Rutgers University October 2003 Sports Turf Field Day

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On a beautiful early-fall day at the Rutgers Snyder Research and Extension Farm located in Pittstown, NJ, Rutgers University in cooperation with Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) sponsored the October 2003 Sports Turf Workshop.

After a great lunch and introductory remarks made by Eleanora Murfitt, President, SFMANJ; Dr. John Grande, Director, Snyder Farm; and Dr.



Bruce Clarke, Director, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, 73 participants began a tour of sports turf demonstration plots.

The tour consisted of field demonstrations created for the purpose of conveying practical and applied information to sports turf managers. Brad Park, Rutgers University, described his broadleaf weed control herbicide demonstration as well as the concept of including a plant growth regulator in turf marking paint. Dr. John Grande and SFMANJ-sponsored student intern, Rob Shortell, Rutgers University showed the results of seeding different turfgrass species at multiple soil depths as well as seeding turfgrasses in early winter. Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers University, illustrated the need for frequent mowing when turfgrass is intensively managed as part of a turfgrass mowing and nitrogen fertilization demonstration conducted

on both perennial ryegrass and tall fescue.

The final stop of the field plot tour was an interactive description of baseball/softball infield mixes recently installed at the Snyder Farm. The infield mix plots afforded the sports field managers in attendance the

> opportunity to view different mixes they m i g h t

encounter and be responsible for managing as part of their job responsibilities. Jim Hermann, Vice President, SFMANJ, took part in the demonstration by describing strategies and management practices required to maintain infield mixes.

As part of a presentation that carried 1 Core NJDEP Pesticide re-certification credit, Geoff



Slifer and Bob Hasse, Rutgers Snyder Farm, showed proper techniques for storing and handling pesticides as well as the process of calibrating a sprayer.

Turfgrass diseases are often overlooked in sports field management. Dr. Bruce Clarke ended the October workshop by delivering a talk on how cultural practices in turfgrass management influence disease severity.

A special thanks goes out to all those who attended the 2003 October Sports Turf Workshop at the Rutgers Snyder Farm. •



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