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Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers in New Jersey 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.

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National Organization

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Currently we have 281 members. If you haven't renewed your membership send in the membership form from this newsletter or call (908) 730-7770.

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Continued on next page.....

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- Receive a \$10.00 discount on any SFMANJ Field Day (April, August, October)
- Receive "SFMANJ Update" the official publication of SFMANJ a bimonthly newsletter.
- Support with your sports field related problems (Watch for notice on District meetings)
- Receive a 10% discount toward any Rutgers turf related courses. (Use your membership #)
- Receive a 10% discount on any books from Wiley. (Order from our website)
- Opportunity to attend the NJ Turfgrass Expo Athletic Field education classes (December)
- Use the newsletter to announce job openings, sell used equipment.

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"Monthly Field Tip"

NJSIAA Girls Lacrosse Rule Clarification *by Barry Imboden**

Clarification of Rule 3, Section A – The Playing Area

This year the rule requires a minimum of 13 yards and a maximum of 20 yards of space behind each goal line, running the width of the field. This is an increase from the 2002 measurement.

The diagram in the Rule Book is unclear, and questions have arisen regarding this measurement. The 13 or more yards should be measured from the goal line, not the back of the crease.

Continued on next page.....



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If the playing field is not long enough to accommodate 13 yards behind the goal, the goals must be moved closer together to maintain this space. Please reference Page 8 in the Rule Book.

Our State Rules Interpreter, Sue Paige, will contact all official's chapters. Please advise your grounds crew. ▲

*Barry Imboden, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds at Hunterdon Central High School. He successfully had slit drainage and irrigation installed on his high school football field in June of 2002.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Rutgers July 31 - Rutgers Turf Research Field Day at the Adelphia Plant Science Research Station in Adelphia, New Jersey. 732-932-9711 ext. 135 (*Sports Field Managers learn about the research on turf grasses to improve your turf fields*).

SFMANJ

August TBA - Equipment Demonstration & Field Day in Bergen County from 8:30am to 3pm. See info on page 1. Fliers are in the mail. Call 908-730-7770 for more information.

SFMANJ & RUTGERS PRESENTS

October TBA - Infield mix Demonstrations and Classes at Rutgers Snyder Farm in Pittstown, NJ. Watch for info in the next newsletter.

NJRPA

**May 13th - Evesham Township, Marlton, NJ or
May 14th - Roxbury Township, Succasunna, NJ**
Professional Aquatics Safety Seminar. Questions, call 732-568-1270.

Playground Safety Certification Course, for information call 732-568-1270.

DID YOU KNOW? The application of many pre-emergent, grassy weed (crabgrass) control products will interfere with the germination and development of desirable grasses when applied close to the time of seeding.



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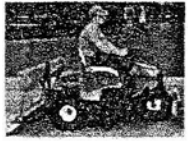
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“Letter from the Editors”

by *Eleanora Murfitt & Jim Hermann, CSFM*

As co-editors of SFMANJ Update and also both sports field managers, Eleanora and I feel compelled to continue to provide our readers with a plethora (I love that word) of information applicable to the day-to-day activities involved in sports field management. The challenges in sports field management bring with them the demand for commitment, perseverance and knowledge. Much of the information we provide will by design test the knowledge and understanding of our readers.

We hope to continue to provide information intended to help you to develop a proactive and effective sports field management program. As part of a proactive management program it is important for the SFM (sports field manager) to remain up to date and aware of the rules and regulations affecting the industry.

There is currently state legislation slated to take affect within the next eighteen months which will govern the way that many schools and institutions initiate their pest control strategy both indoors and out. This legislation will mandate the implementation of IPM (Integrated Pest Management) into the system.

IPM necessitates the need for a deeper understanding of those factors affecting environmentally conscientious pest control. SFMANJ Update will therefore be providing information and education concerning those factors.

One such factor affecting the development of an environmentally sound IPM program is an understanding of the weather conditions and how day-to-day variations affect decisions. The following column written by Dr. Joe Russo and Dennis Watkins will provide the SFM with a deeper understanding of this decision making tool. ▲

“Information as a Decision-Making Tool “

by *Dr. Joe Russo and Dennis Watkins*

This is the first in a series of columns in which we wish to share with readers our knowledge, experience, and in some cases, our opinions about the scientific and technical issues that either directly or indirectly impact sports turf management. Who are we? We are an agricultural meteorologist and systems scientist (Joe) and a turfgrass agronomist (Dennis). We have between us over fifty years of experience in agricultural and turf-related fields. The information provided in our columns is aimed at the practitioner of sports turf management and it will be delivered with an awareness of related environmental, social, and economic concerns.

In this column, we would like to talk about information itself. If correctly understood and appropriately

Continued on next page.....

applied, information can be a powerful ally in decision making. Information, like decision making, can be divided into two types: strategic and tactical. Strategic information is associated with long-range planning – typically months ahead of a particular action. Tactical information is associated with short-range planning – typically hours or a few days ahead. Strategic information tends to be general, while tactical is specific.

The difference between strategic and tactical information can be best understood with examples. As everyone knows, weather varies day-to-day and season-to-season. A maximum temperature for one day in April in a given year will likely be different from maximum temperatures observed on the same day in previous years. If we average all the maximum temperatures together, say over a 30-day period, we can compute a “climatological” value. This climatological value, referred to by meteorologists as the “normal” maximum temperature for a given day, represents a strategic bit of information. That is, “on average,” the maximum temperature on a given day in a given year should be close to the computed “normal.”

Of course, there will be a range of values if years are considered separately, but a normal maximum temperature should be representative for a given day.

A sports turf manager can utilize climatological data as strategic information for planning out future, weather-dependent activities. As weather events become more immediate in a given season, day-to-day observations and short-term forecasts can provide tactical information. That is, the present-day weather conditions and forecasts can be used to “fine-tune” pre-planned, strategic decisions. Climatological and weather data are just simple examples of how strategic and tactical information can help a sports turf manager become an informed decision-maker. ▲

Dr. Joe Russo is president of ZedX, Inc., an information technology company located in Bellefonte, PA.

Dennis Watkins is a turfgrass agronomist located in Lords Valley, PA.



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"Rutgers Corner"

by Brad Park, Rutgers University*

**Note from Dr. James Murphy: It is a great pleasure to introduce Mr. Brad Park, the new Sports Turf Research and Education Coordinator at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Brad is assisting sports turf managers of New Jersey through education and research to help provide better sports turf for the citizens of New Jersey.*

A little over a year ago, in early March 2002, I was invited to speak at Rutgers University as part of a turfgrass management symposium. It was my first trip to Rutgers and my attendance at the turfgrass symposium and overnight lodging at the University Inn and Conference Center marked my longest visit to the State of New Jersey.

On March 3, 2003, I began working at Rutgers University as part of a new sports turf research and education position. Since then I have given a talk on Integrated Pest Management for schools and school athletic fields, participated in the SFMANJ Field Day in Wall Township on April 10th, been part of the planning for a Fall 2003 Field Day sponsored by SFMANJ, and have been actively involved with turfgrass research at Rutgers.

My presentation at Rutgers in March 2002 focused on my Master of Science research, which I completed while working as a Research Technician for Penn State University, University Park, PA. My research at Penn State focused on golf course fairway renovation and control of annual bluegrass using Basamid Granular, a soil fumigant manufactured by BASF Corporation. I completed my Master of Science in Agronomy in August 2002.

As a Research Technician at Penn State, I had the privilege of working for Dr. Pete Landschoot, the Commonwealth's Turfgrass Extension Specialist and the Pennsylvania counterpart to Rutgers' Dr. James Murphy. In addition to my fumigant research, I performed research examining different liming sources and combinations of nonselective herbicides for turfgrass renovation. I'd like to incorporate my research and interest in nonselective chemistry into developing strategies for athletic field renovation, including the potential use of Basamid, for New Jersey.

I have a strong interest and background in turfgrass variety research. While working at Penn State, I was actively involved in the establishment, maintenance, and rating of six National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) trials. These tests encompassed evaluations of common turfgrass species used on athletic fields in New Jersey including: Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and tall fescue.

The results of on-going turfgrass variety research at Rutgers combined with examining the impact of wear and traffic on turf varieties and blends serve as extremely useful information for sports field managers across New Jersey. The compilation of results from this work and the creation of fact sheets that can be distributed to sports turf practitioners are very attainable goals for my role at Rutgers.

I am looking forward to working with SFMANJ in the future by helping to organize Field Days, participating in Field Day demonstrations, contributing to the newsletter, and playing a role in the Athletic Field program at the annual New Jersey Turfgrass Association Turf Expo in Atlantic City. ▲

If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at 732-932-9711 x 127 or via email at park@aesop.rutgers.edu

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"SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT"

Users of power equipment, fertilizers, turf and ornamental pesticides and work vehicles should always have safety foremost in their minds. When using these types of potentially hazardous machines and materials, carelessness breeds disaster.

You need help planning your safety program, you say? There are many resources available, especially the companies that make the equipment and material. For instance, John Deere has a 16-chapter, comprehensive guide for contractors who not only want to stay in compliance with federal safety standards but who also want to educate and train employees in the proper, safe use of equipment.

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) is another purveyor of safety precautions and reminders. One of its big safety peeves is the user who doesn't read the owner's manual before using outdoor power equipment.

Before turning on the equipment, operators should read manuals thoroughly and learn critical information, the OPEI reminds landscape professionals.

Even more important – if you're handling pesticides – is to read and follow directions on the EPA-approved label.

Here are some other precautions, courtesy of the OPEI:

- Do not operate a chain saw with one hand or when you are fatigued.
- Use safety footwear, snug-fitting clothing; protective gloves; and eye, hearing, and head protective devices. When necessary, use a dust mask or respirator.
- Do not wear loose clothing, scarves, neck chains, or unconfined long hair.
- Use caution when handling fuel. Move the machine at least 10 feet from the fueling point before starting the engine.
- Do not allow other persons, especially children, to be near the equipment during start or use. Keep children, other bystanders and animals out of the work area.
- Do not start using the machine until you have a clear work area and secure footing.
- Keep all parts of your body away from the equipment when the engine is running.
- Carry or transport the equipment with the engine off.
- Do not operate equipment that is damaged, improperly adjusted, or not completely and securely assembled.
- Keep the handles dry, clean, and free of oil or fuel mixture;

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"Rutgers Steps Up to the Plate"

by Jim Hermann, CSFM

Rutgers, The State University, has teamed up with the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey to develop infield mix demonstration plots at the Snyder Research and Extension Farm in Pittstown, New Jersey. These plots will be introduced at the fall field day, tentatively scheduled for the month of October.

This cooperative project will initially include a series of 10' X 10' plots intended to provide examples of the range of infield mixes available to the SFM (sports field manager), based on both the physical (sand, silt, clay) analysis and the sieve (particle size) analysis of these materials.

Based on these criteria, there will be examples of both acceptable and unacceptable infield mixes, as they compare to the ASTM Standard Guide for Construction and Maintenance of Skinned Areas on Sports Fields, publication F 2107-01.

A number of the plots utilizing infield mixes determined to be acceptable, will be expanded to demonstrate the benefits of proper maintenance and the ramifications of improper maintenance specific to those mixes. Proper construction principles and technique will also be demonstrated.

All of the plots will utilize mixes blended specifically for the intent of the individual plot. It is not the purpose of this project to label currently available brand name products as being "acceptable" or "unacceptable". No brand or trade names will be used or made reference to in the demonstrations.

It is the objective of this project to provide the SFM with the "hands on" experience and education necessary to formulate his or her own opinion on the quality and suitability of those products available. The SFM will then be able to institute a proper maintenance strategy based on the product selected and the individual needs of his or her program.

Over the course of time Rutgers anticipates developing additional demonstrations to cover the spectrum of alternative materials and procedures available to the SFM. If you have questions pertaining to construction or maintenance procedures or materials used in conjunction with infields please direct your questions to SFMANJ, PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801 (mail) 908-730-7770 (phone) hq@sfmanj.org (e-mail)

We would like to express our appreciation to Geo Schofield Co. Inc. of Bound Brook, New Jersey, Partac Peat Corporation of Great Meadows, New Jersey and Better Materials Corporation (US Silica) of Woodbine New Jersey for their continued support of the industry and their donation of component materials used in the development of the initial demonstration plots. ▲

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