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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

from a Certified Sports Field Manager

By Joe Warner, CSFM

As you read these words you're not going to find anything that you have not read before. Just about everything we know about turfgrass has already been written. Hopefully, after you finish, you'll realize that all the words written are a matter of interpretation. Not interpretation as to right or wrong, but as to how you can apply it to your personal situation.

Even though years of study and research have gone into compiling the information that we have right now, there are many successful field managers who cannot relate to a solution as presented, and instead, take bits and pieces and put it all together, in their own particular application, and form a very efficient operation. The important thing that educators are trying to get across is that with a good mix of education and practical experience you can be quite successful.

Success is not measured by methods; success is measured by results. Have you ever had a problem, or attempted a project, and you knew that what you read, or were told by someone wouldn't get you the results you wanted? Well, don't get discouraged and don't be too quick to criticize the suggestion. Your circumstances may be totally different from the case you read about or were told about. The thing you have to remember is: Did any part of the suggestion work? If it did, how can you build from it and expand it? Maybe all it would take is a little imagination and some thought on your part to solve your problem.

How many times have you sat-in on a class or a lecture and thought to yourself, "Yeah, this guy works in a lab or in some research field or in an office, how does he/she know the problems I'm faced with?" Well, they may not know your situation exactly, but you can bet they know that with the information that they are trying to relay to you, you can put together a workable plan.

Never be afraid to ask a question if you cannot relate to a topic that is being presented. That instructor would feel more satisfied in spending the entire time making sure you understand, than making his or her entire presentation and not be understood. The next time you're sitting in on a lecture stay focused on how you can apply that bit of information to your situation.

Never give-up on trying to learn all you can about a topic. Participate in Chapter workshops and field days; read publications and newsletters. Remember, the more information you can gather will give you a much better chance of solving your particular problems.

Joe Warner is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); Owner, E MAE Company; and a member of SFMANJ.



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