**SFMANJ BUSINESS**

Our chapter’s First Field Day was held at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater (Patriot’s Stadium), on June 22. The event was a great success, educating and feeding 95 potential sports field managers.

Head Grounds Keeper, Ray Cipperly’s instruction on infield maintenance was very informative. Rutgers Plant Science specialist, Dr. Steve Hart gave an interesting lesson on weed identification and control. Extension Specialist in Turf Grass Management at Cook College, Rutgers University, Dr. Murphy demonstrated how aeration affects turf growth.

Many thanks to everyone who was involved in making this successful day happen.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SFMANJ**
August 21, 3:30pm – Next Board meeting will be held at Rutgers University. If you are interested in working with a committee call Jim Gavigan at 732-248-8979.

**STMA**
January 7,8,9 – National Conference in Las Vegas. The SAFE Scholarship committee will be allocating up to $15,000 for the 2001 scholarships and related travel to the STMA Conference in Las Vegas. Contact STMA at 800-323-3875.

**RUTGERS – Turfgrass Research Field Days**
August 1 – Lawn & Landscape Section
August 2 – Golf & Fine Turf Research Section
For Info. Call Bea Devine 732-821-7134

**NJ TURF GRASS ASSOCIATION**
December 11 - 13 – Expo Conference at The Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. Sports Turf Educational session is on the 13th. For info call Dick Caton at 856-853-5973.

**Floyd Perry**
August 13–16, 1, 2 and 4 day workshops in Warren, NJ.
SFMANJ members receive 10% discount. 800-227-9381

**KAFMO**
For Field day info call 610-375-8469

**MONTHLY FIELD TIPS**

Soil tests should be done at least once per year on each field. If you haven’t done them yet, now is a good time. The information provided in your soil test results will help you to determine your fall fertilizer program. A physical analysis (sand, silt, clay distribution) of the soil is also helpful if you anticipate topdressing your fields. This should be requested, as it is not normally provided in a typical soil test.

Evaluate fields and determine which fields are in need of early fall seeding and or complete renovations. Determine whether weed populations are such that they will impede or substantially compete with your seeding program.

Where necessary, apply weed control, 4–6 weeks in advance of early fall seeding. Take care not to apply weed control products in temperatures above 80 degrees or to turf under drought stress.

Soccer goalmouth and major field repairs can be done now but should be limited to those areas that are absolutely necessary for the continued safety and playability of the field and can be watered effectively.

After the close of the spring baseball season home plate and pitchers mound repairs can be done.

With the fields hard and dry, it is a good time to grade fields to get rid of depressions and add infield mix where it is needed.
CLASSIFIEDS

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Experience in all types of Ath. Field & Turf
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"AXIS" Soil Conditioner – Relieves Compaction
Contact Larry George at 1-800-942-0134

Tell us what you are doing on your fields

Let us know what is working for you.
Growing and maintaining turf is not an
exact science. What works for us may
not work for you. We would like to
share your successes and failures with
SFMANJ members.

SFMANJ
PO Box 370
Annandale, NJ 08801

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Questions & Answers

(Got a question? E-mail us a elpene99@yahoo.com

Question: What is the proper mowing height for
my athletic fields?

Answer: Proper mowing height is determined
by a number of factors. Some of which are:
1. The desires of the leagues
2. The roll of the ball
3. Mowing routine
4. Staff available to mow
5. Fertilizer program
6. The 1/3 rule

During the playing season I have found 2 ½
inches to be the magic number. I can mow on a
twice a week schedule, provide an effective
fertilizer program and the leagues can find the
ball on the fourth day after mowing. During the
summer months between playing seasons the
height can be raised to 3 inches and the mowing
schedule can typically be extended to 5 to
7 days. The 1/3 rule should always be followed
as much as possible. The 1/3 rule states that no
more than 1/3 the green leaf should be removed
at any one mowing. This means that mowing at
3 inches, no more than ¾ - 1 inch of grass
should be removed.

Drop us a line on how you liked Field Day. Here
are some remarks we received:
Maintenance turf supervisor from North
Hunterdon Little League said, "Field day was
great, I would go again”.
Jack Shannon from West Deptford Bd of Ed
stated, “I thought the field day was a extremely
well planned event and very informative, I
enjoyed the whole day”.

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