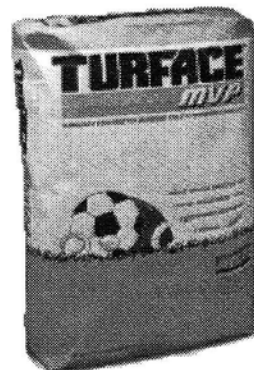


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*Continued from page 9.....*

fertilizer supplement. "Oceangro is great but it's not a magic pill that will replace all other fertilizers." Casey likes the slow release, non-burning, non-leaching nature of the organic side of 5-5-0 Oceangro. He equally values the ease of application and complete analysis of the 19-19-19 synthetic fertilizer now in use on his fields for the rest of his program. Casey recognizes the importance and shortfalls of both organic and synthetic products and uses both to the advantage of maximum turf health.

To gain the benefit of both worlds of organic and synthetic fertilizers, some fertilizer blenders offer hybrid blends combining both

If your soils are deficient in organic matter—like the sandy soils in Ocean County—adding organic fertilizers or hybrids is a step in the right direction, but a permanent fix requires bigger thinking. Purchasing and adding topsoil is one option, adding leaf compost you have on-hand is another demonstrated and more resourceful way to accomplish the same task.

The next time you're in Ocean County, check out any Lacy Township athletic field. Here is proof of a turf manager who knows what he is doing, is open minded and has saved his Township a bundle by working with what is available. ▲

*\*Richard Oates is a Sales and Marketing Coordinator for The Ocean County Utilities Authority in Bayville, NJ  
www.ocua.com*

## "Monthly Field Tip" Bug of the month "Bagworms"

*by Jim Hermann, CSFM\**

Although not specific to sports fields, these little noseemus can be devastating to the beauty of the landscape and cause much anguish to the grounds manager.

Little brown bags attached to twigs on the outer most branches of both deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs are the tell tale sign of this pest. At first glance, these bags resemble a bit of dead foliage. Further examination will reveal a bag up to 2 inches in length composed of interwoven bits of dead foliage, twigs and silk. During the summer, a dark brown or black caterpillar is contained in the bag. Initially the caterpillar drags the bag around as it feeds on leaves, enlarging the bag as it grows. By late August, the caterpillar finishes feeding and attaches the bag to a twig. Inside the bag, it forms a pupa. Several days later, an adult moth emerges from the pupa. The female is wingless and stays within the bag. The male then flies to the old bag (or rather the bag containing the female) and they mate while she is still inside. She then lays a mass of eggs within the bag and dies.

*Continued on next page.....*

Continued from page 11 "Bagworms"

The eggs hatch around May or June. Newly hatched caterpillars crawl out of the bag and immediately begin feeding on leaves. In severe infestations, the entire plant is defoliated and bags can be seen hanging from the existing twigs and branches. This degree of infestation often kills evergreens such as arborvitae and cedar but may only slow the growth of a deciduous tree or shrub.

Control of this insect is recommended through the use of a spray containing either acephate (Orthene) or carbaryl (Seven) between late May and mid July. More environmentally sensitive sites can be treated with the biological insecticide, Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt). The optimum timing for effective control can vary from site to site, year to year. Check with your local Rutgers Cooperative Extension for effective treatment dates and products for your area. ▲

*The Ortho Home Gardener's Problem Solver*, Copyright 1997. Monsanto Company

\*Jim Hermann is a Certified Sports Field Manager and President of Total Control, Athletic Field Maintenance and Consulting. [jimtc@att.net](mailto:jimtc@att.net)

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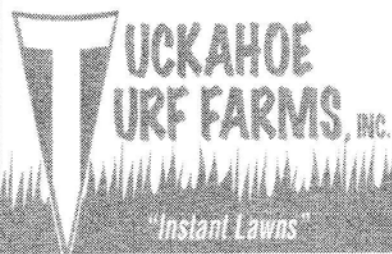
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