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Currently we have 287 new & renewed members. In the beginning of November, SFMANJ mailed invoices for 2006 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 908 730-7770 or download the 2006 membership form available at www.sfmanj.org. Remember to mail your renewal/payment direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801.

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(continued on page 9)

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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.

Contact us at:

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This newsletter is the official bi-monthly publication of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

For information regarding this newsletter, contact:
SFMANJ at (908) 730-7770 or Brad Park at (732) 932-9711, x127

Editor
 Brad Park, Rutgers University
 Email: park@aesop.rutgers.edu

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

RUTGERS CORNER -

LATE SPRING/SUMMER TURF ESTABLISHMENT

Brad Park*

In New Jersey and throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, the ideal time to establish cool season turfgrass species from seed is late summer through early fall (August 15-October 1). Weather can be dry at this time of year, allowing for ideal conditions to cultivate soils, prepare seedbeds, and apply seed. Soil temperatures are such to allow rapid germination of seed and vigorous growth assuming adequate supply of water and proper soil fertility. While annual bluegrass encroachment can be a serious problem associated with this establishment timing, summer annual weeds such as crabgrass, goosegrass, and prostrate knotweed are typically not germinating in late summer though early fall.

Despite intense field use in late summer and throughout the fall, seed can still be introduced to a sports field. While not as effective as slit-seeding methods, sports field managers have found success by simply applying seed through a rotary spreader before a game and allowing athletes "cleat-in" the applied seed and thus achieve seed-to-soil contact. Perennial ryegrass is an excellent species choice for this type of establishment procedure. To access the Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Fact Sheet **Perennial Ryegrass Varieties for New Jersey Sports Fields** visit www.rcre.rutgers.edu/pubs

If late spring and summer is the time in which turf estab-

lishment is chosen, it must be recognized that the chances of a seeding failure are high. The pressure from summer annual weeds can be very high, particularly if the site has been plagued with crabgrass, goosegrass, and knotweed in previous years and the weeds have been allowed to set seed the previous fall and subsequently replenish the soil seed bank. Tupersan (siduron) is a preemergence herbicide that may be applied at the time of seeding and will provide a level of crabgrass control without inhibiting cool season turfgrass establishment. Tupersan is not labeled for preemergence control of goosegrass.

Summer annual grassy weeds may need to be treated with a postemergence herbicide to produce a clean turfgrass stand and guard against these weeds producing additional seed in the fall. Products such as MSMA, DSMA, Drive (quinclorac) and Acclaim (fenoxaprop) are postemergence products that should be considered for this use. Note that the phytotoxic effects of these herbicides on cool season turfgrasses will be dependent upon specific turf species as well as degree of establishment and while products such as MSMA, DSMA, and Drive are effective on immature crabgrass, these products will not control goosegrass. Acclaim will control goosegrass as well as multi-tillered crabgrass. The above listed Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension website provides access to the Fact Sheet **Crabgrass and Goosegrass Control in Cool Season Turfgrass** authored by Dr. Steve Hart, Extension Specialist in Weed Management in Turfgrass and Ornamentals, Rutgers Univ. This document provides detailed information on these products and is an excellent reference to assist in product choice.

(continued on page 5)



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RUTGERS CORNER (continued from page 4)

For a late spring/summer establishment project, the access to irrigation is critical. Even if favorable weather allows for seedbed preparation, seeding, and initial germination in lieu of irrigation, the onset of hot summer temperatures will kill young immature turfgrass seedlings if supplemental water is not available when needed. If irrigation is not available, the best option is to delay the seeding project to late summer/early fall and utilize a mulch such as straw following seeding to assist the soil surface in retaining moisture.

Summer turfgrass establishment is especially prone to diseases caused by *Pythium* and *Rhizoctonia* spp. *Rhizoctonia* is the fungal organism that causes brown patch. The collective term for the effects of these seedling diseases prior to and following turfgrass germination is 'damping-off.' Hot and humid weather, excessive soil moisture, and over-fertilization with nitrogen (N) create an environment where these diseases can flourish. These diseases can be difficult to prevent during the summer as hot temperatures and oppressive humidity are beyond a sports field manager's control. There is a fine line between keeping a seedbed moist and over-irrigating and as well as ensuring adequate N is available to new seedlings and applying too much N as to promote diseases such as *Pythium* and brown patch.

Fungicides are a chemical means of combating turfgrass diseases as part of summer establishment, particularly where excessively hot and humid temperatures are in the forecast. Subdue GR (metalaxyl) is one such fungicide that can be applied following seeding to prevent *Pythium*. This is a granular formulation and can be applied with conventional spreading equipment. The Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Fact Sheet **Plant Disease Control: Chemical Control of Turfgrass Diseases** is available for download at the previously mentioned website and provides additional chemical control strategies for turfgrass diseases.

The drawbacks of late spring and summer turfgrass establishment are numerous and the chances of seeding failure are high for reasons detailed above. Textbooks authored when turfgrass science was in its infancy made the case for late summer and early fall establishment of cool season turfgrasses. In 2006, the case is still strong.

*Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. & Ed. Coord., Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update



Railbirds – Field Day attendees line-up along the inside rail to listen to Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers Univ. (left) elaborate on the Monmouth Park turf course reconstruction as part of SFMANJ's Spring Field Day 2006.

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A Look Back at SPRING FIELD DAY 2006 (continued from page 1)

County followed with a presentation explaining how weeds can be indicators of turfgrass problems and chemical and non-chemical approaches to control weeds.

The Field Day moved outside where Fred Castenschiold, Storr Tractor Co. described various pieces of equipment that can be used to improve sports field playability. Jim Hermann, CSFM, Total Control, Inc. provided information on maximizing surface drainage across the turfgrass and skin portions of baseball infields.

Scott Bills, Northern Nurseries sponsored and arranged a hands-on pitchers' mound construction demonstration utilizing clay bricks. Facilitated by Ron Martin, Mar-Co Clay Products, Inc., various Field Day attendees got the opportunity to participate in the construction of the Shore Regional HS mound.

Next on the agenda was a short car ride over to Monmouth Park Racetrack, a thoroughbred racing facility appropriately nicknamed, "The Shore's Greatest Stretch." Lunch was served on the 3rd floor of Monmouth Park's venerable Clubhouse and was sponsored by Storr Tractor Co. and Northern Nurseries.

Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers Univ., a primary consultant involved in the design and construction oversight of the new turf course, gave a unique tour of the reconstructed thor-

oughbred turf course. The tour began on the front stretch and moved to a newly constructed racing chute. A second racing chute was incorporated into the reconstruction to create a new starting point for races. Discussion included the rationale for utilizing existing topsoil, the inclusion of a largely sand material used in septic systems to serve as a new sub-base, re-contouring the racing surface to allow more racing lanes and greater banking in the turns, and future turfgrass management strategies.

The tour concluded with a walk down the track's original racing chute and the opportunity to witness the final stages of the construction process. Field day attendees observed Tuckahoe Turf Farms installing big roll sod consisting of a tall fescue/Kentucky bluegrass mix.

The Monmouth Park turf course is being reconstructed in preparation for the track's hosting of the Breeders Cup in October 2007.

A hallmark of SFMANJ's Spring Field Day is strong attendance and the networking opportunities that come with many sports field managers gathering in one setting. This year's Spring Field Day lived-up to the SFMANJ tradition.

* Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coor., Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update

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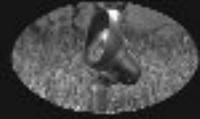
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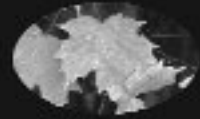
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As many of you know, the turfgrass industry lost a dear friend and colleague in September 2005. We will all miss Henry very much and would like to insure that his legacy lives on. The Indyk family would like to establish a memorial fellowship to support graduate students interested in applied turfgrass science. This fellowship is being created to help assure that tomorrow's graduate students have the financial resources to get an advanced degree in turfgrass science at Rutgers University. To fund a full graduate assistantship each year in Henry's name, we will need to raise a total of \$400,000. Your generous support at this time will bring us closer to reaching this goal.

To make a tax-deductible contribution today, please send a check payable to the Rutgers University Foundation, 7 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Be sure to indicate "Indyk Fellowship, Turfgrass" in the memo portion of your check. If you desire, you may provide a donation in the form of a pledge payable over several years.

For information on other ways to support this fellowship, please contact Dr. Bruce B. Clarke, Director – Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science (732-932-9400, ext. 331; or clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu) or John Pearson, Director of Leadership Gifts at the Foundation, by calling (732) 932-7899 or email: pearson@winants.rutgers.edu

DID YOU KNOW?

The Wisconsin Department of Environmental Protection listed Kentucky Bluegrass as an invasive plant in 1997 as part of a publication titled, "Wisconsin Manual of Control Recommendations for Ecologically Invasive plants."



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