

Perspective on 2011

By Brad Park

& Looking Ahead to 2012

Late fall marks the end of the fall sports season (and hopefully a needed break for many sports fields), the Detroit Lions and Dallas Cowboys playing home games on Thanksgiving, the annual New Jersey Green Expo in Atlantic City, and some much-needed downtime that many of us are afforded between Christmas and New Years.

It's also a time to look back on 2011 and to peer forward into 2012.

The year got-off to quick start on the legislative front with the passage of the 2011 New Jersey Fertilizer Law. Praised by some as the 'toughest set of laws regulating fertilizer in the Nation', elements of the law went into effect upon the legislation's passage including blackout dates restricting fertilizer applications and language requiring spills to be cleaned-up on impervious surfaces. In 2012, professional fertilizer applicators will require certification (there is also a provision for 'trained' applicators), nitrogen rates will be restricted, and the application of phosphorous will be limited to locations where soil testing indicates it is necessary or where turf is being established or repaired.

A potential unintended consequence of this new Law is the termination of existing fertilization programs due to certification requirements, uncertainty over annual and per application nitrogen limits, blackout dates, and other specifics contained in the Law. This Law should **NOT** serve as a reason to stop fertilizing sports fields and grounds. Log on to <http://profact.rutgers.edu>, read the educational modules, re-refresh what you already know about turfgrass fertilization, take the certification test, and **PUT IT ON YOUR RESUME** that you have attained this certification. In addition to my Commercial Pesticide Applicator License, I will become a Certified Professional Fertilizer Applicator – after I pass the test ...

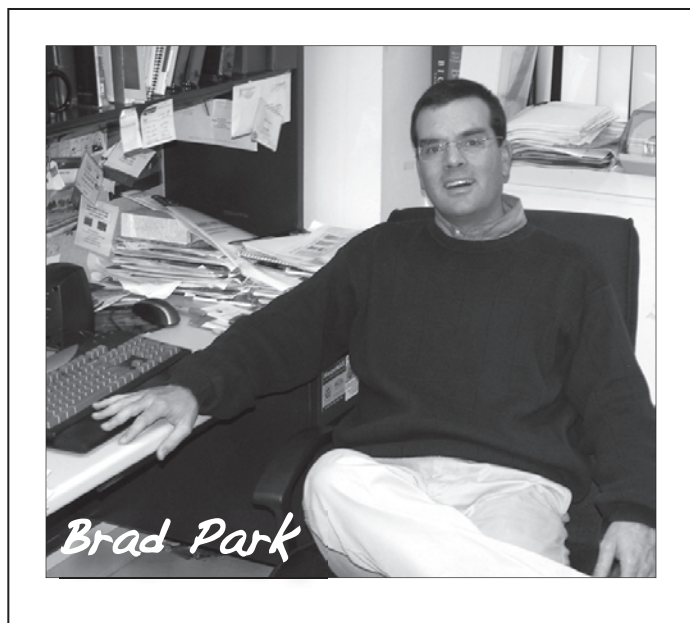
The Safe Playing Fields Act was introduced in both chambers of the New Jersey State Legislature and will, if signed into Law in its current form, ban the use of synthetic pesticides on the grounds of child care centers, schools and sports fields in municipal, county and State Parks. Exceptions will be made in cases where it is deemed that there is an immediate threat to human health.

Passage of the Safe Playing Fields Act **will** affect how sports field surfaces are managed in the State of New Jersey. The removal of conventional pesticides for control of white grubs and summer annual weeds such as crabgrass and knotweed will present a significant challenge for sports field managers working in public arenas such as schools, municipalities, and counties.

Issues Not Going Away Anytime Soon: The dilemma of what to do with aging synthetic fields in New York City was featured prominently in a *SportsTurf Insider* email blast dated November 9, 2011. Provocatively titled, *NYC's synthetic turf gamble: a \$300M mistake?* the article stated that, "over the past 12 years New York City has borrowed an estimated \$300 million to put 204 artificial-turf fields at parks, schools and playgrounds."

Furthermore, "relentlessly pitched as a financial boon, plastic grass has turned into a pricey time bomb. As more fields hit the end of their useful lives, the city faces the prospect—and increased expense—of reconstructing them. The price of new turf fields to replace the current, damaged ones is rising. And installing a new turf field requires the expensive task of disposing off the old one—meaning the shift to turf may have been a costly gamble."

Lastly, the article indicated that, "in a random survey of 56 artificial fields this summer ... 25, or 46 percent, [are] in serious state of disrepair, with gaps, tears and holes forming obvious trip hazards. At least 14 fields had minor damage, but without fixes, their defects are sure to grow worse."



Brad Park, Rutgers University, was elected to the SFMANJ Board of Directors in 2003 and has served as Editor of SFMANJ Update beginning with publication of the November/December 2005 issue.

Continued on page 15

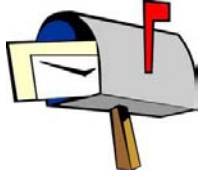


Scott Bills, CSFM
Golf, Sports Field and Turf Consultant

C: 908.268.8866
F: 908.996.7818

Corporate
PO Box 265
Bound Brook, NJ 08805
908.647.0159
www.greenpromaterials.com

COMING SOON! TO A MAILBOX NEAR YOU



Your 2012 registration forms.

Please keep our records and next year's Directory up to date by making any changes or additions to your name, position, address, phone or email, and returning the form with your payment. Thank you!

Continued from page 5

Perspective on 2011 & Looking Ahead to 2012

Anyone who has followed the sports turf industry in New Jersey is aware that the Garden State has been fertile ground for synthetic field installations during the past 10 years – many of these surfaces now reaching the point of replacement. The costs associated with tear-out, disposal, and re-surfacing that were, in many cases, overlooked prior to installation are now crystallizing.

On a personal note, congratulations to Don Savard, CSFM, CGM for three years of outstanding service as SFMANJ President. During his tenure, SFMANJ has hosted numerous successful Field Days, continued to award student scholarships, remained financially solvent, as well as improved its national visibility and reputation as the New Jersey Chapter of Sports Turf Managers Association. Thanks, Don!

Best of luck to all for 2012!

Brad

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update.

You're Always Ahead of the Game with a COVERMASTER® Raincover...

"Great Service..., The Best..."

wrote **Chip Baker**, Asst. Baseball Coach,
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Chip's comments confirm what we hear from the many groundskeepers who use a COVERMASTER® raincover to keep their fields dry and ready for play.

Call us and we'll gladly tell you more.

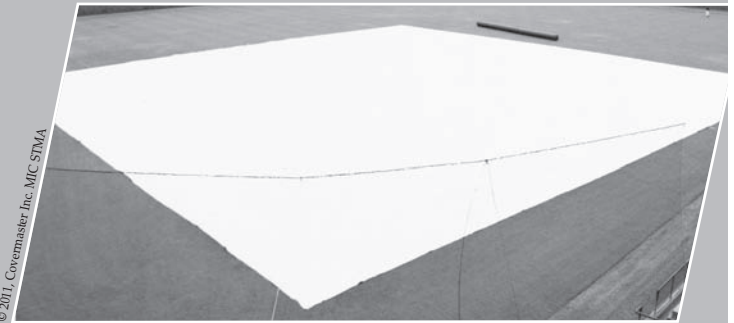
The COVERMASTER® Advantage...

- Superior in strength and UV resistance
- Outstanding heat reflective properties
- Light weight - easy to handle
- Widest materials for least number of seams
- Largest choice of weights and colors
- Backed by truly dependable warranties

TARP MACHINE VIDEO!

Call, fax or e-mail for a free video, material samples and a brochure.

© 2011, Covermaster Inc. MFC-STMA



Covers for football and soccer fields are also readily available.



TARP MACHINE™ lets you roll the cover on and off in minutes.



TARPMATE™ roller comes in 3 lengths with safety end caps.

COVERMASTER™ COVERMASTER COVERMASTER

MASTERS IN THE ART OF SPORTS SURFACE COVERS

CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-387-5808

covermaster.com

E-MAIL: info@covermaster.com

COVERMASTER INC., 100 WESTMORE DR. 11-D, REXDALE, ON, M9V 5C3 TEL 416-745-1811 FAX 416-742-6837

MEMBER

SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

STADIUM
MANAGERS
ASSOCIATION

