CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEW JERSEY RECREATION & PARKS ASSOC.

September 25 – Skatepark Risk Management Workshop - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Red Hill Activity Center, Middletown, NJ
Contact: NJRPA at (732) 568-1270
Registration: $80.00 NJRPA member, $100.00 non member

NEW JERSEY TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

December 10-12 - New Jersey Turf and Landscape Expo 2002, Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ. *(Athletic Field Educational Sessions begin Wed., Dec.11 from 4pm to 6pm. & Thurs. Dec. 12 from 10am to 3:30pm with annual SFMANJ meeting at 1pm, Thursday).*

Rutgers Snyder Research & Extension Farm Outreach Field Day in Cooperation with SFMANJ

October 10 – at Snyder Farm in Pittstown, NJ from 11:30am to 3:30pm. See Turfgrass demonstration plots, earn pesticide credits and discuss drought issues. Lunch included. Watch for registration forms in the mail soon or call with question at (908) 713-8980 *(See page 4)*
Members $15.00
Non-Members $25.00

"A Look at the Growth Cycle & Field Care of Grass Seed" by Mark Sellman, Simplot/Jacklin Seed

Planted in the spring, the seed is laid in narrow rows by a special grass seed drill. Normal irrigation and fertilization follows stand establishment. About 16 months following planting, the first crop is harvested. Subsequent harvests are possible every year thereafter until field age results in a yield decrease. A typical year in the cycle of a mature grass field is illustrated below:

1. IRRIGATION

Field irrigation of the seed begins in early April. The seed has now passed its winter dormancy and started its vertical growth. Irrigation continues through late June, when the seed matures.

2. WEED CONTROL

After establishment of the grass, weeds are sprayed with various chemicals to insure weed-free fields, producing high quality seed. Oftentimes fields are weeded by hand in the spring if a selected chemical is not available for successful weed control. If weed problems arise in mature fields, they are quickly solved by spring or fall herbicidal applications.

3. FIELD ROGUING

Roguing (the weeding out of foreign plants and inferior or diseased seed heads) continues from spring through early June. Continued on page 15.....

Continued from page 3 " ***A Look at the Growth Cycle"***

4. SWATHING
Swathing the cutting of early maturing varieties, starts in late June and continues through July.

5. WINDOW CURING
The swathed grass then lies in windrows, curing for at least 20 days prior to harvesting.

6. COMBINING
After the grass is cured, it is picked up by means of a draper mechanism attached to a combine. The seed is threshed and augured into the combine bulk bin.

7. BULK TRANSPORTATION
From the combine, the seed is transferred to mobile bulk field bins or trailers. The bins or trailers are then transported to a central storage area.

8. BULK ACCUMULATION AND STORAGE
On arrival at the central storage area the seed is hydraulically dumped into a RADER Pneumatic Air System of rapid transit to bulk storage bins. From this point seed is transferred to the primary warehouse for processing and bagging.

9. FIELD BURNING
From mid-August through September, just as soon as harvesting is completed, straw is removed and baled to help eliminate emissions. Fields are then burned. This controlled burning serves to physiologically stimulate seed head production and subsequent seed yield. In addition, the burning controls disease, insects, rodents and weeds, while returning minerals to the soil.

10. IRRIGATION
Immediately after burning, fields are watered, causing the grass to break dormancy, putting forth a green, fall flush of leaves.

11. FERTILIZATION
After watering, the mobile irrigation pipes are removed and the grass is fertilized.

12. FIELD DORMANCY
During the late fall, just prior to winter dormancy; the grass develops seed head primordia deep within its crown. Although essentially dormant, during the winter months, the grass plant continues to develop internally with individual seed florets forming within the crown. This formation continues until early spring at which time the plant starts its vertical growth.

TYPICAL BLUEGRASS CLEANING LINE

As the seed moves from the field in large trailers, it is delivered to the warehouse and transferred into large field boxes holding up to 2,000 pounds of unconditioned seed. Each box of seed is identified by the bar code with the grower's name, variety name, certification information and grower's field number. The computer reads the bar code and the boxes are identified with the appropriate information.

1. FIELD BOXES
Field-run material from bulk bins is fed into the system.

2. RECEIVING BIN DELTA PRECLEANER
Removes long straw and dust. Gas 18 screens and a unique air screen separation.

3. DEBEARDERS
Deawns and defuzzes seed, conditions seed for easier conditioning on the following machines.

4. DELTA CLEANER
Cleans seed by width, thickness and length. Also removes lightweight material. Has 21 screens and two air separations.

5. CARTER DISC
Removes straw and weed seeds.

6. CLIPPER CLEANER
Continue sizing with screens and air. Has four screens and two air separations.

7. CARTER ASPIRATOR
Removes more lightweight seed in preparation for the gravity.

8. GRAVITIES
Removes by specific gravity foreign weeds and seeds, also lightweight grass seed.

9. CARTER INDENTS
Removes final small weeds by size.

10. CARTER AIR FILTER
Filters air, making the entire plant a better working environment. It returns cleaner air than it was originally on the intake. In cold seasons, it heats the air and returns it to the plant.

BLENDING AND PACKAGING

11. CLEAN SEED BULK BOX
Provides storage prior to blending.

12. BLENDER
Blends all conditioned seed to a precalculated blend.

13. BAGGING AND WEIGHING
Preweighs seed in polypropylene, burlap and paper bags in US or metric weights through electronically controlled delivery system and scales.▲