

Pittstown NJ, in cooperation with SFMANJ is developing infield mix demonstration plots, which will be utilized to aid people like yourself in making better decisions in the selection and maintenance of a quality infield mix. These plots will be ready at our October (date TBA) field day at the Rutgers Snyder Farm in Pittstown, NJ which will be open to the public.

Jim Hermann, CSFM
SFMANJ, VP

** Jim Hermann is a Certified Sports Field Manager and Vice President of SFMANJ. He has over 24 years experience maintaining athletic fields along with running his own maintenance business, Total Control Inc.*

QUESTION: What should I tell my customers when they ask me about the dangers that lawn pesticides pose to their cats and dogs?

ANSWER: You can assure them that their pets will not be harmed with pesticide applications you make. All pesticides are carefully tested before qualifying for registration by the EPA and before they can be sold. Part of this testing includes determining possible effects on non-target organisms such as pets. Pesticides that pose an unacceptable risk to non-target organisms cannot be registered. Of course, you should have your customers follow the same re-entry procedures for cats and dogs as is recommended for humans. Wait until the treated area dries (in the case of liquid application) and, for granular materials, comply with label directions for re-entering the treated area.

QUESTION: I had a close friend tell me that buying will-fit hydraulic filters for my mid-sized riding mowers may cause damage to them. Is that true?

ANSWER: Your friend is correct. These can damage your mower and will not provide the performance intended by the manufacturer. The purpose of a hydraulic filter is to modify the mower's fluid. The two contributors that destroy hydraulic fluid are heat and contamination. The contamination will break down the ability of the oil to lubricate the components. This, in turn, wears down the components and makes them less efficient. Filters also must offer the correct particle sizing to handle the flow capacity of the mower's system and the pressure rating. The flow capacity of the filter is the amount of oil that passes through the media without the bypass valve opening. The filter should be correctly matched to the amount of oil that the system generates. The filter must also be able to withstand a given pressure. If you compare filters they may have the same outside dimensions but be totally different on the inside.

**Grounds Maintenance, February 2003
Mark Welterlen
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Also send your questions to Dr. Murphy,
Dr. Koppenhofer and Dr. Hart.
E-mail us at hq@sfmanj.org

"Murphy's Law"

Dr. James Murphy is an Associate Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management for Rutgers, department of Plant science. Ask Dr. Murphy questions concerning agronomics.

"Ask The Grub Oracle"

Dr. Albrecht Koppenhöfer is an Assistant Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Entomology, Cook College/Rutgers University. Ask Dr. Koppenhöfer questions concerning your insect problems.

"Take it to Hart"

Dr. Stephen Hart is an Assistant Extension Specialist in the Plant Science Dept. at Cook College/Rutgers University. Ask Dr. Stephen Hart questions concerning weeds.

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"Irrigation Backflow Basics"

Backflow can occur in two ways – back pressure and back siphoning. Below are some fundamental causes for each:

Back siphoning:

- Undersized piping
- Line repair or brake lower than the service point
- Lowered main pressure due to high water withdrawal rates.
- Reduced supply-main pressure on the suction side of a booster.

Back pressure:

- Potable water connections to pressure systems aren't equipped with backflow prevention devices
- Interconnection with another system operated at a higher pressure, like a fertigation system
- Booster pump designed without a backflow prevention device. ▲

**Landscape & Irrigation, March 2003
Luke Frank*