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## Calendar of Events

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**October 7<sup>th</sup> Thurs., Sports Turf Workshop:** Rutgers University Center for Turfgrass Science in cooperation with Sports Field Managers Assoc. of NJ. Held at Hort. Farm II-Ryders Lane, North Brunswick at 11am to 3:30pm. NJ DEP Pesticide Credits (3B). \$15 members, \$25 for non-members. Become a member and receive \$10 discount. Go to [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org) for more info or call 908-730-7770.

**October (next test) Playground Safety Course:** New Jersey Recreation & Parks Assoc. Become a certified playground inspector. For more information, call Bill Foelsch at (732)568-1270.

**November 15-19<sup>th</sup> 89<sup>th</sup> Annual League of Municipalities Conference:** Atlantic City Convention Center. Go to [www.njslom.org](http://www.njslom.org) for more information.

**December 7-9<sup>th</sup> 2004 New Jersey Turfgrass Expo:** Taj Mahal, Atlantic City. Mark your calendar. State tune for more info. ♦

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## Letter from the President

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### Membership Promotion for SFMANJ and STMA

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SFMANJ is currently in its fifth year of existence as of this October. We have worked hard to give our members quality education and information. We have grown in leaps and bounds. The membership has grown from 25 to over 300. Our first newsletter was published July 2001. It was a two-page copy produced in house (our house) and printed at Staples. Since that time "SFMANJ Update" has grown to a colored professionally produced 16-20 page publication. In addition, for the past two years all primary members have been provided with a yearly membership resource directory.

Two years ago the board of directors voted to employ a part-time executive secretary. Kathy Hopfel is an indispensable part of what keeps our organization growing. As our membership grows, her responsibilities and hours of service each month grow along with it.

The support from the green industry, Rutgers University and commercial businesses has been phenomenal. Please continue to use your resource directory when shopping for products, equipment and services. Support those that support SFMANJ.

#### Chapter Dues Increase

The New Jersey Chapter dues have not increased since our inception five years ago. We are proud to say our benefits have. Our members receive a complimentary subscription to "Update" our bimonthly newsletter, a resource directory, a \$10 discount on two field days and workshops, education at the NJTurfgrass Expo, a 10% discount on any Turfgrass classes taught at Rutgers University, opportunities to advertise your business, jobs, equipment sales; student

scholarships and support with your sports field related problems.

As you know, the cost to run the organization has increased. In order to continue offering these benefits and more we must increase dues for 2005. We will continue to provide quality information and education for the Sports Field Manager. Please adjust your budgets to show the following dues.

Individual	\$45
Associate	\$45
Organization/Institution	\$45
Additional member from facility	\$25
Commercial/Contractor	
Vendor/Supplier	\$100
Additional member	\$30
Student (ID required)	\$15

At the *National level*, Sports Turf Managers Association will again kick off a membership promotion, starting on October 1, that gives those joining from October 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004, membership from that point through December 31, 2005 at the 2005-membership rate. To see how you can earn referral bucks, which can be redeemed towards national membership dues or a trip to the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona Jan. 19-23, 2005 go to [www.sportsfieldmanager.com](http://www.sportsfieldmanager.com)

Our *State chapter*, Sports Field Managers Association of NJ will be offering the same benefit to new Chapter members. This is the time to add a new member or tell a friend about the opportunities SFMANJ offers. **That's up to three months free membership when you join beginning Oct 1.** ♦

Eleanora Hermann, CRS  
Washington Township Parks & Recreation  
[hq@sfmanj.org](mailto:hq@sfmanj.org)

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## Rutgers Corner – Does turfgrass wear reduce the severity of dollar spot?

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By Brad Park, Rutgers University  
[park@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:park@aesop.rutgers.edu)

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We are conducting a study at Rutgers examining the affect of wear on various Kentucky bluegrass varieties throughout the entire growing season, and specifically in spring, summer, and fall. This research will be discussed as part of the *October Sports Field Workshop to be held at Rutgers' Hort. Farm II in North Brunswick, NJ on October 7, 2004.*

Initial observations have shown that some Kentucky bluegrass varieties are very wear tolerant in both spring and summer months. Unfortunately, some of these wear-tolerant varieties are highly susceptible to dollar spot, a turfgrass disease that affects New Jersey sports field turfgrass species including Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and tall fescue.

Dollar spot is caused by the fungus *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* and the disease is most widespread during warm, moist weather and turfgrass growing on soils deficient in nitrogen is particularly susceptible. Symptoms of dollar spot include round, straw-colored spots which initially have the size of a "silver dollar" but may reach 4 to 6 inches in diameter in higher-cut sports turf. If left untreated with a fungicide labeled for dollar spot control, under environmental conditions favorable for the growth of the fungus multiple dollar spot infections may grow together or "coalesce" to form a significant disease infection in turfgrass.

In our Kentucky bluegrass traffic study at Rutgers, plots were treated with 16 wear passes per week for three weeks and 'Julia' Kentucky bluegrass showed little or no infection with dollar spot and excellent turfgrass cover, an indicator of superior wear tolerance. Conversely, where plots received no wear, Julia was riddled with approximately 70% dollar spot

infection. Julia has shown the greatest susceptibility to dollar spot among the varieties tested in our trial, including 'Midnight', 'Liberator', 'Princeton-105', and 'Touchdown'.

The fungus that causes dollar spot survives in unfavorable growing conditions as paper-thin flakes called "stromata" and as dormant mycelium in dead or living turfgrass tissue. Mycelium is a mass of interwoven filaments that comprises the vegetative body of a fungus. When favorable growth conditions exist in spring and early summer, the mycelium and stromata resume growth and development. The fungi infect turfgrass plants via cut leaf tips and leaf openings called "stomates" when plant surfaces are wet.

It is possible that the abrasive action of the wear simulator on the turfgrass canopy and soil/thatch interface significantly disrupted the dollar spot disease cycle/mycelium development, thus preventing noticeable disease infection on plots receiving passes with the wear

simulator. It appears that repeated turfgrass wear is keeping dollar spot severity in-check and potentially nullifying the need for fungicide application in worn plots. This observation *IS NOT*, however, a reason to cease managing traffic by rotating fields or suspending use of fields to allow recovery or applying a fungicide if an application is warranted.

This observation *IS* an argument for maintaining frequent mowing intervals. While mowing itself will not be a 100% preventative control of dollar spot, particularly for those varieties highly susceptible to the disease such as Julia, early morning mowing can have the affect of removing leaf moisture in the form of dew and thus helping to alleviate prolonged turfgrass leaf wetness which only exacerbates dollar spot development. ♦

#### Literature Cited

Shurtleff et. al. 1987. Controlling turfgrass pests. Prentice Hall, Inc. Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

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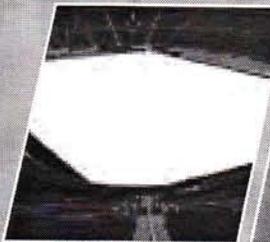
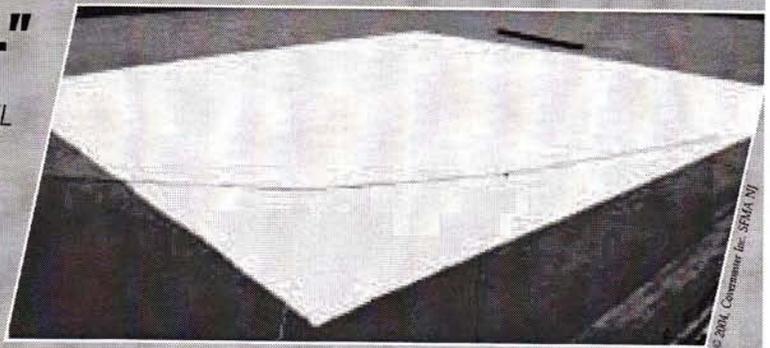
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