

UPDATE

ISSN 2158-124X

Sports Field



Managers Association of New Jersey

Winter 2020

Vol. 20, No. 4

P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070 • 856-514-3179 • www.sfmanj.org • e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

Ready for 2021

See Inside For:

Winter Sports Field Tips
Applying Gypsum
Preparation for a Baseball Tournament
Cultivating Experienced Operators
Lacrosse Fields
Outsourcing



Count on it.

WHAT *Toro® Outcross™ 9060.*

MATTERS *Dozens of attachments.
Hundreds of jobs. 365 days a year.*



MOST *Work smarter. Do More. Save money.*

What Matters Most to You Matters Most to Us.

It's a numbers game. You need to get more jobs done fast and right the first time, optimize your club's resources and stay within budget. Toro's new Outcross 9060, a multi-purpose and turf-friendly workhorse, combines purpose-built, all-season functionality with intuitive operation – with virtually anyone on your staff – and unprecedented versatility to deliver impressive results. Even better, Outcross can power your existing attachments utilizing its 3-point connection and power take-off, haul over two tons in its supersized cargo/dump-bed, and tow up to 16,000 lbs. (7,257 kg)**, which is more than three times its own weight. The weight-balanced, four-wheel steer and full-time four-wheel drive powerhouse can get it all done without damaging sensitive turf. The all new Outcross 9060 is a Jack-of-all-trades, and Jack is jealous.*

Visit: toro.com/outcross



Storr Tractor Company

Branchburg, NJ 908-722-9830

©2018 The Toro Company. All rights reserved.

Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 67 new & renewed members for 2021. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey has mailed invoices for 2020 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please register on our website, www.sfmanj.org. Contact us at 856.514.3179 with any questions. Checks can be mailed to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

Renewd for 2020

David Barker *William Penn University*
Keith Fisher *Middlesex County Vocational School District*

Renewd for 2021

Daniel Andrus	<i>Blair Academy</i>
Anthony Barone	<i>Down to Earth Landscaping, Inc.</i>
James Betts	<i>Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.</i>
Scott Bills	<i>Sports Field Solutions LLC</i>
Steve Bradley	<i>Storr Tractor Co.</i>
Lou Carty	<i>Jersey Turf, Inc.</i>
Fred Castenschiold	<i>Storr Tractor Company</i>
Joe Castoro	<i>Ramapo College</i>
Gregory DeBuck	<i>DeBuck's Sod Farm of NY, Inc.</i>
Lee DeFreitas	<i>Shaw Sports Turf</i>
Rick DeLeon	<i>Somerset County Park Commission</i>
Dennis DeSanctis, Jr.	<i>Double 'D' Turf LLC</i>

Continued on page 15

2020 SFMANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President, Zachary Holm, CSFM..... New York Red Bulls
Vice President, Rich Watson Laurel Lawnmower
Secretary, Scott Bills, CSFM Sports Field Solutions
Treasurer, Jessica Phillips The Turf Trade

SFMANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Virgil Caputo Monroe Twp. Parks Department
Fred Castenschiold Storr Tractor Company
Jim Iannetti Middlesex Boro Parks Department
Bernard Luongo SFMANJ
Ken Mathis Brick Township
Matt Olivi Dunellen Board of Education
Brad Park Rutgers University
Craig Tolley County College of Morris

ADVISORS:

Sean Connell Georgia Golf
Dr. James Murphy Rutgers University
Don Savard, CSFM, CGM Salesianum School

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Debbie Savard SFMANJ

MISSION STATEMENT

Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers by improving the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields at all levels through seminars, field days, publications and networking with those in the sports turf industry.

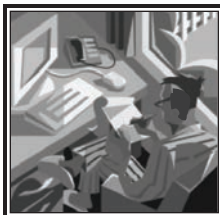
PO Box 205 • Pennsville, NJ 08070

Web site: www.sfmanj.org • Email: mail@sfmanj.org
Phone: 856-514-3179 / Fax: 856-514-2542

National Organization

Sports Turf Managers Association
www.stma.org

ATTENTION MEMBERS!



SFMANJ Update is looking for authors.

Please feel free to send Brad Park, Editor, SFMANJ Update (park@aesop.rutgers.edu) and/or Debbie Savard, SFMANJ Executive Secretary (mail@sfmanj.org) an article regarding your fields, your experiences, your problems and your surprises.

SFMANJ Update can accommodate articles of differing lengths and welcomes pictures. The SFMANJ Membership will benefit from reading your story.

**Feel free to call today:
856-514-3179**

New Website www.sfmanj.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Message from the President.....	4
Winter Sports Field Tips	5
Making the Experienced Operators of Tomorrow.....	6
Tournament Time - A Groundskeeper's Account of Preparation for a Baseball Tournament	7
What Do Lacrosse Parents Think About Sports Fields?	8
Applying Gypsum - When is it Really Needed?.....	13
In House or Out House.....	14
Calendar of Events.....	16
Registration Form	17

*This newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the
Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.*

For information regarding this newsletter, contact:
SFMANJ at (856) 514-3179 or Brad Park at (848) 932-6327
Editor: Brad Park, Rutgers University, Email: bradley.s.park@rutgers.edu
Layout and Design: Debra Savard, Email: mail@sfmanj.org

SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.

A from the President

by Zack Holm

As 2020 ends and we turn the page to 2021 we can reflect on a year that was different and more challenging than any other year we have faced. The board wishes that we could have all seen each other this year at field days, events and Green Expo but we are looking forward to planning all these things in 2021. Despite the challenges, this year still yielded many positives. As an industry have adapted to continue to provide safe, playable surfaces with new budgetary and labor challenges. Many were deemed essential showing our importance in maintaining outdoor recreational areas and athletic fields for kids and adults to use.

I would also like to congratulate PDA Soccer and Jeffrey T. Olszyk on winning the 2020 SFMANJ Field of the Year. It was a difficult decision for the board as there was many excellent entries.

The board and I look forward to seeing everyone in 2021, please mark your calendars for the Spring Field Day at Tuckahoe Turf Farms on April 7th.

Zach Holm, CSFM is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM), member of the New York Red Bulls sports turf management team, and SFMANJ President

ANNOUNCING
SFMANJ
SPRING FIELD
DAY
at
TUCKAHOE
TURF FARMS
Hammonton, NJ
April 7, 2021

Date is tentative depending on any recurrence of Corona or further any new regulations in New Jersey

Visit our web site, www.sfmanj.org, to stay up to date

High Quality Bluegrass & Tall Fescue

Sand Sod grown on Hammonton sandy, loam-type soil designed for today's specialized modern athletic fields

Visit us on our web site: **www.ttfarms.com**

Our completely irrigated 700-acre farm allows production and deliveries to parts of Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York and all of New Jersey.

Labor Saving Big Rolls, please call for custom installation prices:

800-222-0591



609-561-7184
Fax 609-561-0296
401 Myrtle Ave. • P.O. Box 148
Hammonton, NJ 08037

SPARQ  www.ttfarms.com



Tuckahoe Turf Farms

WINTER

SPORTS FIELD TIPS

James A. Murphy, Ph.D.

Clean-up. Leaves, sticks, and other debris that accumulate on the grass over the winter should be raked up when weather permits. Debris lying on the turf too long can smother the grass and create bare spots. Bare spots will probably transform into weeds later in the season.

Mowing. Winter is a good time to clean, lubricate and repair your mowing equipment. You do not want to find out that your mowers do not work properly at first use in the spring. Because of the chance for wet weather and rapid shoot growth any delay in mowing at the start of the season (spring) can turn into a "behind the eight-ball" scenario very quickly.

Fertilization. Plan for your fertilization needs by testing your soil to determine whether liming is necessary to adjust soil pH (6.0 to 6.7 recommended) as well which nutrients are needed and how much. If you applied a thorough late season (autumn) fertilization, your turf probably will not need as much fertilization in early spring (March - April). Without a fall fertilization program, the turf may require some rather aggressive fertilization to encourage recovery from play or winter damage or to enhance spring green-up. An application of 2/3 to 1.0 pound of actual N per 1000 sq. ft. is a good starting fertilization rate in early spring. Fertilization with phosphates or potash should be based on soil test results.

Winter Seeding. Winter seeding is a risky practice; the probability of the seed washing away and being eaten by birds is very high. Work the seed into the soil if you choose to seed during winter and realize that is likely to you will need to re-seed when warmer weather returns. Seeding when air temperature consistently exceeds 50 degrees Fahrenheit provides a better chance for success.

Drainage Assessment. Winter is good time to assess your fields for areas of poor drainage. Identifying and mapping out these areas now will give you a record of where you need to treat with your aerifier this spring. If aeration is not enough, maps of the poorly drained areas will provide documentation that you can use to show facility administrators where improvements such as slit drainage are needed.

Cover Skinned Infield Areas. Wet winter weather can lead to considerable erosion of skinned areas on baseball/softball infields. Consider covering these areas during the winter to eliminate much of the skin restoration headaches this spring. Type "baseball field covers" in any of the popular internet search engines to see examples of numerous companies that can supply covers in various sizes and shapes.

James A. Murphy, Ph.D. is Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University; and SFMANJ Advisor

**PLEASE REMEMBER
TO RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!**

**To continue receiving
your copy of**

UPDATE

**and other
SFMANJ information!**

**And please update your
information for the directory**

**SFMANJ
HAS GONE DIGITAL**

Visit our new web site:

www.sfmanj.org

Here you can check your membership status, renew your dues, register for events, take out ads in Update, and find out the latest information regarding SFMANJ



Making the Experienced Operators of Tomorrow

by Scott Beachy

Editor's Note:

This article was first published in the January/February 2008 issue of SFMANJ Update when the author was employed by a Public Works Department in New Jersey.

Think about your starting day at your first job in this industry. You did not have any experience and never used any of what seemed like large equipment, whatever it was, dedicated mowers, sprayers, and tractors with different attachments or even loaders, backhoes or dump trucks. You were either one of two types: scared and unsure of yourself as far as running equipment or you were overconfident and thought, "Where are the keys?"

Now, jump ahead to today. Every year seems to bring one or two new employees to our department and at least half have no experience, yet they are still unsure and overconfident. So, how do you train them? First, I would check with your insurance company. Sometimes they will have training available that is at least partially relevant (usually the safety aspect) to the equipment you use. If not, ask them for any recommendations.

At our department, we do a blended program. We have employees attend classes and in-house training. Also, do not forget about continuous training. We try to send employees to some of these classes every one-to-three years to keep them safe and current. A lot of factors come into play when it comes to deciding when a person is ready to run a piece of equipment. It may be a time factor or if you have one, it may be a union issue. Once all the other issues involved have been satisfied, it is important to point out that you have to feel comfortable with an employee using a piece of equipment. I try to get through these issues to get at least one training session done as early as possible. I find that once a person starts to learn the controls and operation of a piece of equipment while watching other operators they will be able to learn a lot faster. They will ask themselves, "How is that done?" and pay close attention to that particular operation. They will pick-up on things that they would not have without that first training.

The first thing I say to a new trainee is, "This is the most important thing I am going to tell you." Then, I say softly and clearly, "TAKE YOUR TIME." That also means when you train someone make sure you have plenty of time and are not in a rush. You want to give this person a sense that he/she has all day. I start by explaining the controls and what they do. I also strongly encourage them to ask questions. When I am done explaining something I ask them if they understand and have them repeat back to me the functions of those particular controls. I give them an open area where they cannot do any damage or hurt anyone. I have them perform one function at a time and if I see them doing something wrong I will stop them right away to prevent them from forming any bad habits. If it is a complex piece of equipment I may only team them a portion of the equipment's operation. Once they are comfortable with that, I will teach them the remaining portion.

We never put a maximum on the number of training sessions. We always want to do a minimum, but are willing to do more. Even if I think they are ready I will want them to feel comfortable and vice versa. Again, I do not want them to feel rushed in any way because being rushed is how accidents happen. Finally, when they start using the equipment on their own, do not give them jobs that precision or speed are necessary. That is what your experienced operators are for. Let them get enough time under their belt before expecting these things out of them. After all, experience is the best teacher.

Scott Beachy is Owner/Operator, Green Zebra Landscaping, Roosevelt, NJ



Please check your SPAM folders for information from SFMANJ.

Upon checking, we have found that because we have a new website, which is where all communication is generated, our messages are not getting through to you.

We need to let you know about the next field day!



Do we have your e-mail address?

E-mail to mail@sfmanj.org
to make sure we have it
or to make a change.

Or go in line to update your member profile!

TOURNAMENT TIME -



by Rich Watson

A GROUNDKEEPER'S ACCOUNT OF PREPARATION FOR A BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Editor's Note:

The author was Sports Field Manager, Pine Hill Public Schools, Pine Hill, NJ at the time of authorship.

Hosting a tournament is a lot of work, however it is a good opportunity to showcase your facility. There will be people seeing your field for the first time, so make them remember it for the right reasons. We were informed this year that we would be one of three sites hosting the 33rd Annual Joe Hartman Diamond Classic. The tournament brings together the top 16 baseball teams in South Jersey. On May 13, 2006 Overbrook High School hosted two games, but the preparation started weeks earlier.

The call informing us about the tournament came in mid-April, so we had a good amount of time to prepare. First, we checked our baseball team's schedule for possible conflicts. Next was to check our field maintenance program. As luck would have it, a fertilizer application was scheduled the week before the tournament. Timing is everything.

With two weeks to go, we started cutting-in our pattern for the games. We cut the outfield in three directions at 2 inches every other day. The infield was cut in two directions at 1½-inch every other day. We use a Zero Turn mower (with a striping kit) to cut our outfield and a walk-behind mower for the infield. Sharp blades are very important, so we change them at least once a week.

The week of the tournament was very challenging. We had two games of our own in addition to the final prep for the big games. The day before the tournament is very important. We tried to do as many things as possible to make game day a little easier. Bullpen mounds were repaired, extra bleachers were moved, trash cans emptied, the infield was edged, and a sound check was done on the sound system. We made final cuts on the infield and outfield because there is no time the day of the games. Our mound and home plate areas are constructed using mound clay. Both areas were

repaired and covered. The infield was scarified, graded smooth, and then lightly rolled. The automatic irrigation system was used to wet down the infield at night, setting the stage for game day.

When the day of the tournament finally arrives, it's payday for all of the hard work. The day started with a light dragging of the infield, followed by another good soaking of the skinned areas. Next, foul lines and batters boxes were painted and chalked. At the last minute we decided to stencil the name of the tournament and the team names on the grass behind home plate. This was a nice touch that the teams and fans really seemed to appreciate. Finally, we painted the bases, pitching rubber, and home plate. It was game time.

The tournament was a great success. In between games we repaired the mound and plate, smoothed the infield with stiff drags, and touched up the chalk and paint. We wanted to make sure the second game played the same as the first. The coaches, players, and fans were very complimentary about our facility. That makes all the hard work worth it.

Putting together the maintenance end of a baseball tournament takes a lot of planning and hard work from a lot of people. My crew was outstanding. Their professionalism and hard work really showed in the playing condition of the field.

Tournament time is an opportunity to show off your field, while giving the teams a fair, competitive surface to play on. If you get the chance, step up to the plate and be remembered for the right reasons.

Rich Watson is Sales Representative, Laurel Equipment, Blackwood, NJ; and SFMANJ Vice-President

**Please call the office at
856-514-3179**

**with any questions, concerns
or comments
We want to hear from**

HELENA
People...Products...Knowledge...

Tim Gerzabek
Sales Representative
Specialty Division

51 A Main Street North
Woodbury, CT 06798
609-221-9240
GerzabekT@HelenaAgri.com
@TimG_Helena

HELENA CHEMICAL COMPANY
4 Killdeer Ct., Suite 100
Swedesboro, NJ 08085
Bus: 856-241-2070
Fax: 856-241-2086

WHAT DO LACROSSE PARENTS THINK ABOUT SPORTS FIELDS?



Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the November/December 2008 issue of SFMANJ Update

By Brad Park and Dr. John Grande

Do lacrosse parents have opinions about the playing surfaces on which their sons and daughters compete? A survey developed in cooperation with the Rutgers University Snyder Research & Extension Farm, Pittstown, NJ determined lacrosse parent stakeholders' views on issues including field quality expectations, pesticide applications, increased budgeting for sports field improvement, and synthetic infill fields.

In late summer 2007, the Rutgers Snyder Research & Extension Farm established seven acres of a tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass turf for the purpose of demonstrating how farming principles can be used to develop "utility" sports fields. In many rural and suburban areas of New Jersey where land selection is still feasible, "utility" sports fields can potentially be developed on land that is naturally suited for sports fields - and subsequently reduce the high cost of major construction activity.

These principles included first choosing a naturally crowned site with good quality agricultural soils that did not require extensive earthmoving as part of the site preparation process and had adequate internal drainage and moderate rock issues. Lime and pre-plant fertilizers were applied based on soil test results and incorporated using a disc harrow. A land leveler was then used to create a smooth surface, followed by rock picking. Final seedbed preparation was completed using a roller harrow. A Brillion Seeder was calibrated to deliver 350 lbs of seed per acre and following natural rainfall, seedling emergence was evident 13 days after seeding. Equipment, supply and labor costs were documented throughout the project.

Although in many cases necessary, sports fields are often constructed on sites that require extensive earthmoving. The result is costly engineering designs and extensive topsoil disturbance. In these cases, heavy road construction equipment is often used during construction and ultimately over compacts the soil compromising turfgrass establishment and future management.

After the successful establishment of the fields, the Rutgers Snyder Research & Extension Farm hosted a lacrosse event in July 2008 to showcase the new fields to the public as well as demonstrate field development and construction using the farming principles described above. The event brought several hundred lacrosse parents and players to Hunterdon County, NJ and players were able to use the fields for practices and scrimmages. The parents and coaches, as stakeholder groups, were presented information regarding project details.

A survey issued to the parents of players revealed their various opinions regarding sports fields - and the high bar they have set for field conditions. When parents (sixty-three responding) were asked what playing surface conditions they deemed to be minimally acceptable, 69% indicated either uniform turfgrass cover throughout the field with no bare soil or voids in the turf OR good turf cover throughout the field and thin turfgrass cover in front of goals. Only 25% thought that moderate turf cover throughout the field and bare soil in front of goal mouths and penalty kick areas was acceptable. These conditions are very common on Board of Education and Municipal fields in New Jersey. Interestingly, of the 69% of parents that found thin turf cover in front of goal mouths OR no voids in the turf minimally acceptable, 28% of those parents would not support the use of a herbicide on the sports field where their child plays - even if the application resulted in fewer bare areas resulting from dead annual weeds.

Parents did express a high level of support for increased expenditures for improvement of natural turf fields. When asked whether they would support increased budgeting for seed, equipment, and personnel if it meant field conditions could improve with fewer pesticide inputs, 75% of fifty-one parents responding answered "Yes." Similarly, 88% of parents (50 responding) supported increased use of water resources (including the installation/upgrade of an irrigation system) if field conditions would improve as a result.

Continued on page 18

Laurel
EQUIPMENT
WWW.LAURELLAWN.COM

rich@laurellawn.com

**Installation,
Service
Parts**

Distributors of

eXmark

WESTERN

**Snow Plows
Salt Spreaders**

Rich Watson
1850 Chews Landing Road
Chews Landing, NJ 08012

Phone: (856) 228-2670
(856) 228-2770
Fax: (856) 228-9470

Jersey Soil Blending

P.O. Box 525
Nutley, NJ 07110

Phone: (973) 320-2730
Fax: (973) 667-6599
Email: tony@njsoil.com

TONY PAVELEC

Covers That Make the Difference



From our supreme lightweight raincovers right to the classic vinyl ones, there are cover models and accessories to meet your specific needs.



EVERGREEN™ turf covers outsmart mother nature. Exclusive color lace coatings provide proven results.



FOOTBALL FIELD COVERS are made of superior strength material, providing protection from rain or snow.



TARPMATE™ AIR roller is a revolutionary storage and handling system for field covers. 2-3 people can roll out or roll up a 100' wide cover.



An INFLATABLE FIELD COVER allows for ongoing field maintenance during inclement and extreme cold weather.



100 Westmore Dr., 11D, Rexdale, ON M9V 5C3
3909 Witmer Rd., Niagara Falls, NY 14305
1-800-387-5808
Tel: +1-416-745-1811 • Fax: +1-416-742-6837
www.covermaster.com • info@covermaster.com

Expo 2019 - Looking forward to Expo 2021



Check with our Vendors FIRST!



OUR REPUTATION...

The Viersma Companies are family owned and operated and we stand behind our reputation for quality workmanship with every job we do. We have been in business for over 50 years and believe that service and reliability are key to our success. We are more than willing to accommodate to meet your needs!

*Family owned and operated
since 1965*

A certified installer of:



VISIT: www.viersma.com

CALL: (908) 852-0552

OUR SERVICES...

- Aerification
- Overseeding
- Topdressing
- Laser Grading
- Waterwick® Turf Drainage System
- Drainage Installation & Repair
- Infield Renovations & Construction
- Field Renovations & Construction





World-Class Performance Starts Here.



Around the world, more sports turf managers rely on Rain Bird to maintain top conditions.

Backed by more than 80 years of innovation, Rain Bird irrigation technologies deliver reliable performance and best-in-class system control. From sophisticated central control systems to highly-efficient long-range rotors, Rain Bird systems make it easier to maintain flawless turf while also saving water. That puts your players—and reputation—on solid footing.

Find out more at rainbird.com/sports

Heath Traver, Area Specification Manager • 973-270-6866 or HTraver@rainbird.com



• THE PROS OF BEING A PRO •

EXPERT ADVICE

At SiteOne® Landscape Supply, our industry pros deliver ideas and answers to help you take your course to the next level. When you package that with a large inventory of leading brands, time-saving delivery service and flexible financing options, it's easy to see why SiteOne is the top choice for green industry pros.



SiteOne.com

Irrigation | Lighting | Turf & Landscape | Maintenance | Nursery
Golf Course Maintenance | Hardscape | Pest Control

Applying Gypsum - When is it really needed?

Dr. David D. Minner

Gypsum (CaSO_4) is often applied but seldom needed on Iowa [or New Jersey] sports fields. The classic misunderstanding with gypsum arises from its association with improving water movement and soil structure on sodic (high sodium) soils that are not typically found in Iowa [or New Jersey].

Gypsum is correctly used on sodic soils that have undergone a process of deflocculation. In this case, gypsum will likely improve soil structure and water infiltration. A brief review of soil cation exchange capacity (CEC) and soil aggregation may help you understand how this is actually accomplished by gypsum. There are many negatively (-) charged sites on the surface of clay particles. Some of the more important nutrients are positively charged (calcium Ca^{++} , magnesium Mg^{++} , iron Fe^{++} and potassium K^+) and attach themselves to the negatively charged soil particles. These positively charged nutrients are called cations. The CEC is simply a measure of how many negative sites are available to attract the positively charged nutrients or cations.

Soil aggregation is another term you will need to understand to follow this discussion. Small individual soil particles are clumped together to form aggregates or "soil crumbs." Calcium - gypsum is a source of calcium - can cause this granulation to initiate in

a process called flocculation, however flocculation alone does not make aggregates stable. Organic matter and other viscous microbial products stabilize soil aggregates. In a well aggregated soil there are larger voids between the "soil crumbs." The larger voids or macropores improve water infiltration.

Now, back to gypsum. The CEC sites in sodic soils are dominated by Na. Other cations that help soil aggregation, such as Ca^{++} and Mg^{++} , are displaced by Na^+ . The excessive sodium reverses the process of aggregation and causes the "soil crumbs" to disperse into individual soil particles. The deflocculation that occurs in sodic soils results in a very tight arrangement of individually dispersed soil particles saturated with Na^+ . Macroporosity is greatly reduced and water infiltration slows to near zero. When wet, sodic soils are slick, sticky, and have poor drainage. When dry they become quite hard. Gypsum is correctly used to remedy this situation caused by excessive sodium in the soil. The Ca^{++} in gypsum (CaSO_4) displaces Na^+ on the exchange site. The Na^{++} reacts with sulfate (SO_4^-) to form sodium sulfate (Na_2SO_4); a highly water soluble material that is leached from the soil. Removing Na^+ and replacing Ca^{++} on the exchange site reduces deflocculation and allows natural aggregation of particles that eventually restores soil structure. Gypsum is very useful when soil structure deteriorates because of high Na^+ .

Continued on page 18

GEORGIA GOLF CONSTRUCTION, INC athletic field, golf and sports fields



Infield laser grading
Native soil athletic field construction
Synthetic field base construction
Design, build and consulting
Pitchers mound building
Sodding and seeding
Aerification
Infield mix, amendments, mound clay, bricks

Georgia Golf Construction, Inc.
1441 Route 50, Woodbine, NJ 08270
www.georgia.golfconstruction.com • 404-216-4445

JERSEY SEED

PROFESSIONAL TURF PRODUCTS

**Specializing in Quality Grass Seed
to Meet All Your
Turf Performance Standards**

Call for a Catalog

800-828-5856

Carrying a full line of quality mixtures
especially formulated for:

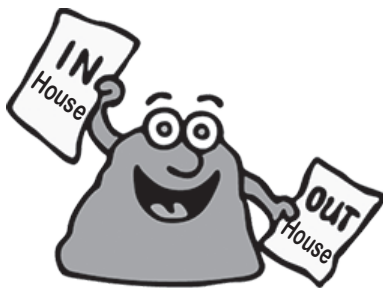
SPORTS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS

LOW MAINTENANCE AREAS

GENERAL GROUNDS

GOLF, LAWN AND RECLAMATION

**Technical Agronomic Support and
Custom Blending Available**



IN HOUSE OR OUT HOUSE

By Bernard Luongo

Editor's Note: This article was written when the author was a sports field manager at a Board of Education in Central New Jersey; the author is now retired from that role.

Since I became a grounds person, it has always been in the back of my mind how as a part of our team we can produce a better product – more efficiently and on our time schedule.

This meant having things in our control. Having control meant having the knowledge, product and equipment to do as many things in-house as practical. By doing this, it lessens the chance of your group being privatized and also removes the stigma of, “They just cut grass!”

There is no reason in the world why a grounds department cannot seed, aerate, fertilize, spread lime, build batting cages, pitcher’s mounds, batter’s boxes, work skins, fix irrigation issues, and yes, even have time to line fields, set-up fields, set-up goals and even cut that crazy grass.

The point being made is that the more you do in-house the more valuable your crew becomes. It saves your district money. It gives you the control over the timing of when things are done that are best for your work load and your property. It also increases the quality of your product because you can time applications to conditions, which as we all know change constantly from season to season.

Now don’t get me wrong, I am not here to bash outside contractors by any stretch of the imagination. Contractors play a vital role in the success of your property. They not only help you maintain the achievements that you have accomplished, but they also move the quality of your property forward.

Let’s be realistic. Boards of Education cannot afford to buy every piece of equipment needed to perform every task required for completion your property. However, they should be aware of the basics that need to be performed to at least maintain a resemblance of a quality property. Here are a few suggestions the Board of Education and you should try and achieve for the grounds staff:

1. For starters, sending the grounds staff to Field Days, conferences and classes. They should realize that an educated, knowledgeable work staff pays large dividends down the road.
2. Build a reliable, quality, stable of vendors for products and equipment. In most cases you need at least two for quoting purposes. Believe me, you won’t get hurt having seven, eight or more. Just having contacts is not enough, you must build relationships with these vendors. They are your partners and are a valuable asset to help increase the quality of your product. This does not happen overnight or in a few weeks. It takes years. Just like your properties, relationships are always moving forward. Taking on the shape of the effort you put into it. You should always work on maintaining and strengthening your business relationships that you currently have and always be on the prowl looking for new ones to assist you in enhancing your product.
3. This is the most important part of the equation: You must have a good working relationship with your Facilities Director, Business Administrator and Superintendent. They must know your intentions and goals for the property. Having them understand your intentions and goals is of the most importance if you want them to invest in your team. Basic equipment (i.e.; mowers, etc.) once secured, leads to the next level: aerating and fertilizing equipment. Explaining this can be a delicate conversation, but if you have been communicating your plight on a regular basis, they are already on board. Once this process has started, then it snowballs. It will go well beyond basic equipment and products. Items on the table will now include turf blankets, agricultural tractors, state-of-the-art infield equipment and so forth.
4. I am not here to tell you the dollar pipeline is limitless, but if you can continue to produce quality product with the same amount of people, save the Board of Education money by doing this, it really will be hard for them to say, ‘no’. You have created the monster and they have to feed it and if not it would be like

Continued on page 16

Turf Trade
Your #1 Turf Supplier

517 Franklinville Road • Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

Fertilizers/Seed 856-478-6704

Plant-Protectants Alan Phillips 609-226-9303

Soils/Sands Jessica Phillips 609-226-0408

www.theturftrade.com

**YOUR “ONE-STOP SOURCE” FOR AMERICA’S
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL SURFACES & SUPPLIES!**

WE’VE SUPPLIED PRODUCTS TO EVERY MLB TEAM,
MOST MINOR LEAGUE & COLLEGE TEAMS,
AND THOUSANDS OF TOWNS & SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE!



STATE APPROVED CO-OP PRICING

800-247-BEAM

www.BEAMCLAY.com
email: sales@beamclay.com

**THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR
INFIELD MIXES, MOUND CLAYS & RED WARNING TRACKS
OVER 5,000 INFIELD & SPORTS PRODUCTS**

New and Renewed SFMANJ Members for 2021

Dennis DeSanctis, Sr.
 Michael Disko
 Mark Eicher
 Lance Ernst
 Keith Fisher
 Chris Fox
 Zachary Gould
 KJ Griepentrog
 Ken Griepentrog
 Bill Griffith
 Guy Gurney
 Kevin Hoban
 Bruce Hoffman
 Zachary Holm
 Bob Kaufman
 Derek Kerr
 Tony Kowal
 Lee Kozsey
 Dave Kuczynski
 Judson Lalonde
 Adam Lieb
 Joe Lovallo
 Bernard Luongo
 Robert Manning
 Dylan Martin
 Jason Miller
 Kevin Mitchell
 Dave Mitchell
 Alec Nappa
 Dick Neufeld
 Jeffrey Olszyk
 Tony Pavelec
 Tom Pepe
 Sam Pepe
 A. Charles Perkins
 Jessica Phillips
 Ted Platz
 Mike Rasile
 Ed Roessler
 Nate Rogers
 Don Savard
 Michael Shanko
 Daniel Shemesh
 Gary Shupper
 Neal Sitzman
 Thomas Torpey
 Larry Toth
 Mark Troyer
 Robert Uhrin
 Howard Viersma
 Jeff Weld
 Rick Winter
 Tom Wolgast

Double 'D' Turf LLC
 M. Disko Associates Consulting Engineers
 Somerset County Parks Commission
 Turf Equipment & Supply Co., Inc.
 Middlesex County Vocational School District
 The Landtek Group, Inc.
 Individual
 Jersey Seed
 Jersey Seed
 Piscataway Twp. Board of Education
 Storr Tractor Co.
 Storr Tractor Co.
 Martin Stone Quarries Inc.
 New York Red Bulls
 Storr Tractor Company
 New York Red Bulls
 Monroe Twp. BOE
 Syngenta
 Somerset County Park Commission
 Millburn Short Hills Youth Baseball
 Springfield
 Voorhees Twp.
 Individual
 Piscataway Twp Board of Education
 New York Red Bulls
 Monroe Twp. BOE
 Mitchell Products
 Mitchell Products
 County College of Morris
 Plant Food Company
 Players Development Academy
 Jersey Soil Blending LLC
 Plant Food Company
 Central Regional School District
 South Jersey Turf Consultants
 TurfTrade
 Plant Food Company
 Raritan Twp.
 Ramapo College
 Central Turf & Irrigation Supply
 Salesianum School
 Peddie School
 New York Red Bulls
 Somerset Co.nty Park Commission
 New York Red Bulls
 Individual
 Rider University
 Sport Care Synthetic Field Maintenance
 Piscataway Twp Board of Education
 The Viersma Companies
 Bayer
 Maple Shade BOE
 The Lawrenceville School

SportsTurf

MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Renew your Membership to STMA Today!

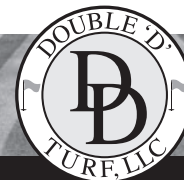
After renewing, the 32nd Conference and Exhibition is **FREE** of charge for all **2021 STMA Members** Conference Registration is now open!

Early registrants will receive a SWAG bag shipped straight to their door!

Go to: www.stma.org

CORE AERATION
DEEP TINE
VERTI-QUAKE
VERTI-CUTTING
TOPDRESSING
SEEDING

Services for Athletic Fields



DoubleDTurf.com

Dennis DeSanctis, Sr. 732-241-7378
 Dennis DeSanctis, Jr. 732-580-5516

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

STMA 32nd Conference and Exhibition
(VIRTUAL FOR 2021)
January 12-13, 2021
SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION
FREE to those who have renewed their dues for 2021
800.323.3875
www.stma.org

2021 Rutgers-NJAES OCPE Courses
(VIRTUAL FOR 2021)
Two-Day Athletic Field Maintenance
February 10-11, 2021
½-Day Baseball & Softball Skin Surface Selection & Management
February 22, 2021
732.932.9271
www.cpe.rutgers.edu

R

SFMANJ Spring Field Day (Tentative)
April 7, 2021
Tuckahoe Turf Farms
Hammonton, NJ
856-514-3179
www.sfmanj.org



Rutgers Turf Research Golf Classic
May 3, 2021
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
Bedminster, NJ
973.812.6467
www.njturfgrass.org

R

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days
Golf & Fine Turf
July 27, 2021
Rutgers Hort Farm No. 2
North Brunswick, NJ
Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf
Includes SFMANJ-sponsored Trade Show & Equipment Demonstrations
July 28, 2021
Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm
Freehold, NJ
973.812.6467
www.njturfgrass.org

R



www.sfmanj.org

IN HOUSE OR OUT HOUSE

Continued from page 14

standing in the way of progress. Who would want to stand up and wear that title? On the other hand, you do not want to feed the Board of Education poor or incorrect information either. The recommendations that you make have to be honest, straight forward, with nothing but the best interest of the property in mind. The last thing you want to do once you have gained their trust is to do something negative or buy a piece of equipment that is not needed. If that should ever happen, then the game is over. All the hard work that was done in the past doesn't matter anymore. Make well-educated decisions, take your time, think things through and do your research. Make sure that you don't make any spur of the moment or emotional decisions.

- Remember that you cannot do everything. Your core of contractors are very important to your careers as well as to your properties. The Board of Education cannot buy all the equipment you need or want and there are also time constraints and man hour issues. For example, I do not expect my Board of Education to buy me laser grading equipment for our baseball and soft ball skins. Nor do I expect the board to purchase the proper equipment that is needed for pre- and postemergence applications on twenty-seven athletic fields. I also don't expect them to purchase the equipment for major ball field or turf field renovations.
- I would suggest if you are new to your District, lay out some realistic goals, have a two year time frame to attain these goals and share them with your Facilities Director and Business Administrator. Tell them how you plan to accomplish these goals and what support you will need from them to help move the property forward. Make them part of the solution to your team's goals. Let's face it: They are stakeholders in the good of the district and you cannot do it without them. Never make it us against them, it will not work. If this is what some of you are dealing with, then you have much work to do to change that mentality. It will not be easy, but great accomplishments never are. Tap into the membership at Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey, come to Field Days and chat with people that have been through it. You will be surprised at what you will take back with you – I mean, that's why you are a member – correct?

Bernard Luongo is Past-President SFMANJ and a current member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors

**Be thinking about next year's
SFMANJ Field of the Year?**

Call 856-514-3179 for details
or visit www.sfmanj.org

If you have not received your SFMANJ MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL form in your email, please go to you SPAM folder to see if it is there.



P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070
 Phone: 856-514-3179
 Fax: 856-514-2542
 email: mail@sfmanj.org
 web site: www.sfmanj.org

Additional invoices were also mailed out to you. If you did not receive one, or if you have a co-worker who is interested in joining SFMANJ, please complete the form below.

OUR ORGANIZATION:

The Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) is a group of individuals committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers. The organization's main goals include improving the safety, playability, and appearance of athletic fields at all levels and the education of our sports field managers through seminars, field days, publications and networking with those in the sports turf industry.

We welcome anyone having a sincere interest in athletic field safety and playability. Our members come from K-12 schools, higher education, professional facilities, parks and recreation, academia, youth leagues, commercial contractors, and vendors from several states.

AS AN SFMANJ MEMBER, YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Education, information and training, including field days, publications, seminars and networking with other professionals
- Field Days, Clinics and "How-To" sessions with **CREDITS** - most are offered **FREE!**
- Access to a network of sports turf managers who face similar agronomic and management challenges
- Timely and relevant technical information through SFMANJ's monthly newsletter, *Update*.
- Support in improving the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields at all levels
- Membership Resource Directory on line.
- Website with contacts and resources available at your fingertips
- Subscription to *SportsTurf Magazine*, - Our parent organization, STMA's monthly publication.

New Member **Returning Member,**

Please fill out and mail back with payment to:

P.O. Box 205 • Pennsville, NJ 08070 • Phone: 856-514-3179 • FAX: 856-514-2542 • Web: www.sfmanj.org • E-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

Please PRINT. This is the information that will be in the Membership Resource Directory

Name _____ Title _____

Employer/Facility _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Fax _____ Referred By _____

E-mail (**PLEASE** give us either work or home e-mail) _____

Return form with CHECK **OR** **Pay by CREDIT CARD** Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder Name _____ Security Code _____

Cardholder Billing Address _____ Zip Code _____

Please Sign: _____ Date _____

Affiliation (check one):

- Public/Private School
- College/University
- Parks and Recreation
- Professional Facility
- Youth/Recreational League
- Other _____
- Contractors
- Education/Extension
- Student
- Commercial
- Associate

Membership Type:

- (Please select one)
- Organization \$ 60
 - Additional Organization \$ 40
 - Commercial/Vendor \$125
 - Additional Commercial \$ 50
 - Student \$ 15

TOTAL _____

I Would be Interested in Serving on a Committee:

Please indicate your interest _____

Applying Gypsum - When is it really needed?

Continued from page 13

The **misconception** arises when there is a belief that gypsum can improve structure and drainage in any heavy clay soil, even those not necessarily affected by Na⁺. A Na⁺ impact on soil structure that requires the application of gypsum only occurs on a small percentage of sports field soils. A soil test will determine the need for gypsum application. The problematic symptoms of sodic soils are very similar to those of heavily trafficked clay soils that are not affected by Na⁺; both are hard and have poor structure and drainage. To add confusion, gypsum is often advertised as a "soil softener" material. Most soil scientists agree that gypsum will not be useful for improving poor permeability due to problems of soil texture, compaction, hardpans, claypans, or high water tables. Most sports field managers should not anticipate a reduction in compaction and improved drainage by using gypsum. Even with this misconception, there are situations where gypsum is useful in sports fields.

Gypsum (CaSO₄) can be used to supply Ca. When pH is above 6.7 and Ca is deficient, gypsum instead of lime (CaCO₃), should be used to supply Ca. Lime applied to an already high pH would further increase pH and may lead to iron deficiency. Gypsum supplies Ca without increasing pH. A suggested target range for Ca in the plant is 0.4 to 1.2%.

Many water supplies are often high in Na⁺. Sand based systems irrigated with high Na⁺ water may have excessive Na⁺ on the exchange complex. Since sands do not deflocculate, the high Na⁺ in this case will not result in reduced drainage. Sands retain their macroporosity through particle size arrangement rather than by aggregation of particles. The high Na⁺ irrigation water can easily displace Ca⁺⁺ and make it deficient in sandy soils with low CEC. Gypsum can be used in this case as a source of Ca⁺⁺. Testing both soil and plants associated with sand based sports turf has revealed that apparently adequate levels of Ca⁺⁺ in the rootzone have produced apparently deficient levels of Ca⁺⁺ in the plant. Application of gypsum in these situations increased plant calcium and improved turf growth (Dr. David York, personal communication 1998). Calcium availability, uptake, and effect on turfgrass performance in athletic fields continues to be evaluated.

Sodium Chloride (NaCl) is commonly used as a deicer for roadways and sidewalks. Soil Na levels may be elevated in grass areas adjacent to paved surfaces treated with NaCl for deicing. Gypsum may be helpful to remove excessive Na from the soil in this situation.

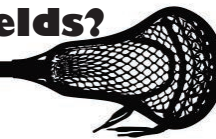
** Dr. David D. Minner was Board Member, Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA).*



Go to
www.sfmanj.org
to renew your membership

What do lacrosse parents think about sports fields?

Continued from page 8



In the midst of significant media attention towards human health and synthetic infill sports fields in summer 2008, parents were asked about their opinion of synthetic infill fields. Question 9 of the survey stated, "What is your general feeling regarding synthetic infill surfaces (i.e. tire rubber or tire rubber + sand-filled playing surfaces)?" Forty-five parents responded to this question and 35% answered, "Synthetics provide an all-weather, uniform playing surface compared to natural surfaces and are a worthwhile expenditure." Thirty-eight percent (38%) chose, "Although costly and human health questions remain, synthetics provide a benefit to youth athletics program." The remaining 27% of those responding voiced concern over synthetic installations by selecting, "The human health questions and costs outweigh any potential benefits of synthetic turf fields."

When the question was posed, "Would you prefer to see your child play on a synthetic or natural turf playing surface?" 81% of the forty-seven parents answering chose natural surfaces over synthetic.

These results provide a look into the minds of parents whose children play on the surfaces overseen by sports field managers. While there still appears to be a strong preference for natural grass, the expectation for playing surface quality is high.

The authors would like to thank JoAnn Stevely and the Rutgers Snyder Research & Extension Farm staff for their hard work in administering the survey.

Brad Park is Research and Outreach Agronomist, Rutgers University; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update; Dr. John Grande is past-Director (now retired), Rutgers Snyder Research & Extension Farm



FieldSaver.[®] Save your field from rain and wear, and promote your brand with the Power of Branding.[®]

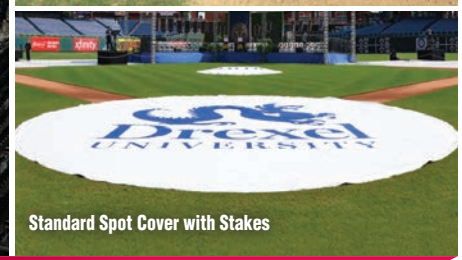
THE POWER OF **BRANDING**[®]



Full Infield Rain Tarp



Infield Turf Protector



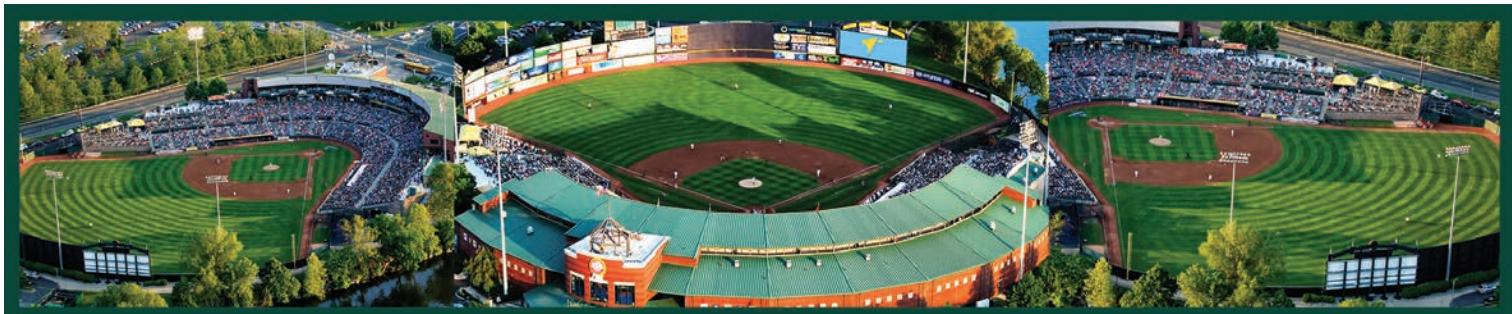
Standard Spot Cover with Stakes

For price quotes, sizes, fabric specs and samples, visit www.CoverSports.com
 sales@coversports.com • 800-445-6680

We make and print covers for all athletic surfaces: Windscreens, Stadium Padding, Growth Covers



Humphrys CoverSports
 Industrial and Athletic Fabric Products Since 1874



The Liquid Fertilizer Experts & Perfectionists Like You.

800-562-1291 | www.plantfoodco.com





Sports Field

Managers Association of New Jersey

P.O. Box 205
Pennsville, NJ 08070



Or Current Occupant

SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

TURF EQUIPMENT
AND SUPPLY COMPANY

*One Team,
Many Solutions*

**Your full line vendor
for Commercial
Mowing Equipment
and Irrigation.**

www.turf-equipment.com
800.827.3711

TORO Count on it.

Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram icons