Central Jersey will be the epicenter of Sports Field Manager Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Spring Field activities in 2007. The Association’s 2006 Field of the Year, awarded to Edward A. Grekoski Park, South River, NJ, will be hosting the morning sessions of Spring Field Day 2007. The highlights of the morning session include a facility tour given by Bob Walker, South River, DPW. The President of the South River Baseball Club praised Bob’s Field of the Year winning work at the Edward A. Grekoski Park baseball field by saying, “there is not another field here in Middlesex County that compares to what we have here in South River.”

Also scheduled for the morning sessions include a trade show, discussion on interpreting a soil test report based on the results of soil testing conducted at the Edward A. Grekoski Park baseball field, equipment demonstrations, and talks focused on infield grooming, skin surface conditioners, and baseball diamond set-up.

The field day will then move to Rutgers Hort. Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ where lunch will be served and afternoon educational sessions have been planned.

A new machine developed at Rutgers will be demonstrated as part of the SFMANJ Spring Field afternoon session at Rutgers Hort. Farm II on April 12, 2007.

The 2006 Field of the Year and Rutgers Turfgrass Research Facility to host SFMANJ Field Day.

NJ DEP Pesticide Credits will be available.

Brad Park is Sports Turf res. and Ed. Coor., Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update
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Currenty we have 243 new & renewed members. In November 2006, SFMANJ mailed invoices for 2007 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 908-730-7770 or download the 2007 membership form available at www.sfmanj.org. Remember to mail your renewal/payment direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 179, Annandale, NJ 08801.

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SFMANJ Annual Membership Registration Form
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Commercial/Contractor/Member/Advocate $100
Student $15

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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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This newsletter is the official bi-monthly publication of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

For information regarding this newsletter, contact:
SFMANJ at (908) 730-7770 or Brad Park at (732) 932-9711, x127
Editor: Brad Park, Rutgers University
Email: park@aesop.rutgers.edu

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Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

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Editor: Brad Park, Rutgers University
Email: park@aesop.rutgers.edu
Whether it is for function or decoration, lines and logos personalize your fields and give your team the home field advantage. Almost all sports and games played on turf or packed clay require some form of lines or markings to help define boundaries, and assist the officials in making correct calls. Lines help the participants perform best by bringing order and strategy to the game. These markings are usually painted or marked with a non-caustic pulverized limestone. Here are some things that I have learned from other sports field managers that help me set lines.

**Measurements:** Sports require accurate measurements. Tape measures are more precise than measuring wheels. Surveying instruments are the most exact and may be required at the higher levels of the sport. “Square” or 90° corners can be made without surveying instruments by using the 3-4-5 method. Where you want to make a corner, make one line perpendicular to another. On one line, measure out from the corner 30 feet. On the adjacent line, starting from the same point, measure out 40 feet. Draw a line from your 30 foot mark to the 40 foot mark. The result should be 50 feet. If not, adjust either line so that there is a 50 foot measurement from the 30 and 40 foot marks.

**Dry Line Marking:** For human safety, always use a non-burning, non-caustic marking material such as pulverized limestone. Avoid marking turfgrass with a dry marking material as it might injure turf, modify the soil or over time, create a ridge on the playing surface that could become hazardous to players. Dry marking materials work best on bare soil or “infield dirt”. Dry line markers are similar to a drop fertilizer spreader. The marking apparatus features a narrow opening that is the width of the line and can be operated by one person. Other types of markers include a trough type that can be several feet long for marking base paths or shorter for marking batters boxes. These are usually used in the higher levels of baseball or softball and can require 2 people to handle.

**Field Marking Paint:** Paints consist of liquid (or solvent), color (or pigment), sticker (or binder) and other additives such as a fast drying agent. Sports field marking paints are usually water based latex acrylics. Petroleum distillate based paints or volatile organic compounds (VOC paints) can be injurious to plant tissues. Field marking paint is available in the forms of aerosol spray paint in inverted cans and bulk paint in 1-5 gallon pail containers. Bulk paint may be premixed ready to use or it may need to be diluted with water in some ratios.

**Painting Equipment:** The most basic field paint equipment is the paint brush and roller, simple and effective but time consuming. Many sports field managers with only a few sports fields use the inverted aerosol spray paint can holder machine. This can be a tool that no sports field manager should be without. It is helpful for touchups, for painting contrasting colors quickly and as a backup for when the primary paint machine breaks down. Most sports field managers use some form of a powered paint machine. These include sprayers ranging from a CO2 tank units to gasoline powered compressor or pumps to electric pump models. Push, self propelled and riding paint machines are available. Be sure that your machine is kept clean; in good repair and has spare parts on hand.

(continued on page 5)
Fenoxaprop may be applied at rates ranging from 0.016-0.17 lbs/A (3.5-39.0 fl. oz Acclaim/A) depending on the stage of crabgrass growth and established turfgrass species. For example, 4-5 tiller crabgrass may be treated with fenoxaprop at 0.17 lbs/A (39.0 fl oz Acclaim Extra/Acre) in perennial ryegrass and tall fescue whereas no more than 0.12 lbs of fenoxaprop (28.0 fl oz Acclaim Extra/Acre) may be applied to 3-4 tiller crabgrass in Kentucky bluegrass turf.

Following applications of fenoxaprop, tall fescue and perennial ryegrass may be seeded immediately. Following germination of tall fescue and perennial ryegrass, fenoxaprop should not be applied until seedlings have matured for 1 month. Of the cool season turfgrasses used on sports fields in New Jersey, Kentucky bluegrass is the most susceptible to phytotoxic effects associated with fenoxaprop. For example, when utilizing fenoxaprop rates greater than 0.04 lbs/A (9.0 fl oz Acclaim Extra/A), Kentucky bluegrass seedlings must be at least 3 growing months old before fenoxaprop can be applied. Additionally, 21 waiting days should be allowed following the application of fenoxaprop prior to seeding Kentucky bluegrass.

Due to the complexity of Drive and Acclaim Extra labeling with respect to crabgrass growth stage susceptibility, individual turfgrass species herbicide tolerances, and turfgrass seeding timings, pesticide labels must be thoroughly read and understood prior to the application of these materials.

Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coor., Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board Member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest 2007

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is announcing its annual Field of the Year (FOY) contest.

ELIGIBILITY:
- Must be a current member of SFMANJ
- Only school and park/recreation fields are eligible

CRITERIA:
Award will be presented based on:
- Playability and appearance of the playing surface
- Five 5x7 photos & 4 one before photo if possible
- Describe your maintenance program and what you did to improve your field
- Describe your budget used for this field
- Feel free to have sports groups in your photos

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY:
Entries are to be submitted, mail and must be received by September 25, 2007. 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.

Mail to:
SFMANJ 2007 FOY Contest
PO Box 1570
Arlington, VA 22206 (VA) NJ (848) 683-932

AWARDS:
Winner will be honored with a plaque at New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December 2007 and will be featured in an article in SFMANJ. (See November): This winner will also receive a two-night stay at the Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City and three day, two education and trade show admissions at Expo 2007.

NOTE:
Entries will not be returned and may be used on SFMANJ website and promotional settings.

SETTING YOUR LINES RIGHT WITH THE EMPHASIS ON STENCILING

Preparations for painting: For best results, move the turf (at least where the lines are) before painting. In dry weather, avoid painting right after mowing unless you give the turf some water. This will help prevent a burning effect. Avoid painting wet grass. Paint does not adhere well to wet grass. To remove dew, connect two 100 foot water hoses and with a person on each end, start in the end zone and drag the hose the length of the field.

Paint Can Tips: Before shaking, tap the can with your hand to gently break the marble loose, then shake vigorously to thoroughly mix the paint. If you store aerosol cans upside down, it will make it easier to break the marble loose. Avoid temperature extremes. In cold weather, fill a 5 gallon pail with hot water, and put the aerosol cans in to keep them warm. Some brands of spray paint have adjustable tips on the can that can rotate to make a wide or narrow line.

Paint Application Tips: Always string your lines for the best results. If you are painting lines on dry infield dirt, first moisten the dirt with water. This will prevent the paint beading up in the dust. Remember that when painting lines, your gait will influence not only the quality of the line (straightness, brightness and width) but also how much paint you will use.

Paint Removal: If you make a mistake, be sure to keep an aerosol can of green paint or some turf colorant handy as an “eraser”. I use a long handle, soft bristle brush washing brush and some mild soapy water as well as water hose for paint removal when necessary.

Sports field graphics make the game easier to play on and watch. Sharp looking field graphics draw the eyes away from field imperfections such as wear. It helps to create team pride, draws out the beauty of your field and showcases the talents of you and your crew.

Edvard Grakowski Park - Field of the Year 1996
South River, NJ

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and SFMANJ Board Member

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March/April 2007

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

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Dr. Henry W. Indyk
Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Science

As many of you know, the turfgrass industry lost a dear friend and colleague in September 2005. We will all miss Henry very much and would like to ensure 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 ensure 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 $40,000. 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 months.

For information on other ways to support this fellowship, please contact Dr. Bruce B. Chalmers, Director – Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Sciences (732) 932-5410, ext. 318; or info@turfcareresearch.com. Dr. Chalmers is responsible for Leadership Gifts at the Foundation. To donate, call (732) 932-7990 or email: pecanion@necoremail.com.

WELCOME NEW & RENEWED SFMANJ MEMBERS

(continued from page 3)

Miller, Marty
Moore, Mike
Musante, Larry
McManus, Dan
Wickens, John
O’Connell, John
Olszewski, Robert
Parker, CRPD | Carey
Perry, Eugene
Pacheco, Anthony
Pereira, John
Peters, Michael
Powers, Joseph
Potts, Ray
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Ralph, Jack
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Schuhly, Brian
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Seidman, Robert
Tampa, Brian
Toth, Rich
Tremblay, Robert
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North Brunswick Township DPW
Wilmington Township Parks & Recreation
Cape May Top. Board of Education
Cape May Dept. of Public Works
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RFMANL Spring Field Day 2007
April 12, 2007
Edward A. Grekoski Park & Rutgers Hort. Farm II
South River, NJ & North Brunswick, NJ
908-730-7770
www.sfmanj.org

12th Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic
May 7, 2007
Fiddler’s Elbow CC, Bedminster, NJ
Online registration will be available at:
www.njturfgrass.org

Rutgers Golf and Fine Turf Field Day
July 31, 2007
Rutgers Hort. Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ
www.njturfgrass.org

Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day
SFMANL Equipment Expo for 2007
August 1, 2007
Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, Freehold, NJ
908-730-7770

NJ Turf & Landscape Conference and Expo 2007
December 4-6, 2007
Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort
Atlantic City, NJ
www.njturfgrass.org

12th Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic
May 7, 2007
Fiddler’s Elbow CC, Bedminster, NJ
Online registration will be available at:
www.njturfgrass.org

Rutgers Golf and Fine Turf Field Day
July 31, 2007
Rutgers Hort. Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ
www.njturfgrass.org

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Tejiat

March/April 2007
Amending infield soils with various miracle materials to enhance drainage throughout the skinned area usually proves unsuccessful. At best, these amendments provide a very short-lived remedy.

Topdressing: Choose the proper topdressing to work with your base mix. Think of your skin as a two-tier profile: the top 1/4- to 1/2-inch consists of your topdressing, and the remainder consists of your base field mix.

The topdressing on the skin provides a cushion for the players. It creates a buffer zone between the players’ cleats and the moist base soil mix, and prevents the soil from sticking. The topdressing layer also helps you endure light rain showers during games.

Don’t go any thicker than a 1/2-inch layer of topdressing on the surface of the skin. A deeper layer will cause the ball to skid under infielders’ gloves instead of taking the proper hop. It can also drastically influence a ballplayer’s traction.

GOALS FOR A QUALITY INFIELD SKIN

Traction: Most players desire the same quality in an infield skin; traction. That’s the reason for the spikes in their shoes.

Nothing makes a player happier than a firm infield skin that is moist and cork-like, not hard and baked dry. The cleat should penetrate the skin and leave a perfect imprint. Very little soil should be disturbed or displaced. When players plant their feet to throw, field the ball, or run, the soil should not give way under them. The traction in your infield skin comes from its base soil. Choose your mix carefully. Many companies that sell infield skin mixes know nothing about their proper function.

Many mixes are too sandy. Soils that don’t firm up (high sand content of 75% or higher) are more mobile. This creates low spots in high-traffic areas (around bases and fielders’ positions) more quickly, especially as the field dries out. The loosened material is more likely to be carried to other portions of the field. The loose soil also causes unstable footing for ballplayers, increasing the risk of foot, ankle, and hamstring injuries.

Drainage: The proper drainage on your infield skin dictates how quickly you will resume play after a rainfall. About 95% of the rainwater that falls on the skin should run off the surface. Drainage: injuries.

Drainage lines installed under the infield skin are a waste of time. If you use the proper soil for the skin, it will never perk enough rain to reach the drain tile. A drain line is more appropriately positioned five to 10 feet behind the infield skin in the shallow outfield. Here it will capture water that runs off of the skinned areas.

Accurate surface grade and proper maintenance techniques will maximize the playability of your skinned areas more closely than you’re turf areas. Your reputation as a groundskeeper will depend on the skin you keep.

This is not to say that the turf areas on a baseball field are unimportant. But if you think about it, 75% or more of the game occurs on the skinned areas of the field. Unfortunately, this crucial subject is avoided by the academic institutions that teach many of today’s up and coming athletic field managers.

With no written guidance, new groundskeepers must resort to trial and error if they haven’t been lucky enough to learn from another groundskeeper in the business.

INFIELD SOILS AND TOPDRESSINGS - PART 1

By Paul Zwaska

Editor’s Note: The following article is the first in a two-part series and was written in 1999 when the author was Head Groundskeeper, Baltimore Orioles.

Baseball is a unique sport in grounds management. It’s the only major sport that is played on a field that has both turf and exposed soil for a playing surface. Ballplayers scrutinize the playability of your skinned areas more closely than you’re turf areas. Your reputation as a groundskeeper will depend on the skin you keep.

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SportsFieldManagersAssociationofNewJersey

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Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Recall that IPM attempts to reduce the risk that pest control strategies may not begin for 2 to 6 months following Step 4. Measure the total depth of the soil in the mason jar. Then measure the thickness of each of the three layers using a ruler. The distance from the base of the jar to the furthest points of the mason jar is the relative content or percent of one of the soil particle size classes.

General guidelines: Remember that soils differ greatly around the country and they react differently to many things. The following gives generalizations as a guide for base mixes. Soils in your area might not always fall into these guidelines.

To tighten up a high-sand base mix, till in a nice clay loam. I’ve used it since the day we moved here. Again, add your calcined clay by a couple of tons at a time. Pack and see how it reacts before you add more. The alternative is to replace the base mix with a new mix.

Rock and pebbles in an infield base mix can be a major problem. Your base soil should be able to pass through a 1/4-inch screen, or at the very least a 3/8-inch screen, to eliminate any rocks or pebbles.

For Oriole Park at Camden Yards, I use a 60% sand, 20% silt, 20% clay base mix. This translates to a borderline sandy loam and sandy clay loam. I’ve used it since the day we moved here. It’s very stable with soil with little mobility. Low spots on my infield are rarely a problem, but that is also partially due to the management of the skin.

The lesson to be learned here is don’t just pick any old soil for your base mix. Know what you are getting by asking for a soil particle size analysis. And whatever you do, don’t purchase a mix just because some salesman says that he has “x” ballpark and “y” ballpark using it. Most of those people have zero knowledge of what kind of soil creates the best infield skin.

Paul Zwaska, Beacon Athletics, Middleton, WI. Paul provides technical support and troubleshooting for Beacon Athletics customers.

Rutgers Corner - Crabgrass control strategies for sports fields

Brad Park, Rutgers University

Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Fact Sheet E233 “Crabgrass and goosegrass control in cool season turfgrasses” authored by Dr. Stephen Hart, Extension Specialist in Weed Science, Rutgers University

With spring soon to arrive, it is an important time to begin thinking about options for controlling crabgrass. If a significant soil seed bank exists and there are vuchs in the turfgrass stand which minimize competitive benefits of the turf, as a summer annual, crabgrass will germinate profusely in the spring, mature throughout the summer months, and die in early fall at the first killing frost leaving dead “skeletons” throughout the landscape. Crabgrass seed will typically begin germinating after April 10 in South Jersey and by April 20 in Central and North Jersey. Crabgrass will continue to germinate through mid-July.

Step 4. Measure the total depth of the soil in the mason jar. Then measure the thickness of each of the three layers using a ruler. The distance from the base of the jar to the furthest points of the mason jar is the relative content or percent of one of the soil particle size classes.

General guidelines: Remember that soils differ greatly around the country and they react differently to many things. The following gives generalizations as a guide for base mixes. Soils in your area might not always fall into these guidelines.

You want to know the fraction of your base soil between 50% and 75% (normal base mix). Soils with higher sand content normally become too loose and mobile. The soil becomes too moist to play and is transported to other areas of the skin by the dragging process or by play. Play gets sand again into your base mix has high sand content. In fact, it creates more maintenance headaches.

The mobile soil rapidly develops high and low spots in the skin and the turf interface. Those low spots and high lips interfere with the surface flow of rainwater draining off the skin, and large puddles develop.

In base mixes with higher sand content (>75%), there is not enough binder (clay and silt) to hold the soil firmly together. As a game progresses, the skin becomes more loose in the traffic areas. This reduces traction and increases risk of injury to feet, ankles, and hamstrings.

Soil texture affects many properties of soil. Compaction, porosity, bulk density, water-holding capacity, and drainage are all affected by the makeup of the soil. Soils high in sand normally hold very little water and drain rapidly. Soils high in clay normally hold large amounts of water and can become soggy, highly compacted, and difficult to move.

Soil texture refers to the percentage of sand, silt, and clay particles in a soil. These particles are defined by size. To tighten up a high-sand base mix, till in a nice clay loam soil.

Several tons at a time, till it, work it, let it settle, and pack and see how it reacts before you add more. The alternative is to replace the base mix with a new mix.
SFMANJ Spring Field Day 2007
South River, NJ and Rutgers Hort. Farm II
April 12, 2007

PROGRAM

EDWARD A. GREKOSKI PARK, South River, NJ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00-7:30 am</td>
<td>Vendor registration and set-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30-8:00 am</td>
<td>Trade Show and attendees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00-8:45 am</td>
<td>Trade Show &amp; Vendor Introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45-9:00 am</td>
<td>So. River and SFMANJ Introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:30 am</td>
<td>Management of Edward Grekoski Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30-10:00 am</td>
<td>Bob Walker, South River DPW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interpreting a soil test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30 am</td>
<td>Dr. James Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-10:45 am</td>
<td>Equipment Demonstrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45-11:00 am</td>
<td>Jim Hermann, Total Control Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-11:10 am</td>
<td>Sorting out infield turf maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10-11:30 am</td>
<td>Scott Bills, Northern Nurseries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Setting-up a baseball diamond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Move to Rutgers Hort. Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RUTGERS HORT FARM II, North Brunswick, NJ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:05-11:00 am</td>
<td>Brad Park, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-11:15 am</td>
<td>Tall fescue and perennial ryegrass options for sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15-11:30 am</td>
<td>Dr. Bill Hart, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-11:45 am</td>
<td>Dr. George Hamilton, Rutgers Pest Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12:00-12:45 | Lunch                                      |
12:45-1:00 | Introductions                             |
1:00-1:30 | So. River/EDPQ-150 research & methods to accelerate spring growth |
2:00-2:30 | Dr. Bill Meyer, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science |
2:30-3:00 | Dr. Steve Hart, Rutgers Turfgrass Science |
3:00 | Adjourn & Pesticide credits |

NJ DEP Pesticide Credits: 1 Core; 1 3B

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March/April 2007
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10

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

11
**Infield Soils and Topdressings**

**Part I**

**Step 4.** Measure the total depth of soil in the mason jar. Then measure the thickness of each of the three layers using 0.10 lbs/Acre or fractional applications of 0.01-0.10 lbs/Acre application 4 weeks later.

**Step 5.** Calculate the percent of sand, silt, and clay in your soil sample with the following procedure:
1. Divide the thickness of the sand layer by the total depth of the soil in the jar.
2. Follow the same instructions for both the silt and clay layers.
3. Multiply each of the three figures by 100, and you will have the percentages of sand, silt, and clay in your sample.

**Step 6.** You can now check the soil texture triangle to see where the intersection of the three values places you on the triangle (see Figure 2). Remember that this is an estimate. If you need a more precise test, it is worth your while to have a professional test done in a private lab or a county extension office.

Soil testing labs use a couple of different quantitative methods to determine relative amounts of soil components. Once you have the relative amounts of sand, silt, and clay, you can determine the soil's textural class using the soil texture triangle provided. Each side of the triangle represents the relative content or percent of one of the three soil particle sizes.

**General Guidelines:** Remember that soils differ greatly around the country and they react differently to many things. The following gives generalizations as a guide for base mixes. Soils in your area might not always fall into these guidelines.

- **You want to keep the sand fraction of your base soil between 50% and 75% (normal base mix).** Soils with higher sand content normally become too loose and mobile. The soil becomes too loose with play and is transported to other areas of the field by the dragging process or by play. Play grass will gain irrigation if your base mix has high sand content. In fact, it creates more maintenance headaches. The mobile soil rapidly develops high and low spots in the infield. You may think you'll gain drainage if your base mix has high sand content, but that is also partially due to the management of the smooth crabgrass. The less onto be learned here is don't just pick any old soil for your base mix. Know what you are getting by asking for a soil analysis.

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**Step 2.** Follow thesame instructions forboth thesiltand clay layers.

**Step 3.** Multiplyeach of the threefiguresby 100, and you willhave theintersectionofthe threethicknesses. Once the relativeamount of sand, silt, and clay are known, you can determine the soil's textural class using the soil texture triangle provided. Each side of the triangle represents the relative content or percent of one of the three soil particle size classes.

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**Editor’s Note:** The following article is the first in a two-part series and was written in 1999 when the author was Head Groundskeeper, Baltimore Orioles.

Baseball is a unique sport in grounds management. It’s the only major sport that is played on a field that has both turf and exposed soil for a playing surface. Ballplayers scrutinize the playability of your skinned areas more closely than you’re turf areas. Your reputation as a groundskeeper will depend on the skin you keep.

This is not to say that the turf areas on a baseball field are unimportant. But if you think about it, 75% or more of the game occurs on the skinned areas of the field. Unfortunately, this crucial subject is avoided by the academic institutions that teach many of today’s up and coming athletic field managers.

With no written guidance, new groundskeepers must resort to trial and error if they haven’t been lucky enough to learn from another groundskeeper in the business.

**GOALS FOR A QUALITY INFIELD SKIN**

**Traction:** Most players desire the same quality in an infield skin; traction. That’s the reason for the spikes in their shoes.

Nothing makes a player happier than a firm infield skin that is moist and cork-like, not hard and baked dry. The cleat should penetrate the skin and leave a perfect imprint. Very little soil should be disturbed or displaced. When players plant their feet to throw, field the ball, or run, the soil should not give way under them.

The traction in your infield skin comes from its base soil. Many companies that sell infield skin mixes know nothing about their proper function.

Many mixes are too sandy. Soils that don’t firm up (high sand content of 75% or higher) are more mobile. The loosen ed material is more likely to be carried to other portions of the field to create high spots and huge lips at the infield skin/turf interface.

These sandy infield mixes increase infield skin maintenance problems. The loose soil also causes unstable footing for ballplayers, increasing the risk of foot, ankle, and hamstring injuries.

**Drainage:** The proper drainage on your infield skin dictates how quickly you will resume play after a rainfall. About 95% of the interface. The traction in your infield skin comes from its base soil. Many companies that sell infield skin mixes know nothing about their proper function.

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**Determination of Soil Texture**

**Step 1.** Obtain a quart mason jar with a lid, like the ones used for canning. Fill it a little more than half way with the soil you wish to test. Fill the rest of the jar with water, and attach the lid tightly.

**Step 2.** Shake the jar vigorously for a couple of minutes to fully separate and wet the soil. There should be absolutely no lumps of soil left when you’re finished agitating it.

**Step 3.** When you feel that the soil is fully dispersed in the solution, set the jar down and begin timing. After 45 seconds, mark a line on the side of the jar with a grease pencil or White-Out where the top of the layer of sand has settled out in the jar. Next, put a mark at the top of the next layer after three hours have passed; this is your silt layer. After 24 hours, your clay will have settled out as well.

(continued on page 9)
**Calendar of Events**

**SFMANJ Spring Field Day 2007**  
April 12, 2007  
Edward A. Grekoski Park & Rutgers Hort. Farm II  
South River, NJ & North Brunswick, NJ  
908-730-7770  
[www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)

12th Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic  
May 7, 2007  
Fiddler’s Elbow CC, Bedminster, NJ  
[Online registration will be available at](http://njturfgrass.org):  
[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

**Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day**  
SFMANJ Equipment Demos back for 2007  
August 1, 2007  
Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, Freehold, NJ  
908-730-7770

**NJ Turf & Landscape Conference and Expo 2007**  
December 4-6, 2007  
Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort  
Atlantic City, NJ  
[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

**Rutgers Golf and Fine Turf Field Day**  
July 31, 2007  
Rutgers Hort. Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ  
[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC TURF

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University of Maryland, Basketball Stadium  
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Dr. Henry W. Indyk
Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Science

As many of you know, the turfgrass industry lost a dear friend and colleague in November 2005. We will all miss Henry very much and would like to ensure 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 ensure that tomorrow’s graduate students have the financial resources to gain 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.

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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 mention “Henry W. 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. Chase, Director – Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Sciences (732) 693-0646, ext. 3511; or email info@agcenter.rutgers.edu. It is the mission of the Turfgrass Sciences Center to enhance the skills and knowledge of the turfgrass industry through education and research.

WELCOME NEW & RENEWED SFMANNJ MEMBERS

(continued from page 3)

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Fenoxaprop may be applied at rates ranging from 0.016-0.17 lbs/A (3.5-39.0 fl. oz Acclaim/Acre) depending on the stage of crabgrass growth and established turfgrass species. For example, 4-5 tiller crabgrass may be treated with fenoxaprop at 0.17 lbs/A (39.0 fl oz Acclaim Extra/Acre) in perennial ryegrass and tall fescue where no more than 0.12 lbs of fenoxaprop (28.0 fl oz Acclaim Extra/Acre) may be applied to 3-4 tiller crabgrass in Kentucky bluegrass turf.

Following applications of fenoxaprop, tall fescue and perennial ryegrass may be seeded immediately. Following germination of tall fescue and perennial ryegrass, fenoxaprop should not be applied until seedlings have matured for 1 month. Of the cool season turfgrasses used on sportsfields in New Jersey, Kentucky bluegrass is the most susceptible to phytotoxic effects associated with fenoxaprop. For example, when utilizing fenoxaprop rates greater than 0.04 lbs/A (9.0 fl oz Acclaim Extra/Acre), Kentucky bluegrass seedlings must be at least 3 growing months old before fenoxaprop can be applied. Additionally, 21 waiting days should be allowed following the application of fenoxaprop prior to seeding Kentucky bluegrass.

Due to the complexity of Drive and Acclaim Extra labeling with respect to crabgrass growth stage susceptibility, individual turfgrass species herbicide tolerances, and turfgrass seeding timings, pesticide labels must be thoroughly read and understood prior to the application of these materials.

Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coor., Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board Member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest 2007

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is announcing its annual Field of the Year (FOY) contest.

ELIGIBILITY:
- Must be a current member of SFMANJ
- Only school and park/recreation fields are eligible
- Must be a natural grass field/fields

CRITERIA:
Award will be presented based on:
- Professional appearance of the playing surfaces
- Fewer than 45 photos A & B before photo if possible
- Describe your maintenance program and what you did to improve your field
- Describe yearly budget used for the field
- Feel free to have sports groups in your photos

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY:
Entries are to be submitted via mail and must be received by September 9, 2007. Entries are limited to 16 color photos. Please include the name, location and owner of the facility, along with your name, position, and contact number.

Mail to:
SFMANJ 2007 FOY Contest
PO Box 110
Amanda, NJ 08002

AWARDS:
Winners will be honored with a plaque at New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December 2007 and will be featured in an article in SFMANJ. (Winner’s newsletter). This winner will also receive a two-night stay at the Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City and a special membership card that will allow free admission to the conference.

NOTE:
Photos will not be returned and may be used on SFMANJ website and promotional settings.

Stencils and Logos: Whether painting numbers, letters or your team’s logo designs, stencils help you get that crisp, sharp, professional look. Stencils can be hard or soft. Flat number cut out stencils and logo stencil tarps with cutouts for “dotting” are both common. Other tools include hash mark sleds and batter’s box frames. Some sports field managers use planks as straight edges for painting along wide out of bounds lines or along end zone letters. If number stencils become warped, place on concrete and allow the sun’s heat to warm and flatten them in a couple of hours. When dotting stencils, use an aerosol can to do it. This way the paint will dry faster. When painting logos, paint a white base coat first and allow it to dry. Then paint colors on top. Don’t go by the rule “If a little paint looks good, a whole lot of paint will look great!” Too much paint can be harmful to turf. On most logos and letters, a border around each will make your work stand out on the field.

Paint Removal: If you make a mistake, be sure to keep an aerosol can of green paint or some turf colorant handy as an “eraser”. I use a long handle, soft bristle truck washing brush and some mild soapy water as well as water hose for paint removal when necessary.

Sports field graphics make the game easier to play on and watch. Sharp looking field graphics draw the eyes away from field imperfections such as wear. It helps to create team pride, brings out the beauty of your field and showcases the talents of you and your crew.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and SFMANJ Board Member

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Rutgers Corner -

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Setting Your Lines Right
With the Emphasis on Stenciling

Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Whether it is for function or decoration, lines and logos personalize your fields and give your team the home field advantage. Almost all sports and games played on turf or packed clay require some form of lines or markings to help define boundaries, and assist the officials in making correct calls. Lines help the participants perform best by bringing order and strategy to the game. These markings are usually painted or marked with a non-caustic pulverized limestone. Here are some things that I have learned from other sports field managers that help me set lines.

Measurements:

Sports require accurate measurements. Tape measures are more precise than measuring wheels. Surveying instruments are the most exact and may be required at the higher levels of the sport. “Square” or 90° corners can be made without surveying instruments by using the 3-4-5 method. Where you want to make a corner, make one line perpendicular to another. On one line, measure out from the corner 30 feet. On the adjacent line, starting from the same point, measure out 40 feet. Draw a line from your 30 foot mark to the 40 foot mark. The result should be 50 feet. If not, adjust either line so that there is a 50 foot measurement from the 30 and 40 foot marks.

Dry Line Marking:

For human safety, always use a non-burning, non-caustic marking material such as pulverized limestone. Avoid marking turfgrass with a dry marking material as it might injure turf, modify the soil or over time, create a ridge on the playing surface that could become hazardous to players. Dry marking materials work best on bare soil or “infield dirt”. Dry line markers are similar to a drop fertilizer spreader. The marking apparatus features a narrow opening that is the width of the line and can be operated by one person. Other types of markers include a trough type that can be several feet long for marking baseball or softball and can require 2 people to handle.

Field Marking Paint:

Paints consist of liquid (or solvent), color (or pigment), sticker (or binder) and other additives such as a fast drying agent. Sports field marking paints are usually water based latex acrylics. Petroleum distillate based paints or volatile organic compounds (VOC paints) can be injurious to plant tissues. Field marking paint is available in aerosol spray paint in inverted cans and bulk paint in 1-5 gallon pail containers. Bulk paint may be premixed ready to use or it may need to be diluted with water in some ratio.

Painting Equipment:

The most basic field paint equipment is the paint brush and roller, simple and effective but time consuming. Many sports field managers with only a few sports fields use the inverted aerosol spray paint can holder machine. This is a tool that no sports field manager should be without. It is helpful for touchups, for painting contrasting colors quickly and as a backup for when the primary paint machine breaks down. Most sports field managers use some form of a powered paint machine. These include turbines ranging from a CO2 tank units to gasoline powered compressors or pumps to electric pump models. Push, self propelled and riding paint machines are available. Be sure that your machine is kept clean; in good repair and has spare parts on hand.

(continued on page 5)
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This newsletter is the official bi-monthly publication of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

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March/April 2007
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Central Jersey will be the epicenter of Sports Field Manager Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) Spring Field activities in 2007. The Association’s 2006 Field of the Year, awarded to Edward A. Grekoski Park, South River, NJ, will be hosting the morning sessions of Spring Field Day 2007. The highlights of the morning session include a facility tour given by Bob Walker, South River, DPW. The President of the South River Baseball Club praised Bob’s Field of the Year winning work at the Edward A. Grekoski Park baseball field by saying, “... there is not another field here in Middlesex County that compares to what we have here in South River.”

Also scheduled for the morning sessions include a trade show, discussion on interpreting a soil test report based on the results of soil testing conducted at the Edward A. Grekoski Park baseball field, equipment demonstrations, and talks focused on infield grooming, skin surface conditioners, and baseball diamond set up.

The field day will then move to Rutgers Hort. Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ where lunch will be served and afternoon educational sessions have been planned.

A new wear machine developed at Rutgers will be demonstrated as part of presentation detailing ongoing turfgrass wear tolerance research. New tall fescue and perennial ryegrass variety options will also be discussed.

The final hour of the day will be brought inside the Rutgers Geiger Center for talks on spring weed control strategies and the safe handling of pesticides. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP) has awarded one (1) core credit and one (1) category 3B credit for those certified pesticide applicators in attendance.

Brad Park is Sports Turf res. and Ed. Coor., Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

A new machine equipped with rubber paddles has been developed at Rutgers University to uniformly apply wear to turfgrass variety trials. Both operating speed and paddler rpm can be controlled with this unit. It will be demonstrated as part of the SFMANJ Spring Field afternoon session at Rutgers Hort. Farm II on April 12, 2007.