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## Calendar of Events

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December 7-9<sup>th</sup> 2004 **New Jersey Turfgrass Expo:** Athletic field education sessions 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, see front page. Taj Mahal, Atlantic City. For more info call 856-853-5973 or 732-821-7134

**Rutgers University Winter Courses:** 10% off to all SFMANJ members mention this newsletter  
February 22-24, **3-Day Athletic Field Construction & Maintenance Course**  
March 1, 8, 15, 22, **Athletic Field Special Topics: Soils, Turf, Athletic Field Construction and Synthetic Turf Products.** To register call 732-932-9271 ext. 630

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## Rutgers Corner - October 2004 Sports Turf Workshop Recap

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By Brad Park, Rutgers University  
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A Sports Turf Workshop was held on October 7, 2004 at Rutgers University Hort. Farm II, in cooperation with Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ), in which sports field managers from locations ranging from Cape May County, to Delaware, to New York City participated in a day filled with educational topics.

The rewards of attending the workshop began at the registration table. All registered attendees received a turfgrass cap compliments of the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science and a packet of handouts that included soon-to-be Rutgers Fact Sheets outlining Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, and perennial ryegrass varieties ideal for sports fields in New Jersey based on Rutgers turfgrass traffic tolerance research.

Following lunch and introductions, the schedule of events moved outside. Given the weather for the day, October 7 may have been the day in 2004. Bright sunny skies, 70-degree temperatures, and low humidity provided optimal conditions for a field plot tour.

Dr. Stacy Bonos and Dr. Bill Meyer began the day discussing Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue and their use on sports fields. Both the Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue trials were National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) tests. Dr. Meyer then described a newly-seeded perennial ryegrass NTEP trial in which numerous varieties had fallen victim to gray leaf spot, a turfgrass disease that affects perennial ryegrass. This talk was extremely pertinent as sports field managers routinely overseed high-traffic fields with perennial ryegrass. Several commercially available varieties showed superior gray leaf spot resistance including Paragon GLR, Palmer IV, Repell GLS, and Protege.

The plot tour moved to the opposite end of Hort. Farm II where Dr. Steve Hart discussed pre and postemergence crabgrass control. Treatment differences were readily apparent in the plots as some materials effectively controlled crabgrass while others did not.

The focus of the field day shifted to Kentucky bluegrass as Dr. Jim Murphy stressed the importance of fertilization and irrigation inputs necessary to establish Kentucky bluegrass on a sand rootzone. Brad Park followed with a discussion of current Rutgers research investigating the effects of wear, compaction, and season-specific wear on various Kentucky bluegrass varieties. One take-home message from this study is the strong ability of Kentucky bluegrass to recover from damage, particularly if use of a field is withheld to allow recuperation.

Rich Buckley, coordinator of the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab, ended the educational sessions with a presentation on gray leaf spot and other diseases that affect New Jersey Sports Fields. This presentation was timely given the level of gray leaf spot infection on perennial ryegrass seen previously in the day.

For those registered attendees wishing to receive NJ DEP pesticide credits, three Category 3B credits were given. The day ended with a popular SFMANJ tradition – the awarding of door prizes. Door prizes included Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science golf shirts, a 1-yr membership to SFMANJ, a registration to New Jersey Turfgrass Association's Expo 2004 in Atlantic City, a soil probe (complimentary of Dr. Henry Indyk), and several soil tests kits from the Rutgers Soil Test Lab.

A special thanks goes out to numerous people who helped prepare the test plots, the day's speakers, SFMANJ for co-sponsoring the day, and especially all those who attended. – Brad ♦

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**9:00 am Work smarter, not harder**

Floyd Perry – President, Grounds Maintenance Services, FL

**9:30 am Weed problems and their control**

Brad Park, Rutgers Univ./Cook College

**10:00 – 12:30 pm**

**TRADE SHOW – Estes Arena, Free Snacks and Beverages**

**NJ DEP Credits: (1) Core**

**12:30 pm Annual Business meeting of SFMANJ, Elections**

Eleanora Murfitt Hermann – CRS, President SFMANJ

**1:00 pm Reducing potential litigation – improving safety**

Floyd Perry - President, Grounds Maintenance Services, FL

**1:30 pm Irrigation techniques for water conservation**  
George McCarthy – Spring Irrigation, Cranbury, NJ

**2:00 pm Grooming: Improving playability of infields**

James Hermann – CSFM, Vice Pres. SFMANJ, Total Control, Inc.

**2:30 pm Update on school IPM program**

Dr. George Hamilton, Rutgers Univ. ♦