

grass.) This set up is fast, convenient and inexpensive, especially if you buy multiple cases of paint cans to get the best pricing. Just be sure to store it in a cool dry place and keep it from freezing. A soccer field might require about six (17 Oz) cans, a baseball field about four cans, depending upon how fast you walk, and how bright you mark the lines. This set up is also convenient and economical to keep as a backup if your powered paint-spraying unit breaks down, or if you need to do a quick touch up and don't want to mess up and have to clean your powered unit.

If you are painting multiple fields, you might consider using latex field marking paint that comes in five-gallon buckets. The thickness and consistency of these paints range from ready to use right out of the pail, to thicker paints that must be cut with water to your desired consistency. There are some manufacturers who sell their paints in the form of a paste, which is then cut with water. Make sure that whatever form you buy is easy for you and your people to mix and handle and that it is

compatible with your paint spraying equipment.

Some manufacturers claim that their paints are the brightest and show up best under stadium lights. If your field is a high profile, high visibility site, it might be worth the extra cost, but if you are painting practice fields, consider using a less expensive product, as long as it meets your criteria as quality paint.

When choosing an athletic field marking paint supplier, look for a supplier who stocks the product and can deliver your product to you when you need it. If storage is scarce, consider a supplier who will drop off smaller shipments frequently.

Quality paint is never injurious to turf when used according to the label directions. Quality paint is of a consistent viscosity without particles that clump or clog the sprayer apparatus. Quality paint cleans up easily. Quality paint, when dry, does not dissolve in the rain.

Remember that whatever the game, clear, visible lines help everyone do their jobs. ♦

## A Sports Field Managers Point of View

By Don Savard, CSFM

Sometimes when people ask me what kind of work I do, I tell them that I am a problem solver. I say that not to diminish the professionalism of growing and managing sports fields, but because it really describes how I spend my days. You see, a problem can be defined as the difference between what you want and what you have. As professional sports field managers we are constantly helping people get what they want. Whether it is getting the soccer ball to roll faster or getting that skinned area of the baseball field dry and playable after that sudden downpour, we find ways, often creatively, to fix the problem.

We work outdoors, in an

*Continued on page 10*

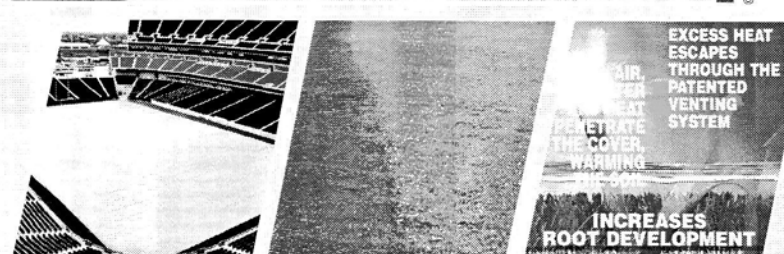
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environment of constant climatic change. It is difficult to predict with any certainty what the weather is going to be like next week, but we try to be decisive, make plans and manage our enterprise with confidence. Our sports fields have unique characteristics which challenge us. It seems as though there is always something new to learn and to explore. Whether the problem is the soil, drainage, compaction, weeds, insects or disease, we find the solution by attending field days and short courses, reading the publications and networking with our peers. We might be limited by our resources, but we seem to find creative and new ways to use the money, tools and materials that we do have.

We get to wear many hats- turf grower, soil scientist, repairman, surveyor, equipment operator, budget manager, engineer, salesman, coworker, psychologist and trash picker upper. Whether we stay on one site, or move about multiple sites, we have the capability to touch the lives of many people, from the people who own the field, to the player athletes, to the fans, with all the coaches, administrators, contractors, vendors, and sponsors in between. It seems like we have hundreds of bosses, all of whom give us the opportunity to solve a problem.

Sometimes the problem is not what we think it is. Is it a turf problem, a people problem or maybe it is not our problem at all? We try to understand what the problem is. Turf problems seem easier to solve than people problems. That is because people problems begin when we want them to change something. People are resistant to change. We begin to solve people problems through communication. ♦

## SFMANJ Heads South for Fun in the Sun April 6th Field Day

By Jim Hermann

Join us April 6, 2005 at Hammonton High School for a tour of their new facility. After a brief introduction by Eleanora Hermann, president SFMANJ, Frank LaSasso, field manager for Hammonton High School will begin the tour with an overview of the new complex featuring a wide range of athletic fields & construction related problems.

As we move on to the Softball & Baseball fields, Frank will share with us his infield maintenance program, the results of which will be seen in the quality of his infields. Brad Park, Rutgers University, Cook College will review the results of a physical soil analysis performed on the infield mix and how their infield mix compares to the ASTM (American Society of Testing Materials) standard. Jim Hermann, CSFM (Certified Sports Turf Manager), Total Control Inc. will review ten points in a safe and playable infield

Learn first hand from Frank, the day-to-day problems and challenges he faces with his newly constructed football field. Dr. Henry Indyke, Turfeon will discuss understanding and implementation of effective construction specifications and the profound effects they have as seen in the Hammonton complex.

Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers University, Cook College will be on hand to discuss soil characteristics and

turfgrass selection & establishment. Don Savard, CSFM, Salesianum School will demonstrate and talk about the proper use of "turf blankets", and the potential benefits to be had through correct application

Brad Park, Rutgers University, Cook College will discuss implementation of IPM practices utilized in an effective pre & postemergence selective weed control strategy.

All in attendance will have the opportunity view first hand the inputs and outcomes of proper turf and athletic field management and receive valuable recertification credits.

After the conclusion of the tour we will proceed a couple miles down the road to Tuckahoe Turf Farms Inc. growers of fine turf sod. There we will enjoy lunch provided by Tuckahoe Turf Farms. Immediately after lunch and a brief introduction by Don Savard we will have the opportunity to meet with our respective SFMANJ district representatives to discuss the objectives and desires of the individual districts. If you have ideas or requests for workshops, seminars or field days in your neck of the woods, this is your opportunity to express your thoughts.

The district meetings will be followed by a guided tour of the sod farm. You will have the opportunity to view Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue in various stages of development and learn production, harvesting and installation practices from one of the most reputable growers in the industry. Pesticide credits will be offered at the conclusion of the day.

Join us for this unique opportunity to learn from the experiences of other professionals in the industry and network with sports turf managers in your district. You can find a registration form on our website at [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org) or call 908-730-7770 if you did not receive a flier in the mail.

*\*Jim Hermann, CSFM is on the Board of Directors of SFMANJ and President of Total Control Inc. ♦*

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