

UPDATE Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

Summer 2016
Vol. 16, No. 2

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,
Aug 3, 2016

Including SFMANJ-Sponsored
Table Top Trade Show

Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm
Halls Mill Road, Freehold, NJ



See inside for more information

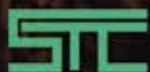
Also in this issue:
Management of Natural Turf
Sports Fields
The Basics of Maintaining
Synthetic Turf

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Currently we have 224 new & renewed members. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey mailed invoices for 2016 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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MISSION STATEMENT

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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National Organization

Sports Turf Managers Association
www.stma.org

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This newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the
Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

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SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.

A Message from the President

Take Pride...

By Bernard Luongo



By the time this message is being read....Spring Sports will be over. No more lining skins or natural turf fields. Worn out goal mouths and fields can be worked-on and rested so they can be worn out again for field hockey and soccer. No more fretting about keeping weeds out of skins for game time. For most of us there is major preparation for graduation, usually held in the stadium where football is played. Hopefully, there weren't too many spring games played on that field, so it will look it's best for the end of the school year and graduation.

These are the passing rites of spring that lead to summer and its own set of rites. Before you know it it's early August and the kids are back on the fields. With not even a chance to catch your breath the process begins again.

The point of this message is that it is all too easy to get caught up in the daily toils of starting maintainance and ending a season. Good cultural practices and maintaining a complexes landscape takes a

lot of time, so occasionally take a few steps back and take a deep breath. Take the time out to look at your properties. The ones you toil on daily: the athletic fields, the landscape, even the joints in the sidewalks.

Enjoy the beauty that you and your crew have maintained and made better during the course of your many days of hard work. You are the curators and guardians of the properties you work on. Your rewards are the athletes who play and the coaches who coach and the parents who come to see their children play on the properties you manage.

Know that on any given day you gave them the best and safest playing fields that you could deliver under the circumstances of the day or the season.

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

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RUTGERS

See page 17 for agenda

LAWN, LANDSCAPE AND SPORTS TURF FIELD DAY

Including SFMANJ-Sponsored Table Top Trade Show
Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm Halls Mill Road, Freehold, NJ

By Brad Park

SAVE THE DATE
Wednesday
Aug. 3, 2016

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. This year's event will again be held on Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, Freehold, NJ.

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. This year's Field Day will again incorporate sports field and landscape equipment demonstrations into the tour stops. Two 3-stop rotations will consist entirely of turfgrass education; two additional rotations consist of turfgrass education and 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. This edition of SFMANJ Update provides the Field Day agenda for August 3rd.

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 August 3 at Adelphia!

Please note the following:

Attendees may register online by visiting the NJTA website: www.njturfgrass.org
(o) 973.812.6467;
(email) execdirector@njturfgrass.org

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

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Management of Natural Turf Sports Fields - Part 4

By Brad Park and Dr. Jim Murphy

Editor's Note: This article was derived from a new Rutgers Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet (a revision of Maintaining Athletic Fields FS105)

Integrated Pest Management (continued)

Weed Control



Grassy weeds (crabgrass, goosegrass, annual bluegrass, etc.) and broadleaf weeds (dandelion, white clover, prostrate knotweed, etc.) are highly opportunistic plants that can invade sports fields after play has reduced turfgrass cover and exposed bare soil. Midfields, goal creases, and other high traffic areas are very susceptible to the encroachment of these weeds. Practices that control traffic and maintain a dense turfgrass cover, as described previously, will significantly reduce the encroachment of weeds.

When broadleaf weed infestations exceed a threshold for a specific management zone, selective herbicides (active ingredients: 2,4-D, dicamba, MCPA, MCPP, triclopyr, clopyralid, fluroxypyr, etc.) can be used to reduce weed populations below the threshold. Fall and spring are the most appropriate times to apply herbicides for broadleaf weeds. For those sports fields receiving regular overseeding, new seedlings should be mowed 2 to 4 times before applying a broadleaf herbicide. Always carefully read and follow pesticide labels.

Sports fields and grounds with a history of crabgrass or goosegrass indicate there is a problem with maintaining adequate turf density and cover during the spring. A management program review should be performed to determine if adjustments can be made to improve turf cover. Preemergence herbicides (pendimethalin, dithiopyr, and prodiamine) can be applied to control crabgrass and goosegrass before these weeds germinate in the spring (before mid-April). Corn gluten meal is a by-product of corn milling and is generally considered to be an organic product with preemergence herbicidal activity that can be applied in a manner similar to conventional preemergence herbicides. Corn gluten meal will be more effective under low weed pressure; expect only suppression of crabgrass and goosegrass when weed pressure is great.

Preemergence herbicides (including corn gluten meal) should not be used in early spring on a sports field where large areas of turf cover have been lost (bare soil). Instead, improve turfgrass cover using either seed or sod. If applied, conventional preemergence herbicides and corn gluten meal will damage or kill new seedlings and sod and greatly limit your ability to restore turfgrass cover on bare soil. Postemergence herbicides can be used to control crabgrass (quinclorac and fenoxaprop) and goosegrass (fenoxaprop) if these weeds threaten to ruin a spring seeding.

A number of nonselective weed control products contain active ingredients defined as "low impact pesticides" by the NJ School IPM Law. These active ingredients include citric acid, clove oil,

eugenol, lauryl sulfate, 2-phenethyl propionate, and sodium lauryl sulfate. These materials can be used for nonselective control of young (small) weed seedlings. Potential uses include "trimming" along fences lines and turf border edges. These products are most effective if used in spring when the weeds are small and are not recommended for the control of large, mature perennial weeds. Use of these active ingredients for spot treatment of weeds in turf will cause unacceptable injury/discoloration (albeit temporary) to the established turfgrass unless care is taken to only treat the undesirable vegetation (weed). This is especially important in newly seeded turfgrass; immature turfgrass seedlings have limited potential to recover from damage by these materials.

Insect Control

White grubs are the insect pest of greatest concern for sports turf in New Jersey. White grubs are soil inhabiting pests that feed on plant roots during summer, fall and spring. Root system damage on a sports turf greatly compromises the footing needed for athletic play. Furthermore, secondary damage from raccoon, skunk and other vertebrate predators foraging on grubs will destroy the turf and render a sports field unplayable. As a result, fields used for late summer and fall play have a very low threshold for white grub populations.



Continued on page 13

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THE BASICS OF MAINTAINING SYNTHETIC TURF



Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the Summer 2012 issue of *Between the Lines*, the official publication of Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization

By Jim Cornelius, CSFM

Let's begin by acknowledging that synthetic infill fields are NOT maintenance free. No matter what anyone says, these fields require routine maintenance. Secondly, what comes out of these fields must be replaced, meaning that the infill material disappears from the field as it is carried off by players, wind, rain, snow, snow removal, routine maintenance, etc.; being that the infill material is the supporting substance of these fields, it will need to be replaced.

When we service a field we typically find that most fields are lacking infill material whether it's all crumb rubber or rubber/sand mix; we also find the turf fibers are laid over with minimal support causing them to prematurely break-off. The worst enemy of the fibers on a synthetic turf field is the sun's ultra violet rays that the field must endure day after day. By maintaining a proper amount of crumb rubber and allowing only approximately a 1/2 to 3/4-inch of fiber exposed you are preventing the fibers from folding over and lessening the amount of material breakdown due to ultra violet rays.

On average an athlete or end user will carry off 3 to 4 pounds of infill material during a playing season. This needs to be replaced annually to support the fibers and provide longevity for the playing surface. To calculate your needs, you need to measure the amount of crumb rubber in a variety locations within the synthetic field boundaries (we measure 10 locations using the ASTM 1936-10 guidelines for Gmax testing as our test points) to determine what you have. If your turf is 2 1/4 inches tall and you have less than 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 inches of infill, you need to add more. Most crumb rubber infill calculates to 0.55 pounds per square foot for a 1/4-inch lift. Most rubber/sand infill systems will not need additional sand as it tends to stay stable within the turf. There are rare occasions when the sand is removed due to operations (snow plowing) or torrential down pours that cause flooding; if this happens, sand will need to be added to the mix.

Grooming the field is an essential maintenance task that needs to be understood. It is highly recommended to use a good groomer designed for synthetic turf. When using any groomer, the best results will be achieved by adjusting it so that it lightly touches the fibers. Do not lower the entire weight of the groomer onto the turf unless you are trying to level out the crumb rubber or fill an area such as a lacrosse goal crease. When tickling the fibers with the groomer's brushes, the intent is to stand the fibers up to minimize lay over from resulting from field use.

Often I am asked how much or how often should I groom a field. There is no true, exact answer, but from my experience I recommend that the field be groomed every 300 to 350 hours of use. There are articles on the web that will say 400 to 500 or more hours and much depends on the manpower available. At minimum it should be groomed several times during the highest use periods and less during the down times (if there is such a thing).

Trash and debris removal is another constant nuisance and needs to be done whenever it exists. Timely removal is important to keep the trash and debris from becoming ground into the infill material, which causes problems later on. Sunflower seeds, chewing gum, candy wrappers, cigarette butts, wire ties from nets, and broken sand bags or stone bags used for weighting down goals are some of the typical items we see when deep-cleaning a field. Water, Gatorade, juice, and soda bottles are unsightly and need to be removed when present.

Removal of chewing gum is largely overlooked and needs to be addressed as soon as possible; most chewing gums today never harden and with the intense heat in the field it becomes gooey and eventually spreads across the turf surface. To remove use either ice cubes or a freezing spray agent to harden the gum, chip it off and remove it.

Weeds can exist and thrive in synthetic turf. Be prepared if your synthetic fields is surrounded by bermudagrass or any other creeping stolon-producing grass! These grasses tend to seek their way into and under the synthetic turf and since temperatures on these fields reach optimal growing peaks before the surrounding

Continued on page 16

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SPRING FIELD DAY: Recap

By Bernard Luongo

Sports Fields Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) held its Annual Spring Field Day on March 30, 2016 at Mountain Park in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Daniel J. Callahan, Grounds Foreman and SFMANJ Member hosted the event.

The day started with strong vendor and attendee registration handled with ease by Debbie Savard, SFMANJ Executive Secretary. As always thank you Debbie for your professionalism.

A complimentary breakfast of coffee and donuts was offered with additional bagels and cream cheese donated by Scott Bills, CSFM, from Sports Field Solutions and SFMANJ, Board Secretary. Thank you Scott.

As the day progressed to the education portion, Dr. George Hamilton from Rutgers University kicked-off the morning session on personal protective equipment. Brad Park, Rutgers University, followed and addressed minimizing weed encroachment with good cultural practices. He discussed pre-emergence herbicide use and average ground temperatures for different parts of the state and when best to apply those pre-emergence herbicides.

Next on the agenda is a tradition at SFMANJ Field Days, our way of saying thank you to our vendors for supporting the organization and giving them the opportunity in front of the attendees to state their name, company and a brief discussion of their company.

Next up were equipment demos from Paul Bruni and crew, representing Delaware Valley Spray. They brought a fleet of trucks and spray equipment for sidewalks, cracks, and crevices. The collection also included injection equipment for fertilization and systemic for trees.

Next on the demo list was Rich Watson, who recently made the transition from turf dude to vendor. His new job is with Laurel Lawn Mower. He demonstrated an Exmark Go Z-turn mower with a comfort ride seat.

The morning education session ended with a talk by Jim Cornelious, CSFM from Fisher and Son Co. Inc. on two newly constructed all purpose synthetic fields. If your facility is considering having a synthetic field installed you should have Jim speak with the stake holders first. He provided great, unbiased information on the pros and cons of these fields. Great talk.

Next up, another SFMANJ Field Day tradition, Don Savard's famous dirty water hot dogs. Thank you Don. During lunch door prizes were awarded to the attendees holding the lucky numbers. Zach Owen of Fisher & Son, Rich Watson of Laurel Lawn Mower, Dan Saunders of Shearon Environmental, and Fred Castenschiold of Storr Tractor all

donated various items. Thank you all. A special thank you to all our sponsors of this field day; Jeff Weld of Bayer, Paul Bruni of Delaware Valley Spray Service, Lou Bosco of Turf Equipment and Supply and Mike Viersma of The Viersma Companies.

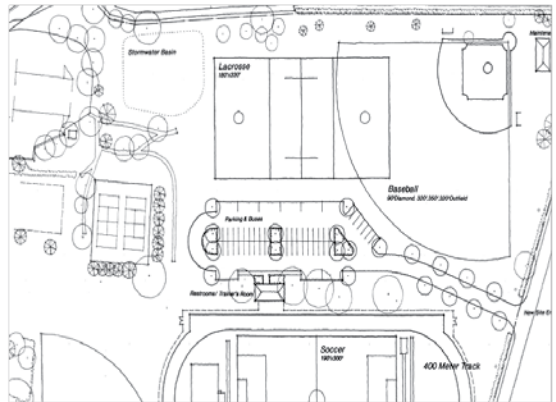
After lunch everyone took a short stroll past the synthetic fields onto Dan Callahan's natural turf fields. Here SFMANJ awarded Dan a plaque and a warm round of applause for hosting the field day. Dan spoke about the cultural practices at Mountain Park and also about the turf blanket that was still in place down the center of the field. Shortly after Dan's talk, the attendee's helped Dan remove the blanket to reveal the results. For those in attendance who were not familiar with turf blankets it was quite a learning experience. Folks, these things work. Hey Dan, that was a nice trick getting everyone to remove your blanket.

Next up, more equipment demo's. Fred Phllpot from Fleet demonstrated a Beam Rider - Laser Field Liner. This piece of equipment can paint a straight line over any terrain. Fred demonstrated a 5040 Toro Infield Pro. Everyone watched as

Continued on page 14




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The first place winner will also receive a stay at the Borgata, Atlantic City and free registration to education courses and trade show at Expo.

To be eligible you must be a member of SFMANJ and must represent a School or Park Natural Grass Field

Entries are limited to 10 color photos.

Please include the name, location and owner of the facility, along with your name, position, and contact number.

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Submit by mail or e-mail and must be received by

SEPTEMBER 30

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SFMANJ SPRING FIELD DAY

Photos by Adam Simmons

March 30, 2016

Mountain Park, Basking Ridge, NJ



Rich Watson (right) explaining his equipment, the eXmark 60 Lazer with mower.



SFMANJ Founding President, Eleanore Hermann and Board Member, Fred Castenschiold.



Morning education.



Jeff Weld of Bayer takes his turn as vendors Pass the "Mic".



Dick Neufeld and Tom Pepe of Plant Food Company.



Board Members Sean Connell (Treasurer), Brad Park (Newsletter Editor) and Matt Olivi (Past President).



Morning Registration.



Ralph Henninger and Zack Owen (Board Member) of Fisher and Son.



Paul Bruni of Delaware Valley Spray Services presents their demo.



Jim Cornelius speaks on Synthetic Field Maintenance.



Board Member Brad Park speaks on Cultural Practices during the morning education.



Lunch is served.



The group aids in removing a turf blanket as part of Dan Callahan's talk.



Liam Philpott demonstrated the Fleet Beamrider Field Linemarker.



SFMANJ Presidents: (front) Past Presidents: Matt Olivi, Rich Watson, Eleanore Hermann, Don Savard and Craig Tolley. (Back Row) Current President; Bernard Luongo. Missing: Ken Mathis



Dr. George Hamilton, Rutgers Pest Management Office, speaks on Protective Equipment.



Bernard Luongo, SFMANJ President (right) presents Dan Callahan with a plaque as a thank you for hosting a great field day.



Fred Castenschiold demonstrates Toro's InfieldPro.



Brad Park (SFMANJ Board Member) and Debbie Savard (SFMANJ Executive Secretary) enjoying the afternoon talks.



Don Savard, CSFM, CGM (center) speaks on The Benefits of Becoming a CSFM with support from Jim Cornelius, CSFM and Scott Bills, CSFM.

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MORE FROM THE SFMANJ SPRING FIELD DAY

SFMANJ would like to thank all the vendors who participated and especially those who sponsored our event!

Photos, etc. by Debbie Savard



Sports Field Managers Association

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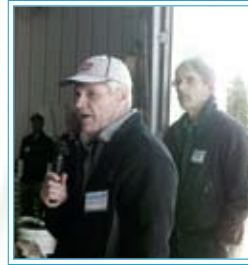
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Above: Board Member Adam Simmons Playing and Working.
Left: Fred Castenschield and Steve Bradley pass the "mic".
Below: The crowd listening to speaker Don Savard, CSFM, CGM.



Sports Field Managers Association

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Management of Natural Turf Sports Fields - Part 4

Preventative applications of insecticides are typically used to avoid serious damage to sports field turfs with a low threshold for white grub damage. Curative applications of insecticides are possible but have risks. Timing of curative applications is less flexible and will overlap with play on late summer and fall sports increasing exposure risk for athletes. Soil insecticide applications never work overnight so white grub and predator foraging damage will continue for some time after the application.



Products containing insect parasitic nematode species or milky disease-causing bacteria provide biological control (low impact pesticide) options for white grubs but these products have limitations. The level of control will depend on the white grub species (4 major species), availability of water, air and soil temperature, and the method used to apply the nematodes. These products may be expensive compared to conventional insecticides and need to be used soon after delivery (living organism with limited shelf life). Nematodes tend to work better against larvae of the Japanese beetle than the other species. And the product based on milky disease-causing bacteria only affects Japanese beetle larvae. Yet, the most common white grub species in New Jersey is the oriental beetle.

For more information on white grub control, refer to Rutgers-New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Fact Sheet FS1009 An Integrated Approach to Insect Management in Turfgrass: White Grubs.

Turfgrass seed that contains endophytes will produce turf more or less resistant to billbugs, chinch bugs, sod webworms and some other leaf and crown feeding insects. Endophytes are beneficial (non-pathogenic) fungi growing within a turfgrass plant, which provides the turf with biological control of many foliar feeding insects. The seed of many new varieties of perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, and fine fescues contain endophytes. These varieties are strongly recommended for the establishment or overseeding of turf. Seed containing endophytes should be stored under cool dry conditions because the endophytes in seed are lost (killed) when stored under hot, humid conditions for an extended period of time (several months).

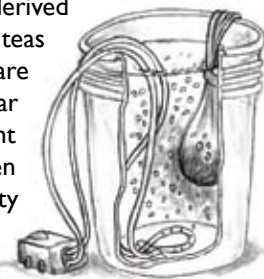
Disease Control

Selecting turfgrass species and varieties with improved tolerance to important diseases is an effective approach to managing disease pests. Always consider this when selecting grass seed for a new seeding or overseeding. Important examples of this approach include the use of seed blends (two or more varieties) of perennial ryegrass that have good tolerance to gray leaf spot or Kentucky bluegrass with enhanced resistance to summer patch.

Turf diseases are often present in sports turf but the levels frequently do not warrant treatment, especially when a sound management plan is practiced. Due to cost of fungicides, many facilities can only justify limited curative applications at a relatively high disease threshold. Fungicide use is reserved for diseases outbreaks that threaten loss of turf cover. See Rutgers-NJAES publication FS814 Plant Disease Control: Managing Diseases of Landscape Turf for more information. Fungicides are most effective and can often be used at reduced rates when turf is maintained using best management practices.

Several biological disease control products, often referred to as microbial inoculants, are registered for use in turf. These products contain microorganisms (typically beneficial bacterial or fungi) that suppress the populations of disease causing microorganisms. They are most effective when used on a preventive basis in areas with a history of disease and when disease activity is low to moderate. Efficacy of these products is usually poor when used on a curative basis or where disease pressure is high. To be effective over long periods, biocontrols products usually need to be reapplied periodically to maintain populations of the beneficial microbes at disease suppressive levels.

The term compost tea refers to a liquid derived from steeping compost in water. Compost teas should not be viewed as fungicides, but are more accurately described as soil or foliar inoculants intended to promote soil and plant health. Although compost teas have been shown to occasionally reduce the severity of foliar diseases in the field, research has not shown them to consistently prevent or control turfgrass diseases.



Continued on page 16

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SAVE THE DATE

More information to come



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SPRING FIELD DAY: Recap

Fred cut an outfield lip, brushed it away and then cleaned it up in less than five minutes. This machine performed three different functions and cleaned up an outfield lip . . . amazing. You have a winner there Fred.

Our last education session of the day was also our lunch Masestro, Don Savard, CSFM, CGM and Head Grounds Manager at Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE. I've known Don for six years and I still can't pronounce where he toils. Don spoke about the process of becoming a CSFM, the importance of becoming a CSFM and what it means to him. Then something magical happened. Don coaxed Jim Cornelious and Scott Bills out of the crowd, both CSFMs. Speaking to the attendees now were three CSFMs. This is not to be taken lightly. There are less than 200 CSFMs throughout the country. On average, that is four per state. At SFMANJ's Field Day there were three in attendance who spoke to the attendees for a half hour regarding the rewards and opportunities of being a CSFM and how it helped advance their careers. All three offered help to whoever wanted to become a CSFM. It doesn't get any better than this

The day ended with the distribution of pesticide credits awarded by NJ, DE, and PA. As you can see, it was a full day of education, product displays and demo's. There were speakers from Rutgers University and three CSFMs talking their stuff to all who were in attendance. If you couldn't make this one, next up is the our Fall Field Day on November 3 at Piscataway Little League. You never know who might show up as a guest speaker. More info to follow. Till next time.

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

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Turfgrass irrigation using Water Reels



By Fred Castenschiold

Sports field and grounds managers get tired of the budget cuts year after year. Money is being spent, but not being channeled in the direction of sports fields and grounds. What is the reason? "Priorities", we are told. Meanwhile, as summer approaches and our sports fields are starting to dry-up, field use seems to increase year after year.

Water reels are an inexpensive, above ground irrigation system option that has been employed for many years. Water reels come in many sizes based on the needs of the sports field manager and water supply.

Keeping a beautiful green and safe sports field playing surface is important and is for what we all strive. This requires lots of work in many areas; this work is often wasted where there is no water source. Whether one is irrigating a 300 foot lacrosse field or an entire multi-field complex, a water reel is an option where budgets may be limited. Its portability allows the sports field manager to irrigate multiple fields with a single machine. Water reels operate unattended and shut down automatically at the end of the run. For the next irrigation event, the water reel simply needs to be towed to the next field for connection to another water source.

With many models, sizes, and lengths to choose from, the sports field manager can pick the best reel for an application which, in

some cases, will allow irrigation of an entire field in one unattended pass. Other advantages of water reels include their cost relative to in-ground irrigation systems and maintenance/cost savings with respect to repairing and winterizing irrigation heads.

Water reels can be employed in the management of synthetic turf fields. Water reels are available that can be used to rinse and condition synthetic turf fields, in about 30 minutes in some cases. Field hockey coaches particularly like this operation in that it minimizes ball bounce.

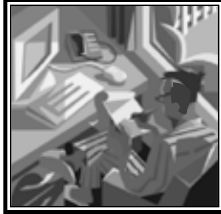
Consider this irrigation option next time the budget gets cut!

Fred Castenschiold is Sales Associate, Storr Tractor Co.; and member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors

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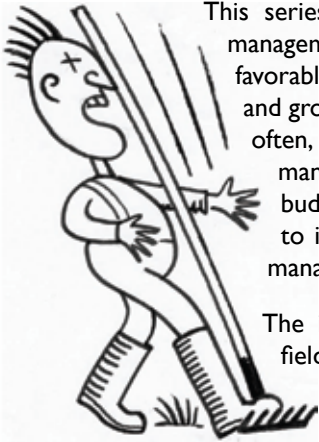
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Management of Natural Turf Sports Fields-Part 4

Conclusions



This series of articles described sports field management strategies meant to produce favorable conditions for the development and growth of a vigorous healthy turf. All too often, however, only certain aspects of turf management receive attention due to budget limitations or personnel unable to identify the best practices needed to manage a specific field(s).

The implementation of a suitable sports field maintenance program requires a trained sports field manager who has the ability to both anticipate future problems and provide solutions to existing problems. Furthermore, the program must be done within a budget that supports the necessary materials, equipment, and additional trained personnel.

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

Dr. Jim Murphy is Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University; and an SFMANJ Advisor.



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THE BASICS OF MAINTAINING SYNTHETIC TURF



turf, once they start spreading beneath they will find the drainage holes and send their shoots upwards for the sun light. These plants become very hard to remove due to their sewing machine effect and in most cases will need to be treated chemically (as approved by the turf manufacturer) to control. It is best to prevent these grasses from growing under from the beginning. Look for it and act quickly when discovered.

Pay attention to heavy wear areas. These fields wear just like natural turf with the exception that you can't grow it back in once it is gone; so, don't let it wear out. Common sports specific high wear areas include Football: center of the field between the hash marks; Soccer: penalty kick area, corner kick, goal crease; Field Hockey: goal crease, penalty arc; Lacrosse: goal crease areas, center of the field where face offs take place. Men's or Women's Lacrosse has the ability to destroy a goal crease in as little as one year if not maintained. The infill material gets kicked or shuffled out. The fibers take a beating and break-off quickly without the support of the infill material. Before you know it you have a big black area that is the backing of the turf and now it's time to patch it or replace the area with either the pieces you saved from installation or maybe cut it out from outside the playing area so that it matches in color and type. Even after one year it won't be a perfect match (even if left on a roof top to sun burn like the turf on the field) because the surrounding fibers in the field will have seen use and started to mat out or break down and if you are patching it must have worn out. Contact the manufacturer or a reputable service company to save you the pains of having to deal with the patch. There are special materials that you will need and the local or big box hardware store does not carry them. Do not use a Gorilla glue-type product, liquid nails, styrene bonding agents, and/or drywall screws or framing nails for repairs. These are not designed for synthetic turf and may become a liability nightmare later down the road.

Painting may or may not have to be performed on these fields depending on whether or not everything was inlaid during installation. If you have to paint use only paint that is approved for synthetic turf field. It seems that every year some company announces that they have synthetic turf paint. Do your homework and look at a company history and get recommendations. If you need to remove the paint ask the supplier if it can be performed, and if so, how it is done and what will it cost and how long will it take. Will you need special equipment and chemicals? Have their products been endorsed by any manufacturers and is your turf manufacturer one of them? If you have to paint try to do it at times other than the heat of the day. If you are removing lines it works much better to do this at night or early in the morning when the turf is the coolest. Chemicals used during the heat of the day will evaporate long before they start to work and this will only cost you more time and materials.

Dust, dirt, pollen, body skin cells, screws, nails, track spikes, bobby pins and human hair; just to name a few, do not break down in these fields. They remain for much of the life of the field and it is truly amazing how much exists. Special equipment with hepa-filter

The Grass Cutters

By Bernard Luongo

A day in the life of a grounds crew member
Whether it's January, June or November
Carries with it a certain stigma
One might call it an amazing enigma

On their properties each and everyday
With a smile on their faces as if it were play

Mud on their boots up to their shins
Getting a game in on those water logged skins

Can you groom that for me one more time?
And oh yes a little bit heavier on that lime

Don't forget the landscape it has to be weeded
Please find some time so the fields can be seeded

Can you do some pruning and ring a tree?
Throw down some mulch when your hands are free

Mark out some fields, benches and goals
Stir up some divot mix to fill in the holes

Did you paint fields there's a game today?
Lines have to be bright so the zebras say

How did aeration go? Did you get it complete?
I have this project that involves some concrete

We have a problem with our fertilization
Before we can start we need certification

More projects to be done but not for the faint
Because all summer long you are going to paint

Someone's called out can you come in for a while?
We're in a bind and there's quite a pile

Can you move this stuff we're not sure where it's going?
Please do this before you start mowing

Short one guy- That's a shame
You'll have to make do just the same

Hey it's winter time don't you know
Things need to be done before you go

Spread some of that stuff called special salt
In the spring get bags of asphalt

I could write of more things that they do
This little group called grounds crew

Say what you will, but don't think like the mass
These hard working people don't just cut grass.

Bernard Luongo is Lead Groundsperson, Northern Burlington County Regional School District, Columbus, NJ; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.

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9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

- ID and Management of Turf Insect Pests
- Breeding fine fescues for Tenacity tolerance
- Equipment Demonstrations Sponsored by SFMANJ

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

- Disease resistance screening and genetic diversity in the 2012 NTEP Tall Fescue Test
- Disease management in home lawns and sports fields
- Low maintenance Kentucky bluegrass

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

- Screening perennial ryegrass for gray leaf spot and salinity tolerance
- Control of Creeping Bentgrass Infesting Kentucky Bluegrass
- Equipment Demonstrations Sponsored by SFMANJ

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

- 2011 National Turfgrass Evaluation Program Kentucky Bluegrass Test
- Screening fine fescues for disease and wear tolerance
- Fertilization of turf in New Jersey

1:00 to 2:00 PM

- Lunch

2:00 to 3:00 PM

- (Optional) CORE Pesticide Education - Demonstration of Protective Equipment for Pesticide Safety



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THE BASICS OF MAINTAINING SYNTHETIC TURF



vacuums will be able to clear this out and remove it from within the turf. Rain, snow sleet and hosing do not help.

Static is common and can increase with humidity and sometimes age. If you need to combat static, you can use several household products. Liquid Tide washing machine soap and/or the use of a softener (Snuggles) both work well when sprayed on the turf.

Eventually someone will ask if these fields need to be disinfected. My suggestion is to review Dr. Andrew McNitt's research pages to obtain the best answer (<http://cropsoil.psu.edu/ssrc/sportsturf-scoop>). Information can also be found by visiting the website of the Synthetic Turf Council (<http://syntheticturfcouncil.org/>)

Lastly, unlike natural turf, we can't see what is going on with these fields beneath their surface. ASTM has recommended that these fields be tested annually to determine their hardness (Gmax). There are those who do not believe this is necessary; but I can tell you that it is an important tool, much like soil testing. If you do not perform testing for one, two, four or six years then you have no history data to determine what has been happening to surface hardness. I have tested two-year fields and eleven-year-old fields with less than 3/4-inch of fibers remaining and almost no infill and yet the newer one tests harder than the older. Does this mean we are no longer testing the turf and we are now testing the stone base beneath? Good question. Since we do not have eleven years of historic Gmax testing, we can only imagine we are now testing the Gmax of the stone base.

Hopefully I haven't scared you and you haven't run away from your synthetic field. These fields are a great tool and if properly maintained will provide years of play for all users. What you have just read is only the tip of the iceberg and there is much to learn about these fields. Don't be afraid to ask your peers or contactor if you don't know; it may prevent you from making a huge mistake.

Jim Cornelius is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); and Services Manager, Pro. Services Division, Fisher & Son Co., Inc.

See You at the FALL FIELD DAY

Thursday, November 3
Piscataway Little League

More information to come!

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