



Making Plans for NEXT YEAR

by Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

How well did your sports field do this past year? Did it look and play as you expected it to? Are you satisfied with the results? Many sports field managers' review the past year and make plans (and budgets) now for the upcoming year. It is time to take an honest, hard look at how well the 2012 program worked so that you will know what to keep and what to change. Not sure where to start? Here's a hint: Ask your crew, your owners and user groups for their thoughts. Their answers might surprise you.

Were there any injuries on your fields? Safety is always a good place to start. Even if you were fortunate that nobody had an injury, there may be problems out there waiting to happen. You probably have walked by these potential accidents so many times that you don't notice them anymore. Ask a qualified third party (such as a trusted fellow sports field manager from another facility) to bring fresh eyes to your site. You will be amazed at what someone else will find questionable at your facility. Be sure to document every deficiency with a digital camera, then correct and document again after the corrections are made.

Do your fields play well? Are the surfaces fast or slow enough for the level of play? Do balls roll or bounce with expected predictability? Coaches and players (including those from visiting teams) can give you important feedback. You won't know unless you ask! Drastic changes like buying new mowing equipment might make a big improvement, but, so can subtle changes like adjusting mowing heights or mowing frequency.

Many of us have to schedule our cultural practices around the field users. Do we have the flexibility to adjust our schedules so that we don't have to mow grass when it covered with dew? Can early morning, evening or weekend work schedules be used to safely perform tasks that would otherwise not have time to be done?

How effective is your irrigation? The goal here is to provide enough water to the turf when it needs it, factoring in the amount of natural rainfall and the normal moisture loss due to

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Dr. Henry W. Indyk Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Science

As many of you know, the turfgrass industry lost a dear friend and colleague in September 2005. We will all miss Henry very much and would like to insure that his legacy lives on. The Indyk family would like to establish a memorial fellowship to support graduate students interested in applied turfgrass science. This fellowship is being created to help assure that tomorrow's graduate students have the financial resources to get an advanced degree in turfgrass science at Rutgers University. To fund a full graduate assistantship each year in Henry's name, we will need to raise a total of \$400,000. Your generous support at this time will bring us closer to reaching this goal.

To make a tax-deductible contribution today, please send a check payable to the Rutgers University Foundation, 7 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Be sure to indicate "Indyk Fellowship, Turfgrass" in the memo portion of your check. If you desire, you may provide a donation in the form of a pledge payable over several years.

*For information on other ways to support this fellowship, please contact
Dr. Bruce B. Clarke, Director – Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science
(732) 932-9400, ext. 331; or clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu or
John Pearson, Director of Leadership Gifts at the Foundation, by calling
(732) 932-7899 or email: pearson@winants.rutgers.edu*



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Deadline for the Fall issue
is November 12

New Jersey GREEN EXPO

Turf & Landscape Conference

Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort, Atlantic City, NJ

2012 Sports Field Managers Expo Program

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2012

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00 – 1:45 **Establishing pest threshold levels on school grounds**

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM, Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE

1:45 – 2:15 **Turf selection to minimize pesticide inputs on school sports fields and grounds**

Vickie Wallace, University of Connecticut

2:15 – 2:45 **Cultural strategies to reduce weed encroachment on school sports fields and grounds**

Dr. Roch Gaussoin, University of Nebraska

2:45 – 3:00 **SFMANJ Field of the Year Presentation**

3:00 – 4:00 **The NJ School IPM Law: What you need to know to comply**

Dr. Roy Meyer and Tim Boyle, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection, Pesticide Control Program

4:00 – 7:00 **Trade show**

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5, 2012

MORNING SESSION

7:30 - 8:30 **Early bird sports field managers**

Networking roundtable

8:30 – 9:00 **Annual Business Meeting**

9:00 – 9:30 **The year in review**

Brad Park, Rutgers University

9:30 – 10:15 **Sports field management at Hammonton High School**

Frank LoSasso, Hammonton BOE

10:15-11:00 **Best management practices for high traffic sports fields**

Vickie Wallace, University of Connecticut

11:00-11:30 **Cultivation practices for sports fields**

Dr. Doug Karcher, University of Arkansas

AFTERNOON SESSION

2:30 – 3:00 **Management of sports fields & grounds in Monroe Township, NJ**

Virgil Caputo, Monroe Township, NJ

3:30 – 5:00 **Tales from the Minor Leagues**

*Ryan Hills, Trenton Thunder
Will Reardon, Newark Bears
Dan Purner, Somerset Patriots*



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evaporation and plant transpiration (evapotranspiration). Does your soil absorb the water being delivered, or is there runoff and puddling? Is the distribution uniform or are there both saturated and dry spots? Does the time of day that you irrigate promote plant health or plant disease? An irrigation audit is a useful tool to measure how efficiently your irrigation system and watering program is working. For information on how to conduct an irrigation audit, visit the Irrigation Association website: www.irrigation.org. Not only does smart irrigation promote better turfgrass health, it saves money and does not waste your time.

Fertilizer certification and School IPM laws have been getting plenty of attention in New Jersey (and elsewhere) lately. Take the time to read and completely understand what is being asked of you. While there are some new guidelines to follow, you will still be allowed to perform the tasks of feeding turf and managing weeds, insects and diseases. Regularly scheduled soil tests and scouting for problems allows you to customize your program to your environmental conditions. Based on my sports field's soil test results, I have been able to eliminate Phosphorus and Potassium from some fertilizer applications without sacrificing quality and saving lots of money. "P" and "K" are expensive. Why buy it if you don't need it?

The end of the year is a good time to ask yourself how well you interacted with and treated the people around you. These include your family, coworkers, bosses, user groups and the people who sell to you and provide you with services. If your relationships with any or all of those people are damaged, look inward and try to find some understanding of the problem and what part you might have played. I can attest (from firsthand experience) that some of my damaged relationships improved when I reached out and made amends.

Lastly, what have you done for yourself lately in terms of personal and professional development? Have you taken a class, or read a book lately. Personal development keeps you sharp and competitive. It energizes you and gives you personal power. Remember, if you are not pedaling, you are coasting, and if you coast long enough, you are headed downhill.

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); Certified Grounds Manager (CGM), Sports Turf Manager, Salesianum School, Wilmington Delaware; Past-President, SFMANJ; and current member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.



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