With spring soon to arrive, it is an important time to begin thinking about options for controlling crabgrass. If a significant soil seed bank exists and there are voids in the turf stand which minimize competitive benefits of the turf, as a summer annual, crabgrass will germinate profusely throughout the landscape. Crabgrass seed will typically begin germinating after April 10 in South Jersey and by April 20 in Central and North Jersey. Crabgrass will continue to germinate through mid-July.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
Recall that IPM attempts to reduce the risk that pest control strategies may have on the environment and people by incorporating all suitable techniques to maintain pests within acceptable limits. Although it is a common misconception, IPM does not entail the elimination of pesticide use. Simply, it refers to a better understanding of the specific turfgrass species or mowing at a frequency such that scalping can be avoided and IPM does entail the elimination of pesticide use. Improper mowing techniques leading to scalped turf will thin out turfgrass areas, lead to voids in the stand, and did not previously provide opportunities for crabgrass to encroach. IPM also entails proper fertilization. Under-fertilizing turfgrass will often result in a weak stand, which is more susceptible to invasion by crabgrass. Crabgrass control strategies for sports fields

Step 4. Measure the total depth of the soil in the mason jar. Then measure the thickness of each of the three layers using your measuring tape. Use these measurements to determine the relative percentage of sand, silt, and clay in your soil sample. For the measurement of the three values, place you on the triangle (see Figure 2). Remember that this is an estimate. If you need a more precise test, it is worth your while to have a professional test done by a private lab or a county extension office.

Soil testing labs use a couple of different quantitative methods to determine relative amounts of soil components. Once the relative amount of sand, silt, and clay are known, you can determine the soil’s textural class using the soil texture triangle provided. Each side of the triangle represents the relative content or percent of one of the three soil particle size classes.

General Guidelines: Remember that soils differ greatly around the country and they react differently to many things. The following gives generalizations as a guide for base mixes. Soils in your area might not always fall into these guidelines.

- You want to keep the sand fraction of your base soil within 50% and 75% (normal base mix). Soils with higher sand content normally become too loose and mobile. The soil binds well with play and is transported to other areas of the skin by the dragging process or by play. The less onto be learned here is don’t just pick any old soil for your base mix. Know what you are getting by asking for a soil particle size analysis.
- Rocks and pebbles in an infield base mix can be a major headache. Rocks and pebbles in an infield base mix can be a major problem. Your base soil should be able to pass through a 1/4-inch screen, or at the very least a 3/8-inch screen, to eliminate any rocks or pebbles.
- The lesson to be learned here is don’t just pick any old soil for your base mix. Know what you are getting by asking for a soil particle size analysis. And whatever you do, don’t purchase a mix just because some salesman says that he has “x” hallmark and “y” hallmark using it. Most of those people have zero knowledge of what kind of soil creates the best infield soil.

Paul Zauska, Beacon Athletics, Middleton, WI. Paul provides technical support and troubleshooting for Beacon Athletics customers.
Fenoxaprop may be applied at rates ranging from 0.016-0.17 lbs/A (3.5-39.0 fl. oz Acclaim/A) depending on the stage of crabgrass growth and established turfgrass species. For example, 4-5 tiller crabgrass may be treated with fenoxaprop at 0.17 lbs/A (39.0 fl oz Acclaim Extra/Acre) in perennial ryegrass and tall fescue whereas no more than 0.12 lbs of fenoxaprop (28.0 fl oz Acclaim Extra/Acre) may be applied to 3-4 tiller crabgrass in Kentucky bluegrass turf.

Following applications of fenoxaprop, tall fescue and perennial ryegrass may be seeded immediately. Following germination of tall fescue and perennial ryegrass, fenoxaprop should not be applied until seedlings have matured for 1 month. Of the cool season turfgrasses used on sports fields in New Jersey, Kentucky bluegrass is the most susceptible to phytotoxic effects associated with fenoxaprop. For example, when utilizing fenoxaprop rates greater than 0.04 lbs/A (9.0 fl oz Acclaim Extra/Acre), Kentucky bluegrass seedlings must be at least 3 growing months old before fenoxaprop can be applied. Additionally, 21 waiting days should be allowed following the application of fenoxaprop prior to seeding Kentucky bluegrass.

Due to the complexity of Drive and Acclaim Extra labeling with respect to crabgrass growth stage susceptibility, individual turfgrass species herbicide tolerances, and turfgrass seeding timings, pesticide labels must be thoroughly read and understood prior to the application of these materials.

Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coor., Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board Member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

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**SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest 2007**

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is announcing its annual Field of the Year (FOY) contest.

**ELIGIBILITY:**
- Must be a current member of SFMANJ
- Only school and park/recreation fields are eligible
- Must be a natural grass field/fields

**CRITERIA:**
- Award will be presented based:
  - Playability and appearance of the playing surfaces
  - Five 5x7 photos A, one before photo if possible
  - Describe your maintenance program and what you did to improve your field
  - Describe your budget used for this field
  - Feel free to have sports groups in your photo

**SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY:**
Entries are to be submitted, postmarked and must be received by September 25, 2007. Entries are limited to 10 color photos. Please include the name, location and owner of the facility, along with your name, position, and contact number.

Mail to:
SFMANJ, 2007 FOY Contest
PO Box 102
Allendale, NJ 07401

**AWARDS:**
Winner will be honored with a plaque at New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December 2007 and will be featured in an in-house SFMANJ newsletter. This winner will also receive a two-night stay at the Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City and three-day education and trade show admission at Expo 2007.

**NOTE:**
Photos will not be returned and may be used on SFMANJ website and promotional settings.

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**SETTLING YOUR LINES RIGHT WITH THE EMPHASIS ON STENCILING**

(prepared for page 4)

Preparations for painting: For best results, move the turf (at least where the lines are) before painting. In dry weather, avoid painting right after mowing unless you give the turf some water. This will help prevent a burning effect. Avoid painting wet grass. Paint does not adhere well to wet grass. To remove dew, cover two 100 foot water hoses and with a person on each end, start in the end zone and drag the hose the length of the field.

Paint Can Tips:
- Before shaking, tap the can with your hand to gently break the marble loose, then shake vigorously to thoroughly mix the paint. If you store aerosol cans upside down, it will make it easier to break the marble loose. Avoid temperature extremes. In cold weather, fill a 5 gallon pail with hot water, and put the aerosol cans in to keep them warm. Some brands of spray paint have adjustable tips on the can that can rotate to make a wide or narrow line.

Mixing Paint:
- Dilute (if necessary) your paint per the paint or spray manufacturer recommendations. Mix paint by pouring bucket to bucket, or, use a drill powered mixing device or use a bulk paint dispenser with agitation mixing. For best results, always strain the product before adding to the paint sprayer.

Mixing Paint:
- Always string your lines for the best results.
- If you are painting lines on dry infield dirt, first moisten the dirt with water. This will prevent the paint beading up in the dust. Remember that when painting lines, your gait will influence not only the quality of the line (straightness, brightness and width) but also how much paint you will use.

Paint Removal:
- If you make a mistake, be sure to keep an aerosol can of green paint or some turf colorant handy as an “eraser.” I use a long handle, soft bristle truck washing brush and some mild soapy water as well as water hose for paint removal when necessary.

Paint removal:
- If you make a mistake, be sure to keep an aerosol can of green paint or some turf colorant handy as an “eraser.” I use a long handle, soft bristle truck washing brush and some mild soapy water as well as water hose for paint removal when necessary.

Sports field graphics make the game easier to play on and watch. Sharp looking field graphics draw the eyes away from field imperfections such as wear. It helps to create team pride, shows the beauty of your field and showcases the talents of you and your crew.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and SFMANJ Board Member