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SFMANJ SHIRTS FOR SALE

If you are a member of Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey, you may be interested in owning a collared knit shirt with our logo. To purchase one of these fine shirts just send a check for \$25.00 to SFMANJ Chapter at PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801

"Skinned Area Mixes"

by Pam Sherratt, sherratt.1@osu.edu

There are few scientific publications on soil choice but there are numerous articles written in the popular press (Sports Turf, Landscape Management, Athletic Turf etc.). Choice of soil material for skinned and mound areas would appear to be based upon personal choice but there are some selection guidelines available in books like "Sport Fields" (Puhalla, Krans and Goatley, 1999). They suggest a mixture of about 60% sand, 20% silt, and 20% clay.

There are many factors to consider when selecting a mix. Can the area be covered? How Much use does it get? Some of the municipal fields that have no capacity to cover may use more sand in the mix to encourage better drainage, while collegiate and professional mixes may have higher clay contents to produce faster surfaces. Mixes with more than 20% silt may cause problems if the surface can't be covered. These mixes will not dry out as quick and may become "slick". Calcined clays or diatomaceous earth

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products may also be used in some mixes as a soil conditioner. With regard to analysis, if these products are used in a mix and the particle sizes are smaller than 2mm, they can behave like a sand during physical analysis and become impossible to quantify.

In relation to the numbers of field managers that get their material tested, Dr. Norm Hummel has some points to make:

"Sports Field Managers typically do not test their ball diamond mixes. Much in the selection of mixes I think is by word of mouth. We test maybe 20 samples a year, which is a very small number when you consider the amount of mix sold. When we test a ball diamond mix, we do make recommendations for particle size. In fact, I am on a committee in ADTM that developed guidelines for construction of skinned areas of ball diamonds, so I am privy to the particle size guidelines that will soon be a national standard. We have a test we call "Ball Diamond Mix Test". This includes a particle size analysis and color (from a Munsell Color chart). The cost is \$85/sample.

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Murphy's Law

Dr. James Murphy is an Associate Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management for Rutgers, department of Plant science. Ask Dr. Murphy your questions: E-mail us at hq@sfmanj.org

Question: The soccer fields in our area are currently dormant, brown and dry as a bone. If these conditions continue can permanent or excessive damage to the turf result from typical play on the fields?

Answer: Absolutely!

Dormant turf has very low vigor. Dormant turf has prepared itself to survive without water; but not to withstand intense traffic. Thus, the low vigor of the dormant turfgrass plants will only be able to tolerate a very limited amount of traffic.

Signs of severe damage include thin open turf and bare soil. The lower leaf sheaths and crowns of the turfgrass plants have been and will continue to be damaged once you start to see bare soil in the playing field. This is a serious problem because regeneration of new healthy shoots and roots come from the crowns. Dead crowns translates into dead grass with no hope for recovery (I can not word it more bluntly)!

If you can still find crowns as a fresh, translucent green appearance, then the turf can recover. Dried up, brown crowns are severely damaged and have a high probability of being dead. Weed invasion is another problem with intense use (traffic) under dormant turf conditions. The dormant turf wears out very quickly with use. Once natural rains return or irrigation is applied, the dormant weed seeds in the soil have ample opportunity to germinate, emerge, and infest the field. Thus, you will likely observe greater weed problem on fields that receive significant play (use) under dormant conditions. ▲

NEWS RELEASE * NEWS RELEASE

JIM HERMANN ACHIEVES

CERTIFIED SPORTS FIELD MANAGER STATUS

James Hermann, CSFM, President of Total Control, Inc. of Lebanon, New Jersey, has completed all steps to achieve the Certified Sports Field Manager designation. This Certification Program was developed and is coordinated by The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) to denote those individuals who have gone above and beyond the requirements of job performance and have demonstrated a superior level of competence.

Since 1986, Mr. Hermann has been President of Total Control, Inc., an athletic turf and field and commercial turf management and consulting company which also handles residential lawn care. In this capacity, Mr. Hermann has renovated and maintained several sports fields in the local area. Prior to 1986, Mr. Hermann served as farm manager for Sterlingbrook Farms in Pittstown, New Jersey, where he constructed and maintained a thoroughbred turf race track.

Just as great sports accomplishments raise the bar for all competitors, excellence in field care raises the level of expectations for all sports field managers. The results are better fields and safer fields at all levels of sports competition.

In order to qualify for the opportunity to test for certification status, the individual must achieve, and document the achievement of, a minimum of 40 points earned through a combination of education and experience.

While management of athletic playing surfaces requires a solid foundation in the principles of agronomics and turf physiology, there are certain elements of the process an individual must acquire through experience. The sports field manager must sometimes "tamper" with the laws of science to achieve immediate, short-term results. Then the manager must apply scientific principles to correct those inconsistencies and bring field conditions back in compliance with the same laws previously manipulated. Hands-on experience is required to do this successfully.

After verification of achievement of the 40 points in education and experience, the individual must take the Certified Sports Field Manager in-depth, four part written examination. This examination addresses competencies established by professionals, educators and researchers within the industry on agronomic, administration, pest management, and sports specific issues. In order to achieve certification, the individual must score a minimum of 80 percent on all four segments of the examination.

Those achieving CSFM status have demonstrated their personal level of professionalism and their ability to apply those professional standards in their own sports field management program.

The Certified Sports Field Manager status is designated by the initials CSFM after the name of a certified individual and the use of the CSFM logo on business cards, stationery and other correspondence. The three-year certification renewal cycle is designed to keep Certified individuals responsive to industry progress and technological advances.

If you are interested in meeting Jim or learning more about maintaining safe athletic fields you can attend the Rutgers Snyder Research and Extension Farm Fall Field Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

Day on October 10th in Pittstown, NJ. For registration forms call (908) 713-8980. (See page 3 for details).

For more information on the Certified Sports Field Manager program, or the Sports Turf Managers Association and its goals and objectives, please contact:

STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty at 712/322-STMA or 800/323-3875, Fax: 712/366-9119 or e-mail: STMAHQ@st.coxmail.com. Visit STMA's website at: www.sportsturfmanager.com.

Or contact the New Jersey Chapter at 908-236-9118, Eleanora Murfitt, President ▲

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There is a 1990 publication (STP 1073) by American Society for Testing and Materials in which basic recommendations for baseball field safety are outlined. The ASTM also had a working committee on particle size guidelines for baseball fields that will soon be a national standard. ▲



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DID YOU KNOW? Clay is so powdery fine that 1 gram, which has a volume about equal to that of a pencil eraser, may have a total surface area equal to one-fifth of a football field.
(Soil Science Simplified, 4th Ed., Milo Harpstead, pg 30)