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"Sports Turf Manager or what"?

by John Mascaro from Turf-Tec Digest, Vo. 7 # 1 March 2001

I have to pass these words of wisdom to you. The Golf Course Superintendents Association has spent lots of money and time promoting the name "Golf Course Superintendent". You can go to any golf course in the country and ask for the Golf Course Superintendent and they know who you are talking about.

Likewise, the Sports Field Managers Association is also dedicating much time and money to promoting the name Sports Field Manager. However all you Sports Field Managers still have different titles. I understand that municipalities get kind of crazy about titles and it seems that the more letters in your title, the more money you make, however, if this

profession doesn't get unified, the Sports Field Manager will be lost in the shuffle.

With a common name, comes recognition, with recognition, comes salary increases. I challenge everyone, go to your office supply store, plunk down \$6.22 for a sign to hang on your door that says: Mark Clay, Sports Field Manager". Also, the next time business cards are printed, add the line under your official city title of "Sports Field Manager". This will not cost any money at all but it will gain you the recognition you deserve. It also adds 18 new letters to your official title for the accountants to observe. ▲

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SFMANJ SHIRTS FOR SALE

If you are a member of Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey, you may be interested in owning a collared knit shirt with our logo. To purchase one of these fine shirts just send a check for \$25.00 to SFMANJ Chapter at PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801

"Skinned Area Mixes"

by Pam Sherratt, sherratt.1@osu.edu

There are few scientific publications on soil choice but there are numerous articles written in the popular press (Sports Turf, Landscape Management, Athletic Turf etc.). Choice of soil material for skinned and mound areas would appear to be based upon personal choice but there are some selection guidelines available in books like "Sport Fields" (Puhalla, Krans and Goatley, 1999). They suggest a mixture of about 60% sand, 20% silt, and 20% clay.

There are many factors to consider when selecting a mix. Can the area be covered? How Much use does it get? Some of the municipal fields that have no capacity to cover may use more sand in the mix to encourage better drainage, while collegiate and professional mixes may have higher clay contents to produce faster surfaces. Mixes with more than 20% silt may cause problems if the surface can't be covered. These mixes will not dry out as quick and may become "slick". Calcined clays or diatomaceous earth

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

products may also be used in some mixes as a soil conditioner. With regard to analysis, if these products are used in a mix and the particle sizes are smaller than 2mm, they can behave like a sand during physical analysis and become impossible to quantify.

In relation to the numbers of field managers that get their material tested, Dr. Norm Hummel has some points to make:

"Sports Field Managers typically do not test their ball diamond mixes. Much in the selection of mixes I think is by word of mouth. We test maybe 20 samples a year, which is a very small number when you consider the amount of mix sold. When we test a ball diamond mix, we do make recommendations for particle size. In fact, I am on a committee in ADTM that developed guidelines for construction of skinned areas of ball diamonds, so I am privy to the particle size guidelines that will soon be a national standard. We have a test we call "Ball Diamond Mix Test". This includes a particle size analysis and color (from a Munsell Color chart). The cost is \$85/sample.

Continued on next page.....

Murphy's Law

Dr. James Murphy is an Associate Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management for Rutgers, department of Plant science. Ask Dr. Murphy your questions: E-mail us at hq@sfmanj.org

Question: The soccer fields in our area are currently dormant, brown and dry as a bone. If these conditions continue can permanent or excessive damage to the turf result from typical play on the fields?

Answer: Absolutely!

Dormant turf has very low vigor. Dormant turf has prepared itself to survive without water; but not to withstand intense traffic. Thus, the low vigor of the dormant turfgrass plants will only be able to tolerate a very limited amount of traffic.

Signs of severe damage include thin open turf and bare soil. The lower leaf sheaths and crowns of the turfgrass plants have been and will continue to be damaged once you start to see bare soil in the playing field. This is a serious problem because regeneration of new healthy shoots and roots come from the crowns. Dead crowns translates into dead grass with no hope for recovery (I can not word it more bluntly)!

If you can still find crowns as a fresh, translucent green appearance, then the turf can recover. Dried up, brown crowns are severely damaged and have a high probability of being dead. Weed invasion is another problem with intense use (traffic) under dormant turf conditions. The dormant turf wears out very quickly with use. Once natural rains return or irrigation is applied, the dormant weed seeds in the soil have ample opportunity to germinate, emerge, and infest the field. Thus, you will likely observe greater weed problem on fields that receive significant play (use) under dormant conditions. ▲

NEWS RELEASE * NEWS RELEASE

JIM HERMANN ACHIEVES

CERTIFIED SPORTS FIELD MANAGER STATUS

James Hermann, CSFM, President of Total Control, Inc. of Lebanon, New Jersey, has completed all steps to achieve the Certified Sports Field Manager designation. This Certification Program was developed and is coordinated by The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) to denote those individuals who have gone above and beyond the requirements of job performance and have demonstrated a superior level of competence.

Since 1986, Mr. Hermann has been President of Total Control, Inc., an athletic turf and field and commercial turf management and consulting company which also handles residential lawn care. In this capacity, Mr. Hermann has renovated and maintained several sports fields in the local area. Prior to 1986, Mr. Hermann served as farm manager for Sterlingbrook Farms in Pittstown, New Jersey, where he constructed and maintained a thoroughbred turf race track.

Just as great sports accomplishments raise the bar for all competitors, excellence in field care raises the level of expectations for all sports field managers. The results are better fields and safer fields at all levels of sports competition.

In order to qualify for the opportunity to test for certification status, the individual must achieve, and document the achievement of, a minimum of 40 points earned through a combination of education and experience.

While management of athletic playing surfaces requires a solid foundation in the principles of agronomics and turf physiology, there are certain elements of the process an individual must acquire through experience. The sports field manager must sometimes "tamper" with the laws of science to achieve immediate, short-term results. Then the manager must apply scientific principles to correct those inconsistencies and bring field conditions back in compliance with the same laws previously manipulated. Hands-on experience is required to do this successfully.

After verification of achievement of the 40 points in education and experience, the individual must take the Certified Sports Field Manager in-depth, four part written examination. This examination addresses competencies established by professionals, educators and researchers within the industry on agronomic, administration, pest management, and sports specific issues. In order to achieve certification, the individual must score a minimum of 80 percent on all four segments of the examination.

Those achieving CSFM status have demonstrated their personal level of professionalism and their ability to apply those professional standards in their own sports field management program.

The Certified Sports Field Manager status is designated by the initials CSFM after the name of a certified individual and the use of the CSFM logo on business cards, stationery and other correspondence. The three-year certification renewal cycle is designed to keep Certified individuals responsive to industry progress and technological advances.

If you are interested in meeting Jim or learning more about maintaining safe athletic fields you can attend the Rutgers Snyder Research and Extension Farm Fall Field Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

Day on October 10th in Pittstown, NJ. For registration forms call (908) 713-8980. (See page 3 for details).

For more information on the Certified Sports Field Manager program, or the Sports Turf Managers Association and its goals and objectives, please contact:

STMA Executive Director Steve Trusty at 712/322-STMA or 800/323-3875, Fax: 712/366-9119 or e-mail: STMAHQ@st.coxmail.com. Visit STMA's website at: www.sportsturfmanager.com.

Or contact the New Jersey Chapter at 908-236-9118, Eleanora Murfitt, President ▲

Continued from page 12 "Skinned Area Mixes"

There is a 1990 publication (STP 1073) by American Society for Testing and Materials in which basic recommendations for baseball field safety are outlined. The ASTM also had a working committee on particle size guidelines for baseball fields that will soon be a national standard. ▲



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(Soil Science Simplified, 4th Ed., Milo Harpstead, pg 30)



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opportunity to participate in round-table discussions call your Committee Chair from your district, let them know you want to get involved.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is growing rapidly as we have over 230 members to date. We would like to see more activities in the North and South. This is a great way to meet people in your area who have similar problems and answers about fields and equipment.

District I – Committee Chair, John Salisbury (201) 390-6025, Committee members, Steve Ratto Eleanor Murfitt Hudson, Sussex, Passaic, Morris, Bergen, Essex, Union

District II – Committee Chair, Fred Castenschiold, (908) 722-9830, Committee members, Jim Gavigan, Dean Marzocca, Jim Hermann Hunterdon, Somerset, Warren, Middlesex

District III – Committee Chair, Bud Perdun, (732) 289-3048 Committee Members, Tom Torpey, Jeff Cramer Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington

District IV – Committee Chair, Larry George (800) 942-0134 Gloucester, Atlantic, Salem, Cumberland, Camden, Cape May.

DON'T DELAY---CALL TODAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ▲

Continued from page 5 "Give It What It Needs"

Last but not least is league participation. Include the leagues using your fields in your maintenance plan. As the leagues see improvement in the field quality and feel a part of that improvement they will continue to help in your endeavors. Set up practice goals and designate practice areas off the field to minimize traffic in the game goals. If at all possible redelineate the fields mid season to minimize traffic in the wear areas and allow for more effective overseeding and repair of these areas.

Everything that occurs on your field has either a positive or negative impact on the quality of your field. The positives have to outweigh the negatives. Your only hope of maintaining or improving the quality of your fields is to have a plan in place, which addresses all those forces impacting on quality. Remember, "Address for Success". ▲

SFMANJ Membership Districts

The following Districts were created in order to increase membership as well as serve you better. Our objective is to have meetings during evenings or weekends where sports field managers can gather in or near their areas to discuss similar problems as well as have the opportunity to bring in a speaker. A dinner could be served or you can gather at a picnic grove as a small group.

Here is another opportunity to get involved. We are trying to make it easier by keeping Districts small so you will not have far to travel. We are looking for members who are interested in helping get this off the ground.

If you are interested in gathering with others who are in the same situation as yourselves and would like an

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

WANTED:

Recreation Program Coordinator/ Sr. Activities person.

Minimum one year experience in recreation programming. Associated degree or certification in recreation preferred.

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Continued from page 3 "A Look at the Growth Cycle"

4. SWATHING

Swathing the cutting of early maturing varieties, starts in late June and continues through July.

5. WINDOW CURING

The swathed grass then lies in windrows, curing for at least 20 days prior to harvesting.

6. COMBINING

After the grass is cured, it is picked up by means of a draper mechanism attached to a combine. The seed is threshed and augured into the combine bulk bin.

7. BULK TRANSPORTATION

From the combine, the seed is transferred to mobile bulk field bins or trailers. The bins or trailers are then transported to a central storage area.

8. BULK ACCUMULATION AND STORAGE

On arrival at the central storage area the seed is hydraulically dumped into a RADER Pneumatic Air System of rapid transit to bulk storage bins. From this point seed is transferred to the primary warehouse for processing and bagging.

9. FIELD BURNING

From mid-August through September, just as soon as harvesting is completed, straw is removed and baled to help eliminate emissions. Fields are then burned. This controlled burning serves to physiologically stimulate seed head production and subsequent seed yield. In addition, the burning controls disease, insects, rodents and weeds, while returning minerals to the soil.

10. IRRIGATION

Immediately after burning, fields are watered, causing the grass to break dormancy, putting forth a green, fall flush of leaves.

11. FERTILIZATION

After watering, the mobile irrigation pipes are removed and the grass is fertilized.

12. FIELD DORMANCY

During the late fall, just prior to winter dormancy; the grass develops seed head primordia deep within its crown. Although essentially dormant, during the winter months, the grass plant continues to develop internally with individual seed florets forming within the crown. This formation continues until early spring at which time the plant starts its vertical growth.

TYPICAL BLUEGRASS CLEANING LINE

As the seed moves from the field in large trailers, it is delivered to the warehouse and transferred into large field boxes holding up to 2,000 pounds of unconditioned seed. Each box of seed is identified by the bar code with the grower's name, variety name, certification information and grower's field number. The computer reads the bar code and the boxes are identified with the appropriate information.

1. FIELD BOXES

Field-run material from bulk bins is fed into the system.

2. RECEIVING BIN DELTA PRECLEANER

Removes long straw and dust. Gas 18 screens and a unique air screen separation.

3. DEBEARDERS

Deawns and defuzzes seed, conditions seed for easier conditioning on the following machines.

4. DELTA CLEANER

Cleans seed by width, thickness and length. Also removes lightweight material. Has 21 screens and two air separations.

5. CARTER DISC

Removes straw and weed seeds.

6. CLIPPER CLEANER

Continue sizing with screens and air. Has four screens and two air separations.

7. CARTER ASPIRATOR

Removes more lightweight seed in preparation for the gravity.

8. GRAVITIES

Removes by specific gravity foreign weeds and seeds, also lightweight grass seed.

9. CARTER INDENTS

Removes final small weeds by size.

10. CARTER AIR FILTER

Filters air, making the entire plant a better working environment. It returns cleaner air than it was originally on the intake. In cold seasons, it heats the air and returns it to the plant.

BLENDING AND PACKAGING

11. CLEAN SEED BULK BOX

Provides storage prior to blending.

12. BLENDER

Blends all conditioned seed to a precalculated blend.

13. BAGGING AND WEIGHING

Preweighs seed in polypropylene, burlap and paper bags in US or metric weights through electronically controlled delivery system and scales. ▲