

UPDATE Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

Summer 2015
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P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070 • 856-514-3179 • www.sfmanj.org • e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

RUTGERS LAWN, LANDSCAPE AND SPORTS TURF FIELD DAY

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday,
July 29, 2015

Including SFMANJ-Sponsored Table Top Trade Show

By Brad Park

The Summer Field Day Returns to the Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm for 2015



New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA), Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ), and Rutgers University will again collaborate to hold the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day. Following a two-year absence, this year's event will return to Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, Adelphia, NJ on Wednesday, July 29, 2015.

A trade show will be sponsored and administered by SFMANJ and is open to all vendors who sell products and services to the Green Industry. Coffee, bagels, Danish pastries, etc. will be served during the trade show. The trade show provides a great opportunity for attendees to network with other Green Industry professionals and examine the latest product offerings from Industry-supporting vendors.

After opening remarks from Rutgers University representatives, the education portion of the program will begin at 9:00 am. Groups will rotate between three tour stops per hour. Back for 2015 is the inclusion of sports field and landscape equipment demonstrations into the tour stops. Two stops will consist of turfgrass education; one stop will consist of a SFMANJ-sponsored equipment demonstration. The Summer Field Day has proven to be a great venue for vendors to show their latest equipment offerings and for attendees to observe equipment being operated in-the-field. There will be four 3-stop rotations between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.

Educational highlights include herbicide efficacy trials (including tough-to-control False Green Kyllinga) and

continued on page 14

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Currently we have 231 new & renewed members. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey mailed invoices for 2015 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.

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Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers by improving the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields at all levels through seminars, field days, publications and networking with those in the sports turf industry.

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Sports Turf Managers Association
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SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.



A Message from the President . . .

Summer has always been my favorite season of the year.

by Rich Watson



I am not a big fan of winter. I have plowed and shoveled enough snow for one lifetime. Winter seems like it will never end and I spend most of it wondering when the weather will warm up.

Summer is a different story. When I open the door in the morning, I don't cringe from the bone chilling temps. I don't look ahead for colder weather and it seems like there is always something to do outside when the weather is warm. No offense to winter fans but I bear the scars from working outside for many harsh winters.

Summer is king and New Jersey is a great place to live when it comes to professional sports venues for summer events. Professional soccer, Major and Minor League Baseball, Professional as well as Major College football all are within driving distance from anywhere in New Jersey.

Warm weather has always been connected to baseball for me. Playing the game as a kid, it has always been part of summer. As an adult, I make it to several major league games a year and find myself waking up on the couch after watching many more.

I live in the southern portion of our great state and can get to see a Phillies game in about twenty minutes. The same can be said for those of you in the northern half of the state that can get to see the Yankees and Mets play with relative ease (ticket prices not included in that statement).

I really enjoy a summer's night at the ballpark (truth be told, something I don't enjoy enough). The game itself is great. It is still

"America's Pastime" but I also enjoy watching the grounds crew work their magic on the field. The pregame transformation from warmup to game ready is a thing of beauty. It's nice to get there early and watch the process unfold.

Over the years I have tried to reproduce the type of pregame maintenance on my high school field that I witnessed at the pro level and had some success. We never had the time or manpower to do everything like the big leaguers but we used some of the concepts like water management, painting the bases as well as the pitching rubber and home plate, striping of the turf, bullpen maintenance and a general cleaning of the area around the field.

Even though it was a high school game, we wanted the teams and spectators to feel like they were at a special event. Those are some things that can be done no matter what your budget is. Some of my fondest memories as a groundskeeper took place just before a game talking to coaches, players, umpires and sometimes spectators about how we made our high school field feel like a pro stadium. There were days when I would wonder if all the hard work was worth it. Those special moments I spent talking about my craft with people who really appreciated what we were doing made all the hard work seem like it had a purpose.

Find your moment and have a great summer.

*Rich Watson is Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, Deptford Township Schools, and SFMANJ President
(email: Wats100@msn.com; phone: 856.832.7623)*

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How to Conduct an IPM Scouting Expedition



Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Let's suppose your facility follows an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program and has in place a written an IPM policy. This policy which describes how the plan will be implemented, offers a guideline for what the thresholds are for insect populations, disease pressures, even damages such as traffic wear or drought stress. These thresholds might be based on economics (the cost of treatment vs. the cost of the pest damage) or aesthetics (when it looks bad enough). The document might even specify what control measures will be utilized or when and how they are to be implemented. Now it is your job to scout the landscape for pest problems. Where do you start?

The site survey and inventory.

Before you begin scouting, you must develop a site map showing prominent features such as buildings, pavement, turf areas, trees, and bodies of water. Indicate where North is and show how water drains on to and off the site. This map will help you see the big picture especially if you are trying to diagnose a problem that doesn't have any easy to find clues. All of the prominent features can have a direct or indirect effect on plant health. Shade, heat from pavements, and bodies of water all influence microclimates which have an effect on plant or pest viability.

Next, identify and list all of the plant materials on your site including those that have been installed and those growing naturally. Indicate their location on your map. Note the age and condition of the plant material. You really have to know what you are looking at, it's culture and especially know what healthy is supposed to look like. Obtain the square foot measurements for the turf, tree and planting areas as this information will be useful in case you must take some kind of corrective action. Begin to record the local weather conditions such as temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind speeds and cloud cover. Keep before and after pictures of your site for additional documentation.

What are you looking for?



You will be looking for abnormalities in the plant growth or health. If you know what healthy (for a particular plant) is supposed to look like, finding the abnormalities will become more apparent for the observant IPM scout. Abnormalities in plant health can be triggered by either (or a combination of) biotic or abiotic factors. A Biotic factor is any living component that affects another organism. Biotic causes of damage include insect (or other organism pests), bacterial, viral and fungal diseases. Abiotic factors are non-living chemical and physical components in the environment. This would include soil problems, weather related causes of damages (such as heat, cold, wind, sun, shade, drought and flooding), mechanical injury (such as traffic, wear, cultivation and other physical phenomenon).

How to scout for problems.

First, step back and consider the "big picture" of the site as a whole and observe whether or not it is well cared for and healthy or not.

For every observation made, pose the question "why or why not". As you begin to examine the plant materials, look at its micro environment and be sure to examine the plants from all angles including both sides of the leaves. If you subscribe to a weekly IPM scouting publication offered by your local cooperative extension services, you can zero in on specific targets and pests for that time period. The idea is to move systematically and efficiently through the site. Record what you see. Because your IPM plan should include economic or aesthetic thresholds, your records will provide quantifiable data to support whether or not an action should be taken.



Don't be fooled!

The presence of insects does not necessarily indicate that there is a problem. In a balanced ecology, there is a place for all of the creatures, both predators and prey. When this delicate balance is disturbed plant health will eventually become compromised.

Are you sure that the insect that you observe is not a beneficial insect. For example, big eyed bugs (*Geocoris* spp.) are a beneficial predator often confused with the chinch bug (*Blissus* spp.), which is a pest in turf. Capture, identify and confirm that the moths flying over the turf in a zigzag pattern are indeed sod webworm adults laying eggs in the turf and not some benign flying insect.

Continued on page 8





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594 Halls Mills Road, Freehold NJ 07728

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

AGENDA

7:30 AM TO 9:00 AM

Registration & Open Trade Show

Table Top Presentation: ID and Management of Landscape Turf Insect Pests

9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM

Stop #1 Update on the 2011 NJ Fertilizer Law

Stop #2 Preemergence and postemergence herbicides for control of crabgrass
and
Postemergence herbicides for control of broadleaf weeds

Stop #3 Equipment Demonstrations Sponsored by SFMANJ

10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

Stop #4 NTEP Tall Fescue Trial (2012) and Breeding for Brown Patch and Other Traits

Stop #5 Evaluating Herbicides for Efficacy on False Green Kyllinga
and
Evaluating Herbicides for Efficacy on Creeping Bentgrass in Kentucky Bluegrass Turf

Stop #6 Equipment Demonstrations Sponsored by SFMANJ

11:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

Stop #7 Fine Fescue Screening for Disease Resistance, and Mesotrione Tolerance

Stop #8 2013 Kentucky Bluegrass Low-Maintenance Test and 2011 NTEP Kentucky Bluegrass Test

Stop #9 Equipment Demonstrations Sponsored by SFMANJ

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Stop #10 2014 Fine Fescue NTEP trial

Stop #11 2010 NTEP Perennial Ryegrass and Traffic Tolerance Test

Stop #12 Equipment Demonstrations Sponsored by SFMANJ

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Lunch

2:00 TO 2:30 PM

Core Training (Optional): Fit Enough to Wear a Respirator

Calendar of Events

RUTGERS TURFGRASS RESEARCH FIELD DAYS

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PEST THRESHOLDS IN NEW JERSEY

Posted on Twitter by Dr. Jim Brosnan on December 20, 2014

Last week I had the pleasure of speaking at the New Jersey Green Expo in Atlantic City, NJ. This is one of the marquee annual events hosted by the New Jersey Turfgrass Association for golf course superintendents, sports field managers, and lawn care professionals working in the New York/New Jersey area. As Pat Jones (@PatJonesTweets) from Golf Course Industry noted, this is an exceptionally well run program, at a great venue, with great attendance.

My presentations were part of an educational track targeted towards sports field managers in New Jersey. Individuals managing football, baseball, and soccer fields in that state face unique challenges in regards to not only fertilizer applications but also pesticide use. The theme of our session was on integrated management of turfgrass pests on athletic fields using both chemical and cultural strategies.

What impressed me the most about this session was the number of audience members working towards determining thresholds for pesticide applications, particularly herbicide applications for control of problematic weeds that can reduce field safety. Public perception throughout much of our industry is that athletic field turf (and really turf in general) is blanketed with pesticide applications that are not needed. Those within the industry understand that this is not the case whatsoever but we need to improve how we communicate that

point to the general public. Herbicides are important tools that remove weeds that can

compromise not only the aesthetics of athletic field turf but also increase athletes' likelihood of suffering surface-related injuries. For example, recent research from UT has illustrated that the presence of weeds such as crabgrass (*Digitaria* spp.) and white clover (*Trifolium repens*) on athletic fields can increase athletes' likelihood of suffering concussions from head-to-surface impacts.

On a facility-by-facility basis, turf managers in NJ are documenting pest thresholds that warrant treatment which has helped them justify targeted use of herbicides for removing problematic weeds on their fields. Kudos to them for setting an example that others throughout our industry can follow to help communicate the integrated pest management practices used by so many turfgrass managers that often go unnoticed by the public.

Dr. Jim Brosnan is the head of the turfgrass weed science research and extension program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN and was a speaker on the Sports Field Managers Program at the NJ Green Expo in Atlantic City in December 2014.



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How to Conduct an IPM Scouting Expedition

Very often unhealthy looking turf and plant materials appear to have insect or disease damage when in fact the damage was of an abiotic cause. For example, the irregular off color patterns in turf may not be a fungal disease but rather an indication that an irrigation head might be functioning improperly. Finding the real source of the problem is your objective. Keep in mind that plants may not necessarily succumb because of just one cause of death, but often to secondary and tertiary causes. Keep an open mind and be observant!

Essential tools you will need for IPM investigation.

For examination:

- 10X Hand lens, (Binoculars for looking into trees)
- Flashlight
- Thermometers, (soil and ambient air)
- Measuring tape
- Sharp Knife and Pruning shears
- Soil probe, Spade or Trowel
- Bucket, Soil screen sieve

For sample collection:

- Sweep net and shake cloth
- Traps
- Plastic specimen bags and bottles
- Sturdy cooler, Bubble wrap
- Rubbing alcohol for preservation and disinfection

For documentation:

- Camera and Notebook
- Portable voice recorder
- For Reference Materials:
- Text books
- Field Guides
- Weekly IPM scouting reports from your local university Cooperative Extension Service.

Responsible stewardship is “the name of the game”.

It is unlikely you would return to an automobile mechanic who made repairs on your car based on guess work rather than careful investigation and diagnosis of the problem. Skilled IPM practitioners who scout properly and follow their program protocols face fewer plant healthcare problems and manage their sites safely, cost effectively and with fewer inputs. At this point you will prepare a scouting report and compare your findings to your IPM Threshold Policy. This will influence the decision of what actions will be taken.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM), Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Grounds and Athletic Facilities Manager, Salesianum School; and SFMANJ Past-President



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Spring Field Day 2015 Recap

By Bernard Luongo

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey held its Annual Spring Field Day on Wednesday, April 7, 2015. The Field Day was a split session, with the morning being held at the Eastampton Sports Complex on Millcreek Road, Eastampton, NJ and the afternoon session at the new synthetic track and field at Rancocas Valley Regional High School (RVRHS) in Mt. Holly, NJ.

The day began with light showers and a geometry lesson on how to properly put together a stubborn canopy by our resident chef and SFMANJ Past-President, Don Savard, CSFM, CGM, who served up another great lunch of Dirty Water Dogs (his secret recipe). Thank you, Don.

Also a big thank you to Mike Nicotra from The Turf Trade for supplying ample bagels and spreads for our continental breakfast. Thank you again, Mike.

The morning session started off with the Trade Show, shortly followed by a talk on reducing herbicide use on school sports fields and grounds by Brad Park, Rutgers University. Also from Rutgers University, Dr. James Murphy spoke on the Fertilizer Law and compliance when it comes to sports field nutrient management.

Scott Klein, RVRHS Head Grounds Keeper and host of the Spring Field Day, spoke about softball field maintenance and also on synthetic field maintenance during the afternoon session.

Chuck Hicks, Redexim, North America gave an informative talk on Frazee Mowing to finish out the educational portion of the morning session.

After lunch we moved to the Rancocas Valley High School's new track and synthetic multi-purpose field where guest speaker, Lee Defreitas of Shaw Sports Turf, spoke on turf systems and technical specifications for synthetic fields.

Rounding-out the afternoon was guest speaker, Tony Leonard, Philadelphia Eagles Head Sports Turf Manager. He shared some techniques he uses at the Philadelphia Eagles synthetic practice fields. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey would like to thank all our speakers, trade show participants, Mr. Scott Klein and his crew along with the Rancocas Valley Regional Board of Education for supporting the Spring Field Day. The day ended with the issuing of Pesticide and Fertilizer credits. Thank you all again, to all who participated, for a very successful day.

Bernard Luongo is Lead Groundsperson, Northern Burlington County Regional School District, Columbus, NJ; and SFMANJ Vice-President.



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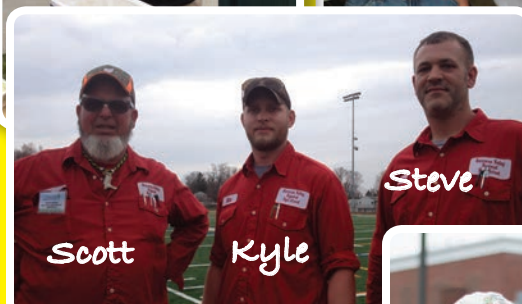
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SFMANJ Spring Field Day

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Rancocas Valley Regional High School
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Photos by Debbie Savard and Adam Simmons

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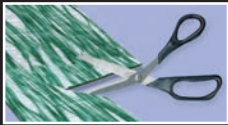
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Photos by Debbie Savard



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Field Day at Your Place

By Bernard Luongo

I remember my first field day, it was springtime and I had just joined Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ). I was hoping I would be able to learn something that would help me to not only do a better job, but to try to understand what I was trying to accomplish.



I was only a few years into my stint, coming in totally green (no pun intended). Now, what I am about to say might be amusing to some of you who know me, but I was a little timid not knowing anyone. Once I heard the speakers spewing their knowledge, I then immediately realized a major fact – “I knew nothing at all!” There was one thing that caught my attention and that was that this venue was definitely an educational one. Then the attendees started asking questions to the guest speakers and I learned there wasn’t a single foolish question to be had. Everyone seemed very accommodating. All who attended the event not only seemed to belong there, but were eager to share their experiences. They shared tips on how to help you through your adventure. At the time, it left quite an impression on me. Come to find out, it has been an everlasting impression for me.

I left that day wondering what I had just experienced and who these people were in this group. The gentleman who hosted this Spring Field Day Event was Mr. Kevin Shipman, who is a SFMANJ Board Member.

As my adventure continued, I attended more field days. Every event was different from the previous event, always learning and bringing something back from the day. These events give you the opportunity to meet new people in our industry; I believe that the high tech word is “Networking”. I like to refer to it as life experiences, always sharing. That is what I feel SFMANJ is all about, sharing the ups, downs and all arounds, no strings attached. You show up at a field day, it’s free, education, credits but most important – the side bar conversations. All day long, sharing today, yesterday, last week, 5 years ago – at your first Field Day. You have memories, laughs, smiles,

tears from laughter, usually at the expense of yourself, but that’s what makes it fun.

I hung around long enough in the turf world to host an SFMANJ Field Day at Northern Burlington County Regional School District. This was quite an experience – all the planning leading up to the main event, the nervousness, of being in the spot light. The SFMANJ Board was there every step of the way for us at Northern.

Now as a Board Member, I am part of the team that helps plan and alleviate a host’s anxieties of a field day. It all feels good. The business and personal relationships that have developed over the years is just awesome. Seeing people at our events and shouting out, “Hey, how ya doing? How are your fields? Bad winter, wet spring? Hey, how did you make out with that dry spell in the middle of fall sports? Did your irrigation system hold-up? Did you have a safe trip visiting your family? How was Expo for you? How was STMA?” These are all bonds that are developed over years.

Being a part of SFMANJ, hosting and attending field days, being involved, putting yourself in the way of opportunity to meet people that share your same interests. Being engaged. No one knows what is going to happen when you show up. No one knows what is going to happen if you show up and be engaged. So, it is in your control. Just show up, be engaged and be a part of what happens. You just might be the cause of it.

Bernard Luongo is Lead Groundsperson, Northern Burlington County Regional School District, Columbus, NJ; and SFMANJ Vice-President.

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Continued from cover

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tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, and perennial ryegrass variety trials – the three cool-season turfgrass species predominantly used by sports field managers in New Jersey. This edition of SFMANJ Update provides the Field Day agenda for July 29th.

Following the turfgrass education, a fine lunch will be served to all of those in attendance. The trade show will also be open during this time. Following lunch, New Jersey DEP pesticide recertification credits, pesticide credits from neighboring states per approval, and ProFACT fertilizer credits will be available to attendees. An optional CORE pesticide credit session will also be offered following lunch.

See you on July 29 at Adelphia!

Please note the following:

Attendees may register online by visiting the NJTA website: www.njturfgrass.org;
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Those **vendors** interested in reserving trade show space and equipment demonstrations are encouraged to contact SFMANJ for more information and appropriate paperwork
website: www.sfmanj.org;
Phone: 856.514.3179;
email mail@sfmanj.org

*Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers University;
Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter;
and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.*

See Field Day agenda on page 6



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Continued from page 3

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The Crabgrass Conundrum

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Part 2

In the last issue of Update, we discussed issues surrounding the use of preemergent grassy weed controls on sports turf. While preemergent grassy weed controls are somewhat effective on landscape turf, sports fields that receive springtime cleat traffic or aeration may have poor results.

As I write this, it is late April in Wilmington Delaware and the temperatures have been below average. Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) is making seedheads, soon, crabgrass will begin to germinate, along with goosegrass followed by yellow nutsedge (actually, not a grass but a sedge).

Postemergent annual grassy weed control is most effective when the plants are immature. Label rates for many herbicides increase as the plants develop more tillers. Timing is essential for good control and is probably the biggest obstacle for those who work for Park and Recreation and K-12 schools. After all, late spring is a time of many activities on and off the turf and fields are in high use. Finding time to close a field for treatment is often just not an option. Deferring a treatment until summer is sometimes the only practical option.

It has been my experience that many people misidentify the weeds they are targeting for control. To the untrained eye, many of these weeds look somewhat alike. Unfortunately, some herbicides that are effective on one plant may not work on another. It really is in your best interest to correctly identify what it is you are looking at. While space in this issue precludes detailed weed identification information, an internet search will provide good pictures and descriptions.

There are certain areas of my sports fields which always have weeds. Usually, these are heavy traffic areas where there is soil compaction. It is in these areas where I see the earliest evidence of crabgrass and goosegrass. Once I get an idea of what the weed population is, I can develop a strategy for how to control them. If it is a small, sparse population, I might just spot treat. If the weed population is intermixed throughout the turf stand, then I will have to make a blanket application of a control material.



Good weed identification will help you make the best choice of control materials. In addition, if your goal is to reduce herbicide applications, choosing the right control materials may help you to reduce the number of products and applications that would be required.

For example, consider this hypothetical high school sports field with the following common weeds:

- Crabgrass
- Foxtail
- Yellow nutsedge
- Dandelion
- Barnyardgrass
- Goosegrass
- Clover

Continued on page 16



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
(848) 932-6295, ext. 331; or clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu or*



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As good stewards of our sites, many of us use IPM best practices to manage our sports fields. Over time (and I mean years) fields will and do respond favorably to proper mowing, nutrient management, cultivation (aeration) and overseeding with improved turfgrass varieties. When weed populations persist and can no longer be tolerated by the property owners or decision makers, it is helpful to know of a few chemical tools in the agronomic toolbox.

Here are 3 commonly used herbicides that are labeled for grassy weed control on sports turf.

Quinclorac (Drive®) herbicide is labeled for crabgrass, barnyardgrass, and foxtail as well as broadleaf weeds such as clover, dandelion, black medic and wild violets. Unfortunately, is not labeled for goosegrass or yellow nutsedge. In many situations, Quinclorac could be a good choice, but not for our hypothetical sports field if we want to target goosegrass in addition to the other grassy weeds.

We might want to consider using Fenoxaprop-p-ethyl (Acclaim Extra®) to control our grassy weeds including goosegrass, but we will have no control of yellow nutsedge or clover or dandelion unless we add another herbicide for those other weeds. This is where it gets complicated. Phenoxy herbicides such as 2,4D and MCPP may reduce the effectiveness of Fenoxaprop-p-ethyl, although Triclopyr and Clopyralid (the active ingredients in Confront® herbicide) are compatible with Fenoxaprop-p-ethyl and are effective. Another problem is that Fenoxaprop-p-ethyl can damage young or newly seeded turfgrasses.

Mesotrione (Tenacity®) herbicide is labeled for crabgrass, goosegrass, barnyardgrass, yellow foxtail and yellow nutsedge, as

well as a number of common broadleaf weeds including clover and dandelion. In addition, it has both preemergent and postemergent herbicide properties when used as directed. The label gives specific instructions for using with new seedlings.

As you can see from these three examples, there are limitations for what works on what, where and how. It is up to the sports field manager to determine the limiting factors of what product to use and how. It is a good time to consider what your weed thresholds are for your specific site. For example, if yellow nutsedge is only visible from June until mid-September, but no one is using the field during that time, can you let it go this year while you concentrate on other weeds that need controls?

Be sure to thoroughly read, understand and follow the label directions with these and other pesticide products. Each product is different and could adversely affect your outcomes if used incorrectly. For the best results, consider a consultation with trusted colleagues before using chemical pesticide products. This way, you can make the best material choices and avoid having unintended consequences.

Good weed control in turf is the result of good turf management practices and is cumulative over time. There are no "silver bullets". Integrated pest and cultural management will yield the best agronomic results. Patience, understanding and good communication with all of the stakeholders of your site will help make the journey pleasant.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM), Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Grounds and Athletic Facilities Manager, Salesianum School; and SFMANJ Past-President

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GETTING BACK TO THE ROOTS

by Sarah Poole, Montco Products

Editor's note: This is a Spotlight on our Advertisers article submitted by Montco Products. If you are a newsletter advertiser, please feel free to submit an article to Update profiling your company, services, and/or products.

Growing up, I always knew that my grandfather had his own business, and that it was in some way related to the game of Golf. As a little girl, I wasn't particularly interested in learning about what he did, unless it involved me being able to spend time with him while he did it.

Who would have guessed that years later as a young woman, I would be sitting at company headquarters being utterly enthralled with the rich history that is our grandfather's company, Montco Products.

Those in the golf industry whom have met my grandfather will surely confirm our suspicions growing up—that is, Robert W. Oechsle has done something very important for turfgrass. When he founded Montco Products in 1969, Oechsle had already spent over a decade experimenting with surfactants, working to create the safest, most reliable blend. Today, I am proud to say that he succeeded with Surf Side, which continues to be the longest selling wetting agent available on the market.

The purpose of this article is not to promote product or encourage others to try Surf Side 37 (though we won't stop you if you do), but rather to discuss something deeper...to stop for a moment

and contemplate what we already know to be true about turfgrass. That is—It's the ever-strenuous duties of the superintendent who determines what is best, and it's the health of the grass plant that aids in his decision.

Flashy product advertising and shouting claims of New! or Improved! go unseen by turfgrass. The roots of the grass plant are not concerned with water droplet penetration speed, as they are still left at the mercy of the product blend once it reaches their delicate hairs. What seems to move water quickly and leaves the grass leaves unscathed, still must speak for its performance beneath the soil. What looks good above may wreak havoc below.

There is certainly something to be said for work that one can feel good about. Superintendents who once bent over to high-five Oechsle's little granddaughter now shake my hand and reminisce with me about their longtime love for and use of Surf Side 37. It's a feeling I wouldn't trade for the world. I have come to realize that doing good work has been most enjoyable because of the many experts in the field whom appreciate it. In every way imaginable, this granddaughter of a wetting agent sage would conclude that life is all about getting back to the roots.



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Greetings from
2015 Spring Field
Day

Wish you were
here ...

Photos by Adam Simmons



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Past issues of Update, dating from 2001 to the present can be accessed through the Michigan State University Libraries.

To access this archive, visit:
<http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/updat>

Navigating the new password protected area on our web site!


By Debbie Savard

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The user name for SFMANJ members will be their *first and last name* as it appears in the directory, using *all lower case letters* with no spaces. Use only the first and last name with no prefixes, suffixes or middle initials. Please check the Membership Directory, that you should have recently received in the mail, to see how your first name was entered.

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