The new seeds will need to be irrigated with frequent light applications until they have started to become established. Any fertilizer applications should be based on need as determined from the soil test.

When time is extremely limited one can either prime or pre-germinate the seed for a quicker establishment. Priming the seed is pre-imbibing it with water so when the seed comes in contact with the soil, it is ready to germinate. To do this, place the seed in a burlap bag than soak in a large container of lukewarm water (aerating with a fish tank bubbler helps but is not completely necessary) for about 24 hours than drain and air dry so it can be spread. Pre-germinating is taking this idea a step further; the seed can be placed on damp paper in a warm location (70-75 °F) until most can be seen emerging form the seed. With the pre-germinated seed the plants are already growing when they first contact the soil. The drawback to either of these tricks is that the seed will be more susceptible to mechanical damage or fungi as you prepare it, so it is best to sow the seed/seedlings by hand (making this not practical for large areas) to minimize the physical damage.

Craig Tolley is Professor, County College of Morris; and President, SFMANJ.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cold water insoluble nitrogen (CWIN) is fertilizer nitrogen that is not soluble in cold water at 77-degrees F.

Cold water soluble nitrogen (CWSN) is fertilizer nitrogen that is soluble in cold water at 77-degrees F.

WELCOME NEW & RENEWED SFMANJ MEMBERS

Currently we have 275 new & renewed members. In December 2007, SFMANJ mailed invoices for 2008 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 908-730-7770 or download the membership form available at www.sfmanj.org. Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801.

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Inside This Issue

Welcome New & Renewed Members .................. 3
Membership Form ..................................... 3
SFMANJ Board of Directors ...................... 3
SFMA Regional Field Day • Photos ............ 7
Time For Change .................................. 8
Expo2008 Sports Field Managers Program ....... 8
2008 Proud Sponsors ................................ 9
2008 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day ........................ 10
SFMANJ Vendors Recognition .................... 12
Calendar of Events ................................ 14
Turf Renovation ................................... 15
SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest 2008 ....... 17

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