

“Rutgers Steps Up to the Plate”

by Jim Hermann, CSFM

Rutgers, The State University, has teamed up with the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey to develop infield mix demonstration plots at the Snyder Research and Extension Farm in Pittstown, New Jersey. These plots will be introduced at the fall field day, tentatively scheduled for the month of October.

This cooperative project will initially include a series of 10' X 10' plots intended to provide examples of the range of infield mixes available to the SFM (sports field manager), based on both the physical (sand, silt, clay) analysis and the sieve (particle size) analysis of these materials.

Based on these criteria, there will be examples of both acceptable and unacceptable infield mixes, as they compare to the ASTM Standard Guide for Construction and Maintenance of Skinned Areas on Sports Fields, publication F 2107-01.

A number of the plots utilizing infield mixes determined to be acceptable, will be expanded to demonstrate the benefits of proper maintenance and the ramifications of improper maintenance specific to those mixes. Proper construction principles and technique will also be demonstrated.

All of the plots will utilize mixes blended specifically for the intent of the individual plot. It is not the purpose of this project to label currently available brand name products as being “acceptable” or “unacceptable”. No brand or trade names will be used or made reference to in the demonstrations.

It is the objective of this project to provide the SFM with the “hands on” experience and education necessary to formulate his or her own opinion on the quality and suitability of those products available. The SFM will then be able to institute a proper maintenance strategy based on the product selected and the individual needs of his or her program.

Over the course of time Rutgers anticipates developing additional demonstrations to cover the spectrum of alternative materials and procedures available to the SFM. If you have questions pertaining to construction or maintenance procedures or materials used in conjunction with infields please direct your questions to SFMANJ, PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801 (mail) 908-730-7770 (phone) hq@sfmanj.org (e-mail)

We would like to express our appreciation to Geo Schofield Co. Inc. of Bound Brook, New Jersey, Partac Peat Corporation of Great Meadows, New Jersey and Better Materials Corporation (US Silica) of Woodbine New Jersey for their continued support of the industry and their donation of component materials used in the development of the initial demonstration plots. ▲

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