (e-mail); or through the website www.astm.org

In addition, I am very pleased to inform you that Rutgers, Snyder Research and Extension Farm in

Continued on next page.....

Crop Production Services

Agronomic Products / Services



Profit From Our Experience

Crop Production Services, Inc.
127 Perryville Road
Pittstown, NJ 08867

Toll Free: 1-888-828-5545
Bus: (908) 735-5545
Fax: (908) 735-6231

766 Rt. 524
Allentown, NJ 08501
(609) 259-7204

*Seed *Fertilizer
*Lime *Soil Testing
*Pest Control Products
*Custom Applications



A Division of Pennington Seed, Inc.



Mark Hardek
Territory Sales Manager

Lofts Seed, Inc.
9327 US Route 1
Suite J
Laurel, MD 20723

Office: 800-732-3332
Fax: 610-524-7047
Cell: 215-990-9081
mhardek@comcast.net

Pittstown NJ, in cooperation with SFMANJ is developing infield mix demonstration plots, which will be utilized to aid people like yourself in making better decisions in the selection and maintenance of a quality infield mix. These plots will be ready at our October (date TBA) field day at the Rutgers Snyder Farm in Pittstown, NJ which will be open to the public.

Jim Hermann, CSFM
SFMANJ, VP

** Jim Hermann is a Certified Sports Field Manager and Vice President of SFMANJ. He has over 24 years experience maintaining athletic fields along with running his own maintenance business, Total Control Inc.*

QUESTION: What should I tell my customers when they ask me about the dangers that lawn pesticides pose to their cats and dogs?

ANSWER: You can assure them that their pets will not be harmed with pesticide applications you make. All pesticides are carefully tested before qualifying for registration by the EPA and before they can be sold. Part of this testing includes determining possible effects on non-target organisms such as pets. Pesticides that pose an unacceptable risk to non-target organisms cannot be registered. Of course, you should have your customers follow the same re-entry procedures for cats and dogs as is recommended for humans. Wait until the treated area dries (in the case of liquid application) and, for granular materials, comply with label directions for re-entering the treated area.

QUESTION: I had a close friend tell me that buying will-fit hydraulic filters for my mid-sized riding mowers may cause damage to them. Is that true?

ANSWER: Your friend is correct. These can damage your mower and will not provide the performance intended by the manufacturer. The purpose of a hydraulic filter is to modify the mower's fluid. The two contributors that destroy hydraulic fluid are heat and contamination. The contamination will break down the ability of the oil to lubricate the components. This, in turn, wears down the components and makes them less efficient. Filters also must offer the correct particle sizing to handle the flow capacity of the mower's system and the pressure rating. The flow capacity of the filter is the amount of oil that passes through the media without the bypass valve opening. The filter should be correctly matched to the amount of oil that the system generates. The filter must also be able to withstand a given pressure. If you compare filters they may have the same outside dimensions but be totally different on the inside.

**Grounds Maintenance, February 2003
Mark Welterlen
MWELTERLEN@PRIMEDIABUSINESS.COM*

Also send your questions to Dr. Murphy,
Dr. Koppenhofer and Dr. Hart.
E-mail us at hq@sfmanj.org

"Murphy's Law"

Dr. James Murphy is an Associate Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management for Rutgers, department of Plant science. Ask Dr. Murphy questions concerning agronomics.

"Ask The Grub Oracle"

Dr. Albrecht Koppenhöfer is an Assistant Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Entomology, Cook College/Rutgers University. Ask Dr. Koppenhöfer questions concerning your insect problems.

"Take it to Hart"

Dr. Stephen Hart is an Assistant Extension Specialist in the Plant Science Dept. at Cook College/Rutgers University. Ask Dr. Stephen Hart questions concerning weeds.

Established 1925

Fertl Soil

**Specializing in Topdressing and Construction Soils
For Golf Courses and Athletic Fields**

**548 Rosedale Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348 610-444-0496**

"Irrigation Backflow Basics"

Backflow can occur in two ways – back pressure and back siphoning. Below are some fundamental causes for each:

Back siphoning:

- Undersized piping
- Line repair or brake lower than the service point
- Lowered main pressure due to high water withdrawal rates.
- Reduced supply-main pressure on the suction side of a booster.

Back pressure:

- Potable water connections to pressure systems aren't equipped with backflow prevention devices
- Interconnection with another system operated at a higher pressure, like a fertigation system
- Booster pump designed without a backflow prevention device. ▲

**Landscape & Irrigation, March 2003
Luke Frank*