QUESTIONS AND ANSWER WITH DR. JAMES MURPHY

Q Is there any benefit to be gained by spraying off existing vegetation with a glyphosate product (i.e. Roundup PRO) prior to tilling with a Rota-dairon to a depth of 6.0 to 8.0" as opposed to tilling in green vegetation?

My objective is to add lime based on recommendations and till the existing infield topsoil before stripping it to install select fill material.

A Tilling in green vegetation isn't necessarily a problem - depends what the vegetation is and how dense/thick it is. I would spray off if there are any difficult to control perennial weeds present - tilling won't kill all vegetation and surviving plant material will re-invade including the existing turfgrasses. Also, any large "mats" of dense/thick vegetation will form clumps in the tilled soil which may present problems during final grading and smoothing operations.

Dr. James Murphy is Turfgrass Management Extension Specialist, Rutgers University; and SFMANJ Advisor

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