## 2003

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#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers in New Jersey 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.

Contact us at:

P.O. Box 370 Annandale, NJ 08801 Web Site – www.sfmanj.org E mail – hq@sfmanj.org Ph/Fax – 908-730-7770

National Organization Sports Turf Managers Association

Web Site - www.sportsturfmanager.com E mail – SportsTMgr@aol.com Phone - 1-800-366-0391

## <u>"Welcome New & Renewed</u> <u>SFMANJ Members</u>"

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## SFMANJ Membership Registration form

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# PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Within the last few weeks, SFMANJ mailed, for the first time, a 63 page Directory of important information to our members. It included members' information to help you network with your fellow sports field manager. Also included in the Directory is vendor member information to help our members find products and equipment. When purchasing products please use this directory *first* to show your support to our member vendors. Please note the vendor ads as their support helped make the Directory possible.

If you see a mistake please kindly fill out the form on page 44 and send it to us so we can correct our data base. If you did not receive a Directory, please contact us at 908-730-7770 so we can get one out to you. If you are not a member but would like a directory, fill out the membership form in this newsletter and we will be sure to send you one right away.

We will be sending out an update after we receive all mistakes for you to add to the Directory. Each year you will receive an updated membership list and special information of interest. Use the membership form on page 46 to renew your membership in January or give it to a friend for a new membership. I hope this Directory serves you well.

Eleanora Murfitt, CRS Washington Township Parks & Recreation Coordinator





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## "Integrated Pest Management Overview"

## \*Brad Park, Rutgers University

After the adoption of the School Integrated Pest Management Act by the State of New Jersey in December 2002, many questions have been raised concerning the definition of integrated pest management (IPM) and the specific practices and pest control measures that constitute an IPM program.

## What is IPM?

Numerous University fact sheets and textbooks have been devoted to defining IPM and instructing sports field managers how to implement an IPM program. There are several common themes that are consistent throughout these numerous resources.

First, IPM attempts to reduce the risk that pest control strategies may have on the environment and people by incorporating all suitable techniques to maintain pests within acceptable limits. Several such techniques include pest scouting, monitoring and record keeping. Making an effort to carefully and routinely scout, monitor, and create records of areas where pest populations have been historically problematic will allow sports field managers to limit the implementation of pest control measures to only those specific problem areas and not to those areas where pests are not a problem.

Secondly, IPM *does not* entail the elimination of pesticide use. A successful IPM program will limit the amount of pesticides applied by using pesticides in a more efficient manner. While scouting, monitoring, and record keeping can help achieve this goal, the implementation of cultural practices that promote healthy turf can also reduce the amount of pesticides needed to solve pest problems. Simple changes in irrigation scheduling, fertilization, and mowing frequency and height can help reduce the incidences of pests and the need for pesticides applications, which consume human and financial resources.

## IPM for athletic fields

Given the inherent functional use of athletic fields, and in many cases, the overuse of these fields leading to poor turf quality, some sports turf managers may view IPM programs and subsequent reduced pesticide use as unrealistic and unattainable goals. However, if implemented properly, IPM methods can potentially enhance turfgrass quality and improve sports turf playability.

## Scouting, monitoring, and record keeping

The process of scouting and monitoring can take-on many forms for a sports turf manager. For example, yearly soil testing can be conducted on fields that are intensively maintained and are highly visible. While frequent soil testing is always a good idea, fields that are deemed to be less of a priority may only need to be tested every three years. Correct decisions can be made with regard to lime applications and specific nutrient requirements based on the results of soil tests. Note: A soil test will provide information pertaining to levels of macronutrients in soils including phosphorous, potassium, magnesium, and calcium and several micronutrients. However, the soil test will not provide information on existing nitrogen levels.

Understanding the lifecycles of various pests (and being able to correctly identify those pests) can help sports field managers predict when to begin monitoring for specific pests. Crabgrass is a summer annual weed and serves as an example of a pest which conforms to a yearly lifecycle. As a summer annual, crabgrass will germinate in the spring (South Jersey: after April 10; Central and North Jersey: after April 20) and will set seed in summer and die in the fall from early frosts. Sports field managers should note heavy crabgrass populations in the fall and recognize that these fields will likely need to be treated with a preemergence herbicide the next spring if crabgrass control is a goal.

Conversely, in situations where a preemergence product has not been applied in the spring, and there is no presence of crabgrass throughout the summer and fall months, one could conclude that there is no significant crabgrass seed bank associated with the site. As an appropriate IPM strategy in this situation, a sports field manager might consider avoiding a preemergence application to the field in the next year. If crabgrass does become a problem later in the year, a postemergence crabgrass herbicide may need to be applied.

As part of record keeping, sports field managers will find it useful to create maps or devise a numbering scheme to delineate between multiple fields. Updating these records and reviewing previous records throughout the season will make it easier to anticipate future pest problems.

For white grub control in sports turf, scouting, monitoring and record keeping can determine whether or not to apply an insecticide.

Continued on next page .....



#### Continued from page 4 "IPM" .....

The label for the grub control product Merit<sup>®</sup> suggests basing application decisions on "historical monitoring of the site, previous records or experiences, and current season adult trapping or other methods."

Optimal grub control by the product results when the insecticide is applied prior to egg hatch. Thus, the monitoring of adult insect activity can play a key role as to if and when the chemical control is applied.

### Cultural practices affecting pest populations

Turfgrass weed scientists will often say, "The best defense against weeds is a vigorous stand of turfgrass." Achieving an actively growing, healthy turfgrass stand is highly dependent upon employing proper cultural practices.

One of the most frequent cultural practices associated with sports field management (and seemingly the most mundane) is mowing. Simple changes in mowing height and frequency can impact the encroachment of weeds and insects.

A general mowing guide for moderately to intensively maintained turfgrass (such as athletic field turf) is to remove no more than 1/3 of the vertical shoot growth per mowing. Known as the "1/3<sup>rd</sup> Rule," this guide is widely accepted among sports field managers and researchers. Studies indicate that infrequently mowed turf is less dense than frequently mowed turf, allowing for "voids" in the turfgrass stand and potential sites for weed encroachment. Mowing frequency may need to increase in actively growing turf to adhere to the 1/3<sup>rd</sup> rule. IPM suggests that a turfgrass stand free of broadleaf weeds and crabgrass will not necessitate that application of postemergence herbicides for the control of those weeds.

Turfgrass species and cultivars within that species have a mowing height tolerance range that provides a satisfactory turf. When turfgrasses are mowed below their tolerance range (scalping), particularly during times of stress, turfgrass stands will tend to thin, and thus provide entrances for weeds to encroach.

When turfgrasses (particularly Kentucky bluegrasses) are mowed above their tolerance level, in combination with excessive water and fertilization, plant biomass production can exceed decomposition resulting in thatch – a layer of organic residue located immediately above the soil surface. An excessive amount of thatch (1/2 inch) can serve as a habitat for insects that feed on turf such as chinch bugs and white grubs. When chemical control of insects is necessary, thatch can bind insecticides and thus reduce their efficacy.

### **IPM resources**

Rutgers Cooperative Extension has a number of IPM resources published on its website at: <u>www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu</u>. For those sports field managers working at schools, there are links available on the website detailing the School IPM Act and

a summation of the key requirements of the Act. There are also IPM Report Cards available for downloading that are meant to act as self-assessment guides for school grounds and sports field managers to determine if their current management regimes fall under an "IPM" plan. While the Report Cards are not hard-and-fast rules that require regulatory compliance, they do provide some useful ideas to implement in an IPM program at a given facility. ▲

\*Brad Park is the Sports Turf Research and Education Coordinator at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. You can reach Brad at <u>park@aesop.rutgers.edu</u>



Kennett Square, PA 19348

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610-444-0496

| <section-header><text><text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></section-header>   | SFMANJ         August 2003 Demo Field Day         Held at Paramus Catholic High         Augus t5th 8am to 3:00 pm         COST: \$35 members & \$45 non-member         \$5 late charge after July 25         Organization:         Names: |
|--|---|
| <b>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</b><br><b>RUTGERS TURFGRASS RESEARCH FIELD DAYS</b><br><b>July 30*</b> Lawn & Landscape Section –Tours begin 9am<br>Adelphia Research Farm Reg. 8am<br>Athletic Field Manager's, your chance to see the<br>latest research on turf, pesticides, and much much  | <b>AMERICAN</b><br>Lawn Sprinkler Company   |
| <ul> <li>more</li> <li>July 31*Golf &amp; Fine Turf Research Section –Tours 9:30am<br/>Hort. Farm II Ryders' Lane, North Brunswick.<br/>Reg. begin 8:30am</li> <li>Pesticide Recertification Credits \$35 reg. &amp; full lunch.each days</li> <li>CALL Bea Devine 732-821-7134 or Dick Caton 856-853-<br/>5973 or Marlene Karasik 732-932-9400 Ext.339</li> <li>SPORTS FIELD MANAGERS ASSOC. OF NJ<br/>EQUIPMENT DEMO FIELD DAY</li> <li>Aug. 5th_Paramus Catholic High School, Paramus , NJ<br/>Indoor &amp; outdoor education and demonstrations with<br/>vendor Trade Show. Fliers have been sent to members.<br/>See form on this page. Call Eleanor Murfitt at 908-730-</li> </ul> | Specializing in the<br>construction and<br>refurbishment of ballfield<br>irrigation systems<br>Free Estimates Fully Insured   |
| 7770 for more information.<br><b>NEW JERSEY LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS ASSOC.</b><br><b>Aug. 6<sup>th</sup></b> , 1:30 pm, Farmstead Golf & Country Club Fifth<br>Annual Golf Classic – Reg. 12pm. For more info call Betty<br>Wiest at 201-251-2550<br>Website: wwww.njlca.org   | <b>732-970-9300</b><br>20 Years Experience LIC. #015603   |

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## "A Model IPM Policy for New Jersey Schools"

## \*Ann Waters

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) in cooperation with the New Jersey School Boards Association, the Commissioner of Education, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension successfully developed a template model policy Integrated Pest Management Policy for schools (published on June 2, 2003).

The New Jersey School Integrated Pest Management Act of 2002 requires schools to implement a school integrated pest management policy. As per this policy, each local school board of a school district, the Chief Administrator of a public school, each board of trustees of a charter school, and each Principal or Chief Administrator of a non-public school as appropriate, shall implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures to control pests and minimize exposure of children, faculty, and staff to pesticides. \_\_\_\_\_(Insert school name) shall develop and maintain an IPM plan as part of the school's policy.

## Integrated pest management procedures in schools

Implementation of IPM procedures will determine when to

control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, cultural, biological or chemical methods. Applying IPM principles prevents unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

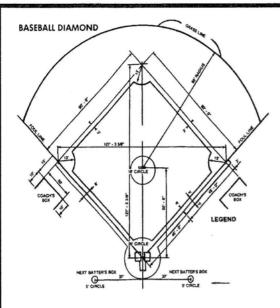
Each school shall consider the full range of management options, including no action at all. Nonpesticide pest management methods are to be used whenever possible. The choice of using a pesticide shall be based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are not effective or not reasonable. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used, low impact pesticides and methods are preferred and shall be considered for use first.

## **Development of IPM plans**

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The school IPM plan is blueprint of а how (Insert school name) will manage pests through IPM methods. The school IPM plan states the school's goals regarding the management of pests and the use of pesticides. It reflects the school's site-specific needs. The IPM plan shall provide a description of how each component of the school IPM policy will be implemented at the school. For Public schools, the Chief School Administrator,

Continued on next page......



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## Continued from page 7 "A Model Policy"......

In collaboration with the school building administrator, shall be responsible for the development of the IPM plan for this school. For Charter schools and non-public schools, the development of the IPM plan shall be the responsibility of the Chief School Administrator or Principal.

IPM Coordinator: The \_\_\_\_\_\_(Insert as appropriate, either local school board, board of trustees, Chief School Administrator, or Principal) shall designate an integrated pest management coordinator, who is responsible for the implementation of the school integrated pest management policy.

Education /Training: The school community will be educated about potential pest problems and IPM methods used to achieve the pest management objectives.

The IPM Coordinator, other school staff and pesticide applicators involved with implementation of the school IPM policy will be trained in appropriate components of IPM as it pertains to the school environment.

Students, parents/guardians will be provided information on this policy and instructed on how they can contribute to the success of the IPM program.

Record keeping: Records of pesticide use shall be maintained on site to meet the requirements of the state regulatory agency and the school board.

Continued on next page .....

## Vendors and Demonstrations for Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> field day, as of July 15<sup>th</sup>

| Aer-Core, Inc                  | Blec Sandmaster Sand Injector, Wiedenmann Deep Tine Aerator   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| DVH Athletic Turf -            | None  |
| Geo.Schofield Co. Inc          | None  |
| JDL Equipment -                | Battery powered field liner,  |
| RotaDairon Emrex, Inc          | Finn Mini Skidsteer, Thatch Master, OverSeeder  |
| Till Paint Co. Inc             | Jaydee Driver Liner   |
| Wilfred McDonald -             | Smithco Super Rake Infield Conditioner, I-Stripe 22 Infield Mower,<br>Jacobsen Turfcat Rotary Mower.  |
| Storr Tractor -                | First Products Aeravator Aerator Seeder, Buffalo Turbine Blower on WM2100, Toro<br>Groundsmaster 3500 |
| Ocean County Utility Authority | None  |
| National Seed -                | None  |

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#### Continued from page 8 "A Model Policy"......

Records shall also include, but are not limited to, pest surveillance data sheets and other non-pesticide pest management methods and practices utilized.

### Notification/Posting

The \_\_\_\_\_(Insert as appropriate, either local school board, board of trustees, Chief School Administrator, or Principal) of

(Insert school name), is responsible for timely notification to students' parents or guardians and the school staff of pesticide treatments pursuant to the School IPM Act.

### Re-entry

Re-entry to a pesticide treated area shall conform to the requirements of the School IPM Act.

## **Pesticide applicators**

The IPM coordinator shall ensure that applicators follow state regulations, including licensing requirements and label precautions, and must comply with all components of the School IPM Policy.

### Evaluation

Annually, for public schools, the Chief School Administrator will report to the local school board on the plan effectiveness of the IPM and make recommendations for improvement as needed. For non-public schools and charter schools, the Chief School Administrator(s) or Principal(s) shall report to their respective governing boards on the effectiveness of the school IPM plan and make recommendations for improvement as needed.

The local school board directs the Chief School Administrator to develop regulations/procedures for the implementation of this policy. ▲

## Authorizing Regulatory references including definitions

The School Integrated Pest Management Act of 2002 N.J.A.C. Title 7 Chapter 30 Subchapters 1-12 Pesticide Control Act of 1971 \*Ann Waters is an Outreach Coordinator for NJDEP Pesticide Control Program Ann.Waters@dep.state.nj.us

## "IPM in New Jersey Schools"

Explaining the policy \*Ann R. Waters

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On December 12, 2002, Governor McGreevey signed into law Senate Bill 137 as the "School Integrated Pest Management Act." This new legislation

requires the implementation of Integrated Pest Management practices

at all New Jersey public, private and charter schools by June 12, 2004. New Jersey now joins several other states within the U.S. who have signed into law legislation requiring IPM methods for managing pests in school environments, thereby reducing the risks associated with pesticide exposure.

One of the key components of the Act is the development of a model IPM policy to be utilized by the schools for the development of their individual policies. In March, a meeting was held to begin work on the development of the model policy. A large group of stakeholders comprised of a variety of school participants well as industry, non-profit and government as representatives provided input on the language and format of the draft document. Eleanor Murfitt and Jim Hermann represented the SFMANJ as part of this advisory group. A smaller working group comprised of representatives of the NJDEP-Pesticide Control Program (NJDEP-PCP), Rutgers Cooperative Extension, New Jersey School Boards Association and the Department of Education completed the development of the final model policy document, which will be made available to all NJ schools.

Continued on next page......



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#### Continued from page 9 "Explaining the Policy" .....

The additional requirements of the Act include the following:

• Appointment of an **IPM Coordinator** by each local school board, board of trustees or principal or chief administrator of each public, private or charter school to implement the school IPM policy.

• Annual universal notification to all parents or guardians and staff regarding the IPM policy, IPM Coordinator contact information as well as a listing of any pesticides currently in use or having been used on school property within the previous 12 month period.

• 72 hour prior notification to all parents or guardians and staff as well as posting of area(s) to be treated of any pesticide with the exception of lowimpact pesticides as they are defined in the Act.

• **Emergency applications** of non-low impact pesticides may be made when there is a threat to the health or safety of students or staff members without prior notification. Notification would follow within 24 hours of the application.

• Unless specified otherwise on the pesticide product label, a **7- hour re-entry** interval to the treated area must be followed.

In the months ahead, prior to the required deadline for adoption of the IPM mandate by all schools, a **model plan** will be developed to accompany the **model policy** which will provide procedures and methods of implementation of the policy.

Over the next couple months, an **IPM school survey** developed by the DEP-PCP will be administered with the assistance of the Department of Education to all Chief School Administrators to identify pest management practices and levels of IPM implementation currently in existence in New Jersey schools. This survey will be directed to those individuals, in an electronic format, who are primarily responsible for overseeing pest management within each school or school district. The results of the survey will assist in the development of training needs to be provided to school personnel to enable a better understanding of IPM and their responsibilities for compliance with this new legislation.

Anyone, who applies pesticides to exterior areas of a school, including athletic fields, is required by NJDEP-PCP regulations to hold a Commercial pesticide applicator license. For anyone who has never been licensed before or who has lost their certification, the procedure for obtaining a commercial license is composed of two steps. Initially, an individual must attend a basic pesticide training course prior to completing a **Core** exam. In addition to the Core exam, one or more "Category" certification exams must be passed. The Category exams needed depend on the type of pest control that will be done. To be eligible to take a Category exam, the applicant must complete a minimum of 40 hours of "on-the-job training" for each category applied for.

For further information on regulations or licensing procedures, as well as school IPM please contact Ann

Waters at (609) 984-5014 or the Pesticide Control program website at <u>www.pcpnj.com</u>. ▲

\*Ann Waters is the School IPM Coordinator, Outreach and Training Coordinator-NJDEP Pesticide Control Program







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