

# UPDATE

ISSN 2158-124X

Spring 2023  
Vol. 23, No. 1

**Sports Field**  
**Managers Association** of New Jersey



P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070 • 856-514-3179 • [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org) • e-mail: [mail@sfmanj.org](mailto:mail@sfmanj.org)

## SFMANJ Spring Field Day

**WEDNESDAY, April 26, 2023**

RAIN OR SHINE

**William Warren Park – Middlesex County, NJ**

### See Inside For:

Farewell to George Toma and  
Dr. William Meyer

Spring Field Day Info and  
Registration

Water Management

Groundskeeping Mistakes







## **LOCAL SUPPORT THAT IS SECOND TO NONE.**

Built on a foundation of trusted relationships, count on The Toro Company, Storr Tractor Company, and Turf Equipment and Supply Company for exceptional products, services, and support to keep your operations and equipment running smoothly.

**STORR TRACTOR COMPANY**  
[www.storrtractor.com](http://www.storrtractor.com)  
908-722-9830



**TURF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY**  
[www.turf-equipment.com](http://www.turf-equipment.com)  
800-827-3711

# Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members for 2023

We have 174 new & renewed members for 2023. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey has generated invoices for 2023 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 856.514.3179 or download the membership form available at [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org). Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

Daniel Andrus	Blair Academy
Kathleen Avitt	New Jersey Recreation & Parks Assoc.
Louis Bader	Colts Neck Twp.
Nick Baker	New York Mets
Gustavo Baxes	Colts Neck Twp.
Andrew Beggs	New York Mets
Chris Benko	Somerset County Park Commission
John Betts	New York Mets
Scott Bills	Sports Field Solutions LLC
Louis Bosco	Turf Equipment & Supply Co
Steve Bradley	Storr Tractor Co
Micheal Brennan	County of Union
Gary Brick	Mainland Regional High School
Thomas Buffa	Upper Freehold Regional School District
Paul Burke	Manalapan Twp DPW
Mike Carrol	Middlesex County Parks
Walter Casper	Twp. of Burlington Parls And Rec
Alex Chappotin	County of Union
Bruce Clarke	Rutgers University
Earl Cocchi	Twp of Morris Parks & Rec
Darren Colegrove	Metuchen BOE
Sean Connell	Georgia Golf Construction, Inc.
Robert Curry	Covermaster, Inc.
Douglas De Andrea	Deandrea Land And Stone
Bill Deacon	New York Mets
Lee Defreitas	Shaw Sports Turf
Steven Delellis	Manalapan Twp DPW
Rick Deleon	Somerset County Park Commission
Robert Duncan	Freehold Twp Recreation
Christopher Eglow	Middlesex County Parks
Scott Ely	Field Lining And Painting Services LLC
Lance Ernst	Turf Equipment & Supply Co, Inc.
Keith Ferrugia	Borough of Eatontown
Justin Fisher	North Brunswick Twp.
Diane Flannery	Twp of Burlington Parks And Rec
Bill Foelsch	Morris Township
Michael Frank	Old Bridge Twp.
Anthony Fritz	Piscataway BOE
William Garolis	Thelawrenceville School
KJ Griepentrog	Jersey Seed
Bill Griffith	Piscataway Twp Board of Education
Guy Gurney	Storr Tractor Co
Ryan Hagerthey	Southampton
Tim Hamfeldt	Twp of Morris Parks & Rec
Russ Harris	Storr Tractor
Traronius Hathaway	New York Mets

Continued on page 16

## 2023 SFMANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

President, Zachary Holm, CSFM.....	Central Park Conservancy
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
Joe Guanill.....	Storr Tractor
Tim Hamfeldt.....	Township of Morris
Jim Iannetti.....	SFMANJ
Bernard Luongo .....	SFMANJ
Matt Olivi.....	Dunellen Board of Education
Brad Park .....	Rutgers University
Craig Tolley .....	County College of Morris

### ADVISORS:

Fred Castenschiold .....	SFMANJ
Sean Connell .....	Georgia Golf
Dr. James Murphy.....	Rutgers University
Don Savard, CSFM, CGM .....	SFMANJ

### 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](http://www.sfmanj.org) • Email: [mail@sfmanj.org](mailto:mail@sfmanj.org)  
Phone: 856-514-3179 / Fax: 856-514-2542

### National Organization

Sports Turf Managers Association  
[www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org)



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New and Renewed Members .....	3
2023 Board of Directors .....	3
Appreciation and Best Wishes to Geogre Toma .....	4
SFMANJ Spring Field Day - 2023 Info. ....	5
How to Avoid These 6 Common Groundskeeping Mistakes. ....	6
Dr. William Meyer: A Legacy Well Earned .....	7
2023 Calendar of Events. ....	8
Photo Recaps .....	9
Managing Water for Playability – Part 2 .....	14
2023 Spring Field Day Registration Form - Vendors Only .....	17
2023 Spring Field Day Registration Form - Attendees Only .....	18

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](mailto:bradley.s.park@rutgers.edu)  
Layout and Design: Debra Savard, email: [mail@sfmanj.org](mailto:mail@sfmanj.org)

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



# APPRECIATION AND BEST WISHES TO **GEORGE TOMA** AS HE RETIRES

*Editor's Note: This article was developed from a Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) email sent to SFMA Members on February 21, 2023.*

The Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) is pleased to honor and celebrate George Toma's life, career, and legacy as he retires. It all began with the work ethic developed as the son of a Pennsylvania coal miner in the 1930s and 40s. Born in 1929, Toma has spent over seven decades working in the industry, and his expertise and dedication have earned him a reputation as the "Sultan of Sod."

You do whatever is necessary, and then, when you're sure you've done everything, you do a little more. It's a motto that has carried him through a multi-Hall-of-Fame career and earned him nicknames like "the Nitty Gritty Dirt Man," "the Sodfather" and "the Man of Sod."

Toma has been a mentor to many aspiring sports field managers, and he has helped to train and develop the next generation of sports field management professionals.



Perfectionism and hard work are not only the way he approaches his work, but it's also what he expects of those who work with him.

"Blessed to have had the opportunity to work with George over the years. He is not only a mentor but has become a friend. I am thankful for all he has done for this industry, especially always pushing for safe fields." ~ Travis Hogan, Head Groundskeeper with the Kansas City Chiefs

Toma was a key leader in the infancy of the SFMA. He continues to serve as a mentor for many in the sports field management industry. He always

*Continued On page 15*

## **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](http://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





# SFMANJ Spring Field Day - 2023

**Wednesday, April 26, 2023**

## **William Warren Park – Middlesex County, NJ**

Florida Grove Road, Woodbridge, NJ 07095

*Host: Larry Mayerowitz, Sports Field Manager*

### **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

7:00 AM	<b>Vendors May Arrive and Set-Up</b> (Vendor Parking; Softball Field No. 1 Lot)
7:30 - 9:00 AM	<b>Attendee Registration and Trade Show</b> (Soccer Field 1 sideline)
9:00 - 9:45 AM	<b>Pass-the-Mic, Introductions and Natural Turf Demos</b> (Soccer Field 1)
9:45 - 10:30 AM	<b>Skin Surface Management and Equipment Demos</b> (Softball Field 1) <i>Larry Mayerowitz, Middlesex County Parks</i>
10:30 - 11:15 AM	<b>Baseball Bases:</b> <b>New Professional Rules and a Comparison With Park &amp; Rec Play</b> (Baseball Field No. 5) <i>Dan Purner, Head Groundskeeper, Somerset Patriots and Middlesex County Parks Staff</i>
11:15 - 11:45 AM	<b>Nonselective Herbicide Options</b> (Baseball Field No. 5) <i>Dr. Matt Elmore, Rutgers University</i>
11:45 - 12:30 PM	<b>Turf Management and Recovering From Vandalism</b> <i>Larry Mayerowitz, Middlesex County Parks</i> <b>Natural Turf Equipment Demos</b> (Baseball Field No. 5)
12:30 - 1:00 PM	<b>Soil Test Interpretation</b> (Baseball Field No. 5) <i>Brad Park, Rutgers University</i>
1:00 PM	<b>Door Prizes, Credits, Adjourn</b>

**No Charge to Attendees**

**Register before April 21, 2023**

**Call the office at 856-514-3179 or**

**email to [mail@sfmanj.org](mailto:mail@sfmanj.org) for more information**

Go to Page 17 for Vendor Registration Form • Go to Page 18 for Attendee Registration Form

**Don't forget to send in your entry  
for next year's**

**SFMANJ**

**Field of the Year Contest**

**Details at [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)**



**Do we have your  
e-mail address?**

update your information at  
**[www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)**



# How to Avoid These 6 Common Groundskeeping Mistakes

By Paul Zwaska

*Editor's Note: This article appeared on the Beacon Athletics Blog dated March 8, 2023*

## You must first harness the assets that you have...

**Coaches and volunteers, God love 'em.** The games of baseball and softball usually can't go on without these dedicated people who are there to either teach or just help out. Most are genuinely trying hard to do the right thing; others are just there to fill a void. It is no wonder that sports field managers cringe when they find out that the coaches and volunteers worked together to get a game in after a rain event. Instead of throwing caution to the wind and doing whatever it takes to get your game in, consider the consequences to the quality of the field surface, those who must fix it, and the other teams that are affected by your actions.

So, let's look at some of the most common groundskeeping mistakes committed by those with good intentions, but mistakes that nonetheless create undesirable — or even detrimental — results.

**COMMON MISTAKE #1:** Using a broom or squeegee to push standing water off your infield skin.

**UNDESIRABLE RESULT:** Infield soil and topdressing are picked up along with the water and pushed off into the lip. This ends up building the lip higher, creating a natural dam, and also making the low spot, where the water collected, lower due to infield material being pushed out along with the water.

**THE CORRECT ACTION:** Use a puddle pump or Beacon Puddle Sponges to suck up and remove excess freestanding water in the low spots.

**COMMON MISTAKE #2:** Using excessive amounts of drying agent.

**UNDESIRABLE RESULT:** The only thing this does is waste large dollar amounts of drying agent to get games played. Excess drying agent remains on the field afterward, which can increase the speed of the field drying, but it can also help store more water at the surface in a rain event as the calcined clay drying agent gorges itself with water. This may actually slow the drying process if too much is sitting on the surface. On a field without a water source, you can actually suffer from the field getting too dry and hard as the calcined clay sucks every bit of moisture out of the infield skin.

**THE CORRECT ACTION:** If you walk on an infield and it is soft enough that your feet sink, it is too soft to play on. Incredible amounts of damage can occur on a ballfield when it is played on when the infield skin is too soft. Let Mother Nature do her evaporative magic first. Once the field is stable enough to walk on, then you can work to dry the low spots by removing the freestanding water first. Only then should you use drying agent to finish the drying process and it will take much less material to do so.

*Continued on page 13*

Please call the office at  
**856-514-3179**  
with any questions,  
concerns or comments

**TurfTrade**  
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](http://www.theturftrade.com)

**GEORGIA GOLF**  
**CONSTRUCTION, INC**  
golf and sports fields



Infield laser grading

Native soil athletic field construction

Synthetic field base construction

Design, build and consult

Pitchers mound building

Sodding and seeding

Aerification

Infield mix, amendments, mound clay, bricks

Vibra-Sandmaster adding surface drainage

**Georgia Golf Construction, Inc.**

1441 Route 50, Woodbine, NJ 08270

<http://georgiagolfconstruction.us/> • cell 404-216-4445



# Dr. William Meyer: A Legacy Well Earned

By Donovan Maguigan

*Editor's Note: This article first appeared in Clippings (2022; Vol. 3), a publication of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA)*

Following a career spanning more than 25 years at Rutgers University, Dr. William Meyer has retired, leaving behind an extensive legacy of industry changing turfgrass research. Like measuring grains of sand at a beach, the number of turfgrass plants around the world that have been impacted by Dr. Meyer's research is incalculable. Dr. Jim Murphy, Director, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, and longtime colleague of Dr. Meyer stated in 2020, "Whether people realize it or not, he has had an impact on their lives if they have done anything on grass."

In reviewing his research interests at Rutgers, Dr. Meyer stated, "My breeding and research goal has been to use classical approaches to develop improved turf and forage grasses that have improved turf performance and seed production capacity. The main objectives are improved disease and insect resistance, improved heat and drought tolerance and enhanced seed production. This research includes the development of research methods to expedite the improvement process on cool season turfgrasses."

Dr. Meyer began his turfgrass career with a B.S. in Horticulture-Turf from the University of Illinois, where he continued his master studies in Plant Pathology, graduating in 1969. Before continuing with his doctorate work at the University of Illinois, Dr. Meyer completed a graduate study at the JNAU Agriculture University in Jabalpur, India, studying the soil borne diseases in 1971. He received his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology in 1972.

After receiving his doctorate, Dr. Meyer began working as a research director at Warrens Turf Nursery in Illinois before moving to Oregon working for Turf-Seed and Pure Seed Testing Inc. from 1975 until 1996 as a turfgrass breeder, researcher, vice-president, and president. During his tenure in Oregon, he also served as an adjunct member of the graduate faculty at Oregon State University's Department of Crop Science.

As the President of PureSeed Inc., Dr. Meyer's worked closely with turfgrass breeding pioneer, Dr. C. Reed Funk, who started the turfgrass breeding program at Rutgers University. They co-developed Midnight Kentucky Bluegrass, which today remains top cultivar, 40 years later. In referencing this development, Dr. Meyer also recounted the numerous Kentucky bluegrass cultivars including Challenger, Columbia, Blue Note, Bedazzled, Bewitched, Volt, Martha, Blue Magic, Skye, Babe, Yellowstone, Midnight II, Syrah, Bombay, Starr, Cloud, Dauntless, Cabaret, Mazama, Bluebank, Keenland, Legend, Mercury, Rhapsody, Ridgeline, Diva, Rockstar and Lakeshore.

Funk served as Director of Turfgrass Breeding at Rutgers for almost 35 years before passing the reins to Meyer in 1996. Through their

research in turfgrass breeding, the program has become "the largest and most productive program for releasing improved turfgrass cultivars for the United States and the world market for cool season turfgrasses," releasing over four hundred cultivars of turfgrass.



Building upon the turfgrass breeding success at Rutgers, Dr. Meyer successfully released the first turf-type tall fescue following the release of Rebel tall fescue by Funk, which became the largest species for cool season turfgrass in the United States. Additional cultivars that Dr. Meyer has worked on included Falcon, Olympic, Mustang, Apache, and Apache III.

The development of Gray Leaf Spot resistant ryegrass stands out as one of the industry changing developments from the Rutgers turfgrass breeding program under Dr. Meyer. When Gray Leaf Spot emerged in New Jersey during the early 1990's, it was very destructive to ryegrass stands throughout the state with the capacity to destroy entire stands of turf. In 2001, the turfgrass breeding team at Rutgers, discovered a resistance in ryegrass to gray leaf spot. Through that discovery, more than half of the top varieties of perennial ryegrass today are gray leaf spot resistant.

Beyond the legacy that Dr. Meyer leaves with healthy turf firmly planted in the soil around the world, his work with turfgrass students, graduate students, and the faculty was always held in the highest regard. Roch Gaussoin, an agronomy professor at the University of Nebraska, recalled Meyer's dedication to students in 2020, "[The] backbone of our research program are our students and Bill has never lost sight of that. The students are what drive the machine." Meyer recounted that, "One of the reasons I came to Rutgers was to work with the faculty and grad students of the Turfgrass Center. I am proud to say all my thirteen grad students successfully finished their studies and they are now leaders in our industry."

One of many examples of the contributions from Dr. Meyer's graduate students is Dr. Stacy Bonos of Rutgers University and her research on creeping bentgrass and dollar spot. Dr. Meyer shared that, "Dr. Bonos started working with the germplasm of bentgrass at Rutgers in the late nineties and through her research she was able to identify stable sources of resistance to dollar spot disease and put them in adapted species of creeping bentgrass." Dr. Meyer also noted that in reviewing NTEP trials for creeping bentgrass, more than 50% of the putting green and fairway tests were sourced from that material.

Through his research in turfgrass breeding, Dr. Meyer has received numerous awards from the Turfgrass Breeders Association, Oregon Seed Trade Association, the Golf Course Superintendent's

*Continued on page 15*





## THE 2023 SFMA CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION WAS A SUCCESS!

*Editor's Note: This article was developed from a Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) News Online article posted on February 1, 2023.*

SFMA was pleased to welcome more than 1,850 participants, including nearly 1,100 attendees and 700 exhibitors to the Salt Palace Convention Center. Four days of industry education, networking events and product demonstrations were highlighted by our bowling tournament, cornhole and indoor backyard games and the live auction, all benefiting the SAFE Foundation.

Attendees enjoyed learning via education sessions and panels given by renowned industry leaders. Sessions focused on turfgrass management, facility management, synthetic turf, pest control, water, industry developments, diversity and inclusion, baseball and professional development.

Award winners recognized included "Field of the Year" recipients in professional, collegiate, schools and parks categories. The prestigious Founders' Awards acknowledging significant contributions to the profession were bestowed to:

Jesse Driver, CSFM, Mid-Atlantic Turf, Inc.  
**George Toma Golden Rake**

Weston Appelfeller, CSFM, Austin FC  
**Dick Ericson Award**

Chad Price, CSFM, CFB, Carolina Green Corp.  
**Harry C. Gill Award**

Dr. Cale Bigelow, Purdue University  
**Dr. William H. Daniel Award**

## 2023 Calendar of Events

### SFMANJ Spring Field Day

April 26, 2023

William Warren Park, Woodbridge, NJ

Host: Larry Mayerowitz, Sports Field Manager

856.514.3179

[www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)

### Rutgers Turf Research Golf Classic

May 1, 2023

Fiddler's Elbow Country Club

Bedminster, NJ

973.812.6467

[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

### Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days Golf & Fine Turf

July 25, 2023

Rutgers Hort Farm No. 2

North Brunswick, NJ

### Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Includes SFMANJ-sponsored Trade Show & Equipment Demonstrations

July 26, 2023

Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm

Freehold, NJ

973.812.6467

[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

### New Jersey Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference

December 5-7, 2023

Borgata Hotel & Casino

Atlantic City, NJ

973.812.6467

[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

*Hope you can  
attend*

**Register Until April 21, 2023**

**SFMANJ  
Spring Field Day  
Wednesday,  
April 26, 2023**

# SFMANJ at SFMA Convention

Salt Lake City, UT - January 16-19, 2023



The Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) Conference and Exhibition was held in Salt Lake City, UT during January 16-19, 2023. New Jersey attendees included (pictured, l to r): Brad Park, Rutgers University (SFMANJ Board); Keith Fisher, Central Regional School District and winner of 2022 SFMA Field of the Year – Baseball School and Parks Category; and Scott Bills. CSFM, Sports Field Solutions, LLC (Board Secretary, SFMANJ).



George Toma (left) and Keith Fisher (right) at the 2023 Sports Field Management Association Conference and Exhibition in Salt Lake City, UT. The 2022 SFMA Field of the Year in the Baseball School and Parks Category was Al Leiter Field at Al Kunzman Park, Central Regional High School, Bayville, NJ. Keith is the Sports Field Manager and was formally recognized at the Conference Awards Banquet.

# SFMANJ at NJRPA Convention

Atlantic City, NJ - March 12-15, 2023



SFMANJ Member Fred Castenschild being recruited to help SFMANJ member Guy Gurney of Store Tractor

SFMANJ Members Zach Owen and Brandon Perrine of Fisher and Son



SFMANJ members Rob and Howard Viersma of The Viersma Companies

SFMANJ Members, Russ Harris, Guy Gurney and Joe Guanill of Store Tractor





# Covers That Make the Difference

Our lightweight EVERGREEN™ Turf Covers produce a greenhouse type effect that allows your turf to breathe and retain the right amount of heat and moisture.



RAINCOVERS, from our supreme lightweight ones right to the classic vinyl types, there are models and accessories to meet your specific needs.



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.



**COVERMASTER®**  
NO ONE COVERS IT BETTER

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](http://www.covermaster.com) • [info@covermaster.com](mailto:info@covermaster.com)





Continued from page 2



*The Liquid Fertilizer Experts & Perfectionists Like You.*

800-562-1291 | [www.plantfoodco.com](http://www.plantfoodco.com)



## Jersey Soil Blending —

Engineered Custom Soils with independent testing by USGA certified labs

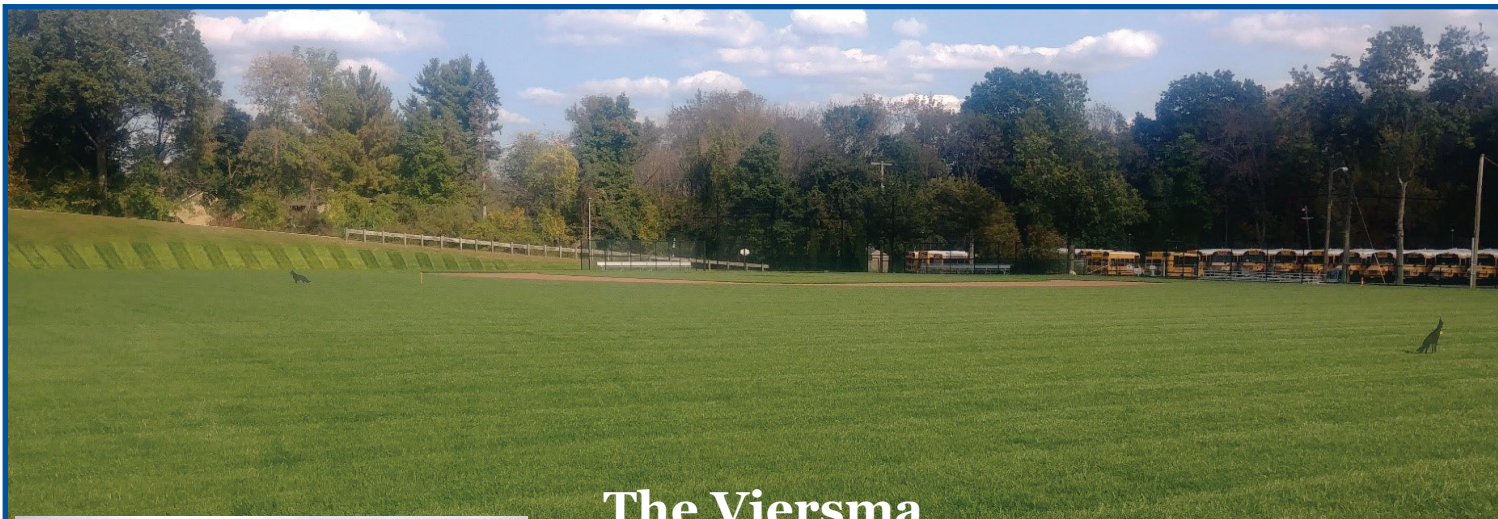
- USGA Damp Green Topdressing
- Fairway Topdressing
- USGA Construction Blends
- 70-20-10 Drainage Blend
- Divot Mixes 70-30 with Canadian Sphagnum is our most popular
- Bio-soil - Certified by NJPE

**Jersey Soil Blending**

PO BOX 525 | Nutley, NJ 07110 | 973-320-2730

[www.njsoil.com](http://www.njsoil.com)





## The Viersma Companies

908-852-0552

[www.viersma.com](http://www.viersma.com)

[mail@viersma.com](mailto:mail@viersma.com)



Before



After

## *It's Time to Get Back to It!*

The Viersma Companies is dedicated to servicing athletic fields from offering simple tune-ups to full field reconstruction. Although last year presented additional challenges, we were able to complete projects for both existing and new clients. These tune-ups, renovations and reconstruction projects included amending existing topsoil, drainage installation, built-up lip removal, laser grading and installing infield mix, as well as, sodding renovation projects and entire athletic fields. As we look forward to a great 2021 season, let us know if we can assist you in any way.



After





# How to Avoid These 6 Common Groundskeeping Mistakes

**COMMON MISTAKE #3:** Dragging an infield without removing bases, then pulling a drag right over the top of them.

**UNDESIRABLE RESULT:** Infield soil builds up around the bases slowly burying them and making them harder to remove. This also destroys the consistency of the surface grade across the infield. This is just plain lazy.

**THE CORRECT ACTION:** Remove the bases and place in dugouts. Install base plugs in base anchors before dragging infield. Cut down any high areas under or around bases with an iron rake or aluminum field rake.

**COMMON MISTAKE #4:** Dragging infield material into the turf edges.

**UNDESIRABLE RESULT:** When dragging the infield, if the drag wanders onto the turf edges, it deposits infield soil and topdressing into the turf edges which is then glued in by rainfall and irrigation cycles, unless cleaned out fairly soon afterwards. As this material builds up in the turf, it creates a lip which becomes a natural dam impeding the free flow of rainfall off the playing surface.

**THE CORRECT ACTION:** Stay a minimum of 6 inches away from the edge of the infield skin where it meets the turf. This will help to reduce the incidence of lip build-up. Additionally, use a push broom, leaf rake, backpack blower, yard vacuum or power broom to pull loose material out of the turf edges after you drag the skin area.

**COMMON MISTAKE #5:** Packing dry mound spoils back into the wear holes on the mound slope.

**UNDESIRABLE RESULT:** This is basically wasted effort, pure and simple. Water and clay are the glue that bind a soil together. Without those, no binding will take place, no matter how hard you pulverize and pound the old clay that has been kicked out of the wear areas. Additionally, if you pull the old clay laying on the surface of the mound back into place, it undoubtedly has also been contaminated with other materials, like topdressing or infield soil, which drastically reduce the binding power of the used material.

**THE CORRECT ACTION:** The only way to patch a clay area that produces an effectively sturdy and stable patch is by using fresh new clay and water. The process is as follows:

- Sweep all loose material away from the wear holes.
- Use water to adequately moisten the sides and bottom of the holes. Allow some time for the water to absorb into the established clay.
- Add fresh clean clay to the wear areas and tamp into place. Level as needed.
- Sprinkle some water over the entire surface of the patch.
- Pull old topdressing and other material back over patch and finish groom.

**COMMON MISTAKE #6:** Not using tarps on the clay areas on the mound and home plate at the end of the day.

**UNDESIRABLE RESULT:** The clay areas are left open to the atmosphere where evaporation will pull the moisture out of the mound and batter's box clay. Without the moisture in the clay, it fractures and chunks out of those areas very easily, drastically reducing its effectiveness of providing proper footing for a pitcher or hitter.

**THE CORRECT ACTION:** If area tarps are available, place the mound and plate tarps on whenever you finish a game or practice and no one else is around to use the field. It is always important to minimize evaporation on the clay whenever possible. **BONUS:** If water is available, add some water to the clay areas on the mound and batter's box to replace what Mother Nature evaporated during the time you were using the field. Just don't overdo it.

## GIVE COACHES & VOLUNTEERS SOME TRAINING!

To help avoid these common groundskeeping mistakes, coaches and volunteers should only perform minimal work on a field — unless they have received some training. An excellent resource for basic game day groundskeeping skills is available through Beacon Athletics.

Beacon's online training at Groundskeeper University is totally **FREE** and offers 8 modules covering the basics of ballfield maintenance, teaching the tried & true best practices. The training is geared toward coaches, volunteers, summer help or new grounds crew members — but, it is also an excellent refresher for experienced groundskeepers. Users sign up for a free account (if you are a registered Beacon customer your BeaconAthletics.com login will work) and can track their progress as they finish the modules and lessons. In the end, you can take the final exam to gain certification — but you must be a logged in user to track & store your progress. We highly recommend this free training service to get everyone on the same page, doing things the right way. Visit [GroundskeeperU.com](http://GroundskeeperU.com).

Sports Field Managers have a tough and challenging job to do, especially at schools and park and recs where their time is limited at each field they manage. I've never met a sports field manager who didn't have incredible pride in the work they do, no matter the situation that gets handed to them. The hope is that coaches and volunteers respect what these field managers do in order for the rest of us to play our games, both competitive and recreational. We hope this post helps you avoid these most common mistakes.

*Paul Zwaska is a former head groundskeeper for the Baltimore Orioles; a frequent contributor to Beacon's Ballfield Blog; and author, Groundskeeper University.*





# Managing Water for Playability - Part 2

By Brad Park

*Editor's Note: This article first appeared in Sports Turf Manager (Autumn 2015) the official publication of Sports Turf Canada.*

## Improving drainage on existing fields

There are several strategies that can be employed to improve the drainage of existing fields as field reconstruction is typically not feasible. The following strategies are meant to improve, or 'augment', the surface drainage characteristics of a field with some existing surface pitch, either in the form of a crown or tipped from one side to another.

Sand-slit drains can be designed and installed as sand-filled trenches (e.g. 3 to 4-inch wide; 12-inch deep) with a strip drain embedded in the base of the trench; the goal of this system is to intercept surface-draining water and rapidly move it off the sports field into a collector drain(s) (Puhalla et al., 1999). These authors provide excellent schematics of these systems and note that the drains should be installed at a 45-degree angle to the direction of the surface runoff. McNitt (2006) advises that after installation of a sand-slit drain system core cultivation of the field should be followed by core harvesting and sand topdressing; this management style, similar to that of a 'push-up' golf course putting green, will preserve the integrity of the sand-filled trenches.

Sand-slit drain installation is a dramatically underutilized technology in the school/town sector of sports field management. Having made dozens of sports field consultations during the last 13 years, the author

can only recall a handful of occasions where this sand-slit drainage has been employed. This drainage technique can be installed on both existing sports fields as well as part of the construction of new fields. Unfortunately, in the eyes of many decision-makers a sand-slit drainage system is viewed as an unaffordable 'luxury' that is only reserved for the premier field of the school, town, college, etc. During the last 10 to 15 years, the primary 'improvement' made to many school and town premier sports fields has been the removal of natural turfgrass and installation of synthetic turf - considerable costs both at the time of installation and at eventual tear-out and resurfacing.

Newer machines (e.g. BLEC Sandmaster, WaterWick, etc.) have appeared on the market in recent years that mimic sand-slit drainage installation where sand channels can be more rapidly introduced into a sports field in lieu of traditional trenching practices, creation of spoils, etc. While these tools will effectively create sand-filled trenches and improve drainage, they do not provide the advantage of an installed pipe at the base of the trench that will accelerate water movement. Similar to slit drains, operation of these machines should be made at a 45-degree angle relative to the surface flow of water.

*Brad Park is Research & Outreach Agronomist, Rutgers University; a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors; and Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter*

## Do you have SFMANJ's Field of the Year? TELL US ABOUT IT

- The playability and appearance of the playing surfaces
- Your maintenance program
- What you did to improve your field
- Your yearly budget for this field

The Winner will receive free registration and one nights stay at the New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December. The winner and runners up will be honored with a plaque at Expo and will be featured in an article in SFMANJ's newsletter, Update.

*To be eligible you must be a member of SFMANJ and must represent a School or Park Natural Grass Field. Please include the name, location and owner of the facility, along with your name, position, and contact number.*

**Download form on our web site - [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)**

Submissions by mail or e-mail  
**MUST be received by SEPTEMBER 30**

**MAIL ENTRIES TO:**  
**SFMANJ F.O.Y. Contest**  
**P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070**

OR E-mail to: [mail@sfmanj.org](mailto:mail@sfmanj.org) Call for more info: **856-514-3179**  
website: [sfmanj.org](http://sfmanj.org) / e-mail: [mail@sfmanj.org](mailto:mail@sfmanj.org)

## 2022 WINNER

**Williamstown-Monroe Twp. School Dist.**  
**GEORGE ORMSBY MEMORIAL STADIUM**  
**FOOTBALL FIELD**  
**Joseph Anderson III, Grounds Manager**

# APPRECIATION AND BEST WISHES GEORGE TOMA AS HE RETIRES

emphasizes the importance of the entire crew in effective field management. George's motto is 'if you love what you do and give it your all – and then some' you can achieve your goals.

"The legacy that George Toma began as one of our founders more than 40 years ago has had an impact on every one of our over 2,300 members. The "and then some" attitude is part of the fabric of our profession, as sports field managers at every level strive to go above and beyond providing the best and safest playing fields possible. His impact on our profession is everlasting." ~ Sun Roesslein, CSFM, 2023 SFMA President

SFMA's George Toma Golden Rake Award validates the 'and then some' attitude of a sports field member in "on the job" activities and in community service. (See: [www.sportsfieldmanagement.org/toma-winners/](http://www.sportsfieldmanagement.org/toma-winners/))

George Toma is a true icon in the industry, and his legacy will continue to inspire the profession for years to come. He is a leader in the world of sports field management. His dedication, expertise, and passion have made George a revered figure in the industry.

"George's legacy will live on forever. He has given this industry everything he has, and then some. At 94, he still continues to share his wisdom of decades of experience and constant words of encouragement. It is truly an honor to have known George for almost 20 years and to consider him a friend and a colleague." ~ Tony Leonard, Director of Grounds with the Philadelphia Eagles

SFMA wishes George the very best in his retirement - **And then some!**



Visit our web site:

**[www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)**

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

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**  
**This is the last newsletter before**  
**the grace period runs out on**  
**March 31**

When renewing, be sure to make any Corrections and/or Additions to your information for the 2023 Membership Directory.

## Dr. William Meyer: A Legacy Well Earned

Association of America, National Association of Plant Breeders, and most recently in 2020, he was recognized with the United State Golf Association's Green Section Award. This award recognizes "an individual's distinguished service to the game of golf through his or her work with turfgrass, including research, maintenance and other areas that positively impact the landscape upon which golf is played." On the occasion, Dr. Bonos shared, "He doesn't do his job to win awards, he does it because he loves what he does."

Thank you to Dr. Meyer for providing notes used to compile this article including his research contribution and turfgrass cultivar histories. Quotes from Bonos, Clarke, Gaussoin, Moeller, and Murphy are from the USGA video, "Meet Dr. William Meyer, the 2020 USGA Green Section Award Recipient." – March 2020

*Donovan Maguigan is Golf Course Superintendent, Springdale Golf Club; a member of the NJ Turfgrass Assoc. Board of Directors; and Editor, Clippings*

*A simple entry form for Field of the Year  
can be found on our website.*

*Consider submitting your field for the*  
**2023 FIELD OF THE YEAR**

## 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**



## New and Renewed SFMANJ Members for 2023

Tom Hennessy  
Adam Hettenbach  
Bruce Hoffman  
Zachary Holm  
Gene Huelster  
John Hughes  
Jim Iannetti  
Kyle Irwin  
Frank Jacheo  
Rich Kalish  
Leo Kelly  
Jim Kelsey  
Richard Kerr  
Derek Kerr  
Dave Kuczynski  
Frank Lasasso  
Lisa Lattarulo  
Phil Lavoie  
Adam Lieb  
Joe Lovallo  
Christian Lundell  
Bernard Luongo  
Kevin Manning  
Joshua Marden  
Chris Marra  
Dylan Martin  
William Mateyka  
Cris Matos  
Larry Mayerowitz  
Tim Mcandrew  
John Mccann  
Joseph Mecsey  
Brian Meola  
Jason Miller  
Steven Mitchell  
Michael Morvay  
Sean Muirhead  
Brian Myers  
Alec Nappa  
Travis Nesmith  
Natale Nuovo  
Jeffrey Olszyk  
Kenneth Ortiz  
Bradley Park  
Tony Pavelec  
Cece Peabody  
Chuck Pflugler  
Jessica Phillips  
Matthew Pinkerton  
Michael Plut  
Kevin Ponti  
Andres Portillo  
Terry Prem  
Robert Pritchard  
Daniel Purner

Colts Neck Twp  
Twp of Morris Parks & Rec  
Martin Stone Quarries Inc.  
Central Park Conservancy  
Grass Roots Turf Products, Inc.  
Old Bridge Township  
Individual  
Lawn And Golf Supply Company, Inc.  
SiteOne Landscape Supply  
Farmside Landscape & Design, Inc.  
Burlington Twp. Recreation Dept.  
Partac Peat Corp.  
Evesham Twp.  
New York Red Bulls  
Somerset County Park Commission  
Hammononton Board of Ed  
Landscape Materials, Inc.  
Morris Twp. Parks Dept.  
Springfield  
Voorhees Twp.  
Middlesex County Parks And Recreation  
Individual  
Twp of Morris Parks And Rec.  
Profile Products LLC  
Syngenta  
New York Red Bulls  
Old Bridge Township  
Hammononton Public Schools  
Middlesex County Parks And Recreation  
New York Mets  
Rancocas Valley Regional High School  
Greenwich Township DPW  
Washington Township  
Monroe Twp. BOE  
Pine Hill BOE  
Lakewood Blueclaws  
Old Bridge Twp.  
TLC Landscape Co.  
County College of Morris  
Burlington Twp. Recreation Dept  
Field Pro Enterprises, LLC  
Players Development Academy  
City of Perth Amboy  
Rutgers University  
Jersey Soil Blending, LLC  
New Jersey Turf Grass Association  
Berlin Twp. BOE  
Turf Trade  
Byram  
Twp of Morris Parks & Rec  
Middlesex County Parks  
New York Mets  
Turfware, Inc.  
Caldwell/West Caldwell BOE  
Somerset Patriots

Continued on page 18



**The Spotlight  
could be on  
You!**

We want  
to profile your  
company, your services  
or your products IN OUR  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, UPDATE!!!!

**and it's FREE to our  
advertisers!**

If you are a newsletter advertiser, please feel free to  
submit an article to Update profiling your company,  
services and/or products.

Entitled "Spotlight on our Advertisers", these 1/2 page  
articles can include your local salespersons' names,  
phone numbers, and email addresses along with any  
local events you are sponsoring.

Call 856-514-3179 or send copy to mail@sfmanj.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

# **2023 Spring Field Day Registration Form - VENDORS ONLY**

## **Registration MUST be received by April 21, 2023**

Name of Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

List **ALL** of Those Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Total Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

SFMANJ Member: # of Vendor spaces requested # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$150.00 /each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-member: # of Vendor spaces requested (Includes Membership) # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$300.00 /each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Add \$100 for **FIRST** piece of equipment # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$100.00 /each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Add \$50 for each additional piece of equipment # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 50.00 /each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Demo #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Demo #2 \_\_\_\_\_

## **Become a SPONSOR of the Spring Field Day!**

**Help SFMANJ keep these programs free to our members. We will display a banner thanking you!**

Suggested amounts: ☐ Platinum, \$1,000.00 ☐ Gold, \$750.00 ☐ Silver, \$500.00  
☐ Bronze, \$250.00 ☐ Friend, \$100.00 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATE** an item(s) for a door prize (list here) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Pay with check OR ☐ Pay by Credit Card ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Tax ID# 22-3707662) Total \_\_\_\_\_

**To make sure your registration arrives on time, please return by email to [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org).**

***Please do not send form by mail. Checks may be mailed separately.***

Checks should be made payable to "SFMANJ" and sent to SFMANJ Spring Field Day, P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070

### **Exhibitor Attendance Agreement**

1. All cost associated with exhibiting must be paid in full prior to the start of the trade show
2. Exhibitors can set up at 7:00. Booth must be set-up by 7:30 am. Trade Show begins at 7:30.
3. Vendors will be allowed 5 minutes for explanation and demonstration of equipment. Registered demonstration equipment must be ready to demo at the designated time.
4. All vendors demonstrating equipment must pay for a Trade Show booth.
5. There is no static equipment allowed in the booths.
6. No equipment will be operated in demonstration areas unless it is a paid demonstration, or it is used to power a piece of demo equipment
7. Each demonstration area will have a monitor. This person will oversee the demonstration area. He or she will have control of all demos. Any concerns while in the demonstration area should be directed to the demo monitor.
8. The safety and wellbeing of all in attendance is of paramount concern and, as such, is always the primary consideration. Safety concerns must be paramount moving equipment into and out of the Trade Show.
9. Agreement must be returned before event with ***proof of liability insurance\**** naming Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey and Middlesex County Office of Parks & Recreation, 1030 River Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854 as assigned insured.

**I have reviewed this agreement and understand my responsibilities as an exhibitor.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Agreement must be returned before the field day with **PROOF OF LIABILITY INSURANCE** naming Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey and Middlesex County Office of Parks & Recreation, 1030 River Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854 as assigned insured.

**Please go to [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org) for more info or call the office at 856-514-3179**



# SFMANJ SPRING FIELD DAY

April 26, 2023 • Starts at 7:30 a.m.

## William Warren Park

Florida Grove Road, Woodbridge, NJ 07095

**Pesticide and Fertilizer Credits Awarded**

**NO CHARGE TO ATTENDEES**

**\*\* Please do not mail. Send form by email to**

**[www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)**

**Must be received by April 21, 2023**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (Please include either work or home e-mail address) \_\_\_\_\_

*You may copy form for other attendees*

You may also register on line at  
**[www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)**

**If you are a Vendor,**  
and would like to participate, please call

**856-514-3179**

for more information and registration form.

**Or go to [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)**

**Laurel**  
EQUIPMENT  
WWW.LAURELLAWN.COM

eXmark

Distributors of  
**WESTERN**

**Rich Watson**

1850 Chews Landing Road  
Chews Landing, NJ 08012

[rich@laurellawn.com](mailto:rich@laurellawn.com)

**Installation,  
Service  
Parts**

**Snow Plows  
Salt Spreaders**

Phone: (856) 228-2670

(856) 228-2770

Fax: (856) 228-9470

Continued from page 16

## New and Renewed SFMANJ Members for 2023

John Redman  
Andrew Remm  
Doug Rider  
Vince Roccograndi  
Charles Rogers  
Scott Rosen  
Salvatore Salsa  
Debbie Savard  
David Schell  
Chris Schenck  
Richard Shackelford  
Michael Shanko  
Brian Shanley  
Jacob Shellenbarger  
Daniel Shemesh  
Gary Shupper  
Laura Simmons  
Kevin Singletary  
Neal Sitzman  
Charles Steel  
Brian Stevens  
Victor Stevens  
Cory Stockert  
Luke Suppa  
Daniel Taylor  
Ricky Tier  
Mark Tindall  
Craig Tolley  
Jay Trstensky  
Chris Tufano  
John Tull  
Robert Uhrin  
Rich Vancamp  
John Voli  
Rich Watson  
Jeff Weld  
Ian Williamson  
Rick Winter  
Bill Wisbeski  
Michael Woebse  
Tom Wolgast  
Michael Woolf

Advanced Landscaping Inc  
North Brunswick Twp.  
Syngenta  
Delaware Valley Spray Service, Inc.  
Plainsboro Township  
Ocean County Utilities  
City of New Brunswick  
SFMANJ  
Basf Professional Products  
Red Bull Arena  
New York Mets  
Peddie School  
Metuchen BOE  
Central Park Conservancy  
New York Red Bulls  
Somerset County Park Commission  
Sports Field Management Association  
Central Park Conservancy  
New York Red Bulls  
Lindenwold Board Of Education  
Twp of Burlington Rec Dept  
Holmdel Township  
Old Bridge Twp.  
Twp of Morris Parks And Rec.  
Twp. Of Burlington Parks And Rec  
City of Long Branch, Parks  
Cinnaminson Board Of Ed  
County College of Morris  
Delaware Township  
Township of Freehold  
Facility Solutions Group  
Piscataway Twp Board of Education  
The Lawrenceville School  
Township of Branchburg  
Laurel Equipment  
Envu  
Township of Lawrence - DPW  
Maple Shade BOE  
South Hunterdon Regional High School  
Twp of Morris Parks & Rec  
The Lawrenceville School  
Burlington Twp. Recreation Dept.



See you at the  
Field Day!



THE POWER OF  
**BRANDING**



Promote your team's brand on any athletic surface  
with our TuffPrint printing process. Inspire your team and fans.

800.445.6680 / [sales@coversports.com](mailto:sales@coversports.com) / [coversports.com](http://coversports.com)

**COVER**  
SPORTS  
EST 1874

A DIVISION OF HUMPHRYS

## Support our Advertisers!

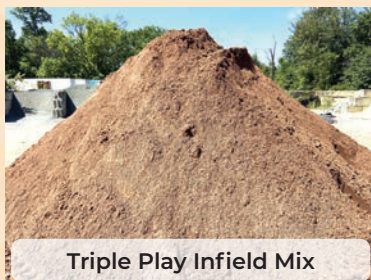


# HIT A HOME RUN on and off the field

Get top quality materials along with  
the quality service you expect



Storage facility houses over 4,000 yards  
of our manufactured Topsoil



Triple Play Infield Mix



Playground, Cedar, Hardwood, &  
Colored Mulches



Red Warning Track



Landscape Materials, Inc.  
311 Roycefield Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844 (908)252-1550  
**PICK-UP AND DELIVERY IS AVAILABLE**





Or Current Occupant



*One Team,  
Many Solutions*

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



[www.turf-equipment.com](http://www.turf-equipment.com)  
800.827.3711

**TORO**

**Count on it.**