Currently we have 287 new & renewed members. In December 2008, SFMANJ mailed invoices for 2009 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 856-514-3179 or download the membership form available at www.sfmanj.org. Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

Robert Autorino  Paramus Board of Education
Anthony T. Benfield  Sodexo/Williamstown HS
Richard B. Cooke  The Pingry School
Brian Gjelvik  Section Turf
Kevin Grundlock  TurfTrade
Gary Iulg  Cumberland Regional HS
Mike Linkewich  Section Turf
David Los  Student

Dr. James Murphy is Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University; Sean Connell, Georgia Golf Construction; Craig Tolley, County College of Morris, and SFMANJ Advisor Brad Park at Sports Turf Res. & Ed Coord, Rutgers University and Editor, SFMANJ Update.

Welcome New & Renewed SFMANJ Members

A: Currently there are no practical chemical options to address annual bluegrass on football fields, particularly given the need to continually apply seed to the heaviest trafficked sections of the field (i.e. between the hash marks). Keep an eye out for the registration of Bensulide Herbicide for sports fields. It's currently available for sod farms and golf courses and will provide pre-emergence control of annual bluegrass AND allow some seeding flexibility.

In the meantime, I suggest seeding the sections of the annual bluegrass-collapsed sections of the field with perennial ryegrass. A gray leaf spot mark (i.e. perennial ryegrass) before the annual bluegrass re-encroaches (either from seed or from existing plants which have collapsed, formed a void, and appear ‘dead’). Any targeted core aerification, core re-incorporation, and low spots through routine grooming (without moving infield mix into high and the avoidance of adding infield mix on an annual basis - which gradually raises the infield elevation relative to the surrounding areas.

Generally, neglected skin surfaces most benefit from lip removal/ removal and a management program that involves the elimination of high and low spots through routine grooming (without moving infield mix into nearby turf areas), attention to the pitcher’s mound and home plate areas, and the avoidance of adding infield mix on an annual basis - which gradually raises the infield elevation relative to the surrounding areas.

Dr. James Murphy & Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University, and SFMANJ Advisor Brad Park at Sports Turf Res. & Ed Coord, Rutgers University and Editor, SFMANJ Update.

Q: I am having a problem with annual bluegrasses on my main football field. We have always had it in a few spots but this year it just took over the field and it didn’t shut off about a month ago. Naturally everyone is in a tizzy over it because our field always looks good. I’ve heard you speak on the subject a few times so that is why I am reaching out to you. If there is any advice or literature you have and can send to me I would really appreciate it. I really need some help.

Q: We are interested in receiving advice regarding a baseball infield that has collapsed for years. It is a dirt infield and we would like to put down a grass infield. Any suggestions on where to start?

A: Although not as aesthetically pleasing as a turfgrass infield, dirt infields are generally easier to maintain and, in most cases, are the most appropriate for municipal/parks and recreation facilities. Turfgrass infields, while appropriate for higher-maintenance facilities, often develop lips rather quickly due to mismanagement, a lack of management, or both.

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