

"Rutgers Corner"

by Brad Park, Rutgers University*

*Note from Dr. James Murphy: It is a great pleasure to introduce Mr. Brad Park, the new Sports Turf Research and Education Coordinator at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Brad is assisting sports turf managers of New Jersey through education and research to help provide better sports turf for the citizens of New Jersey.

A little over a year ago, in early March 2002, I was invited to speak at Rutgers University as part of a turfgrass management symposium. It was my first trip to Rutgers and my attendance at the turfgrass symposium and overnight lodging at the University Inn and Conference Center marked my longest visit to the State of New Jersey.

On March 3, 2003, I began working at Rutgers University as part of a new sports turf research and education position. Since then I have given a talk on Integrated Pest Management for schools and school athletic fields, participated in the SFMANJ Field Day in Wall Township on April 10th, been part of the planning for a Fall 2003 Field Day sponsored by SFMANJ, and have been actively involved with turfgrass research at Rutgers.

My presentation at Rutgers in March 2002 focused on my Master of Science research, which I completed while working as a Research Technician for Penn State University, University Park, PA. My research at Penn State focused on golf course fairway renovation and control of annual bluegrass using Basamid Granular, a soil fumigant manufactured by BASF Corporation. I completed my Master of Science in Agronomy in August 2002.

As a Research Technician at Penn State, I had the privilege of working for Dr. Pete Landschoot, the Commonwealth's Turfgrass Extension Specialist and the Pennsylvania counterpart to Rutgers' Dr. James Murphy. In addition to my fumigant research, I performed research examining different liming sources and combinations of nonselective herbicides for turfgrass renovation. I'd like to incorporate my research and interest in nonselective chemistry into developing strategies for athletic field renovation, including the potential use of Basamid, for New Jersey.

I have a strong interest and background in turfgrass variety research. While working at Penn State, I was actively involved in the establishment, maintenance, and rating of six National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) trials. These tests encompassed evaluations of common turfgrass species used on athletic fields in New Jersey including: Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and tall fescue.

The results of on-going turfgrass variety research at Rutgers combined with examining the impact of wear and traffic on turf varieties and blends serve as extremely useful information for sports field managers across New Jersey. The compilation of results from this work and the creation of fact sheets that can be distributed to sports turf practitioners are very attainable goals for my role at Rutgers.

I am looking forward to working with SFMANJ in the future by helping to organize Field Days, participating in Field Day demonstrations, contributing to the newsletter, and playing a role in the Athletic Field program at the annual New Jersey Turfgrass Association Turf Expo in Atlantic City. ▲

If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at 732-932-9711 x 127 or via email at park@aesop.rutgers.edu

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