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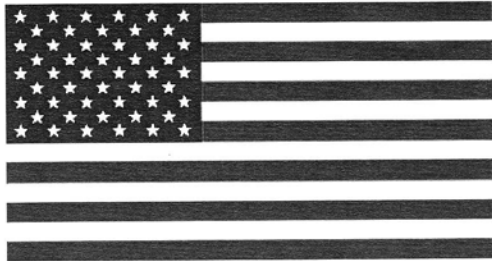
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(continued on page 4)

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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 (856) 514-3179 or Brad Park at (732) 932-9711, x127

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(Continued from page 3)

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Township of Monroe Earns 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year Honors

(continued from page 1)



The Softball Field at Monroe Township, NJ

Today Monroe Township encompasses 43 square miles. Residents of Monroe Township enjoy the diverse landscape, which includes farmlands, beautiful parks, streams and dense woodlands.

Maintaining the beautiful parks falls under the responsibility of Tom Torpey, three full time employees, and three summer help

employees. Tom has many years experience caring for parks and sports fields. Monroe Township has over 26 acres of sports fields to maintain, plus other landscape and common areas. The athletic fields include a baseball complex, softball complex, football complex and soccer complex. Veterans Park, which includes two tot lots and a spray park, is also maintained by Tom and his crew.

Tom credits parks foreman, Virgil Caputo and his dedicated crew for the success of the sports fields. One field in particular receives many positive comments. The main field at the softball complex is used for many special events and charity games. Tom states, 'players love playing under the lights and the big league feel.'

Tom is particularly proud of Virgil and his continued growth as a professional sports field manager. Virgil started working for Monroe Township at age 13 during the summer months. At that time there were only two ball fields and maintenance was limited to hand raking and an old tractor with a York rake. Today, 16 years later, Virgil has three ball field complexes totaling over 26 acres, plus other parks to maintain.

Tom and Virgil follow a turf management program, plus scheduled maintenance and treatments to maintain the high quality fields.

(continued on page 6)

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wrote **Chip Baker**, Asst. Baseball Coach,
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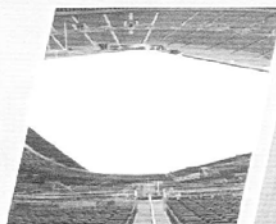
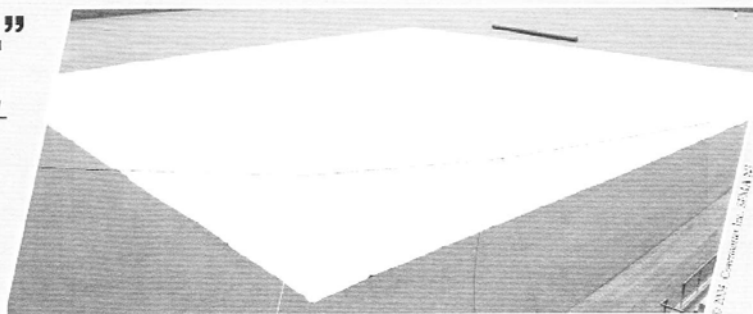
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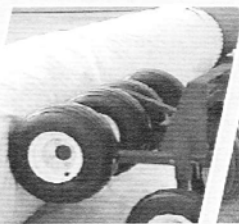
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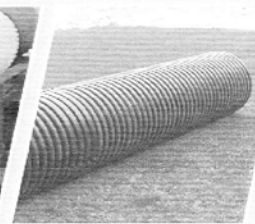
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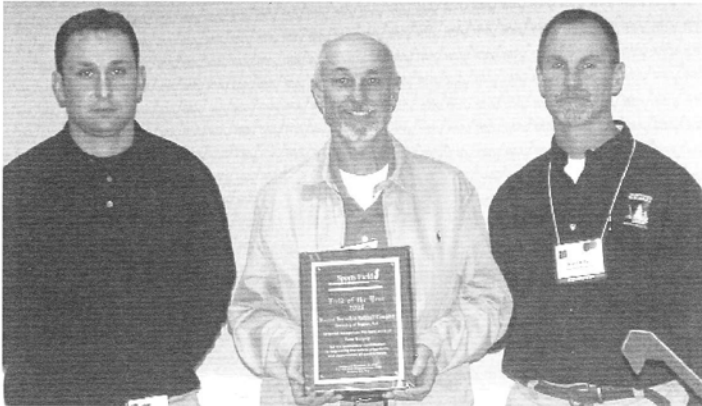
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Township of Monroe Earns 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year Honors

(continued from page 5)



The 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year winner was awarded at Expo 2008 in Atlantic City, NJ. Pictured (l-r) Virgil Caputo, Monroe Township; Tom Torpey, Monroe Township; Scott Bills, Northern Nurseries, and SFMANJ Board of Directors.

In early spring, all fences are inspected and repaired as necessary. The playing surfaces are walked to check for low spots and drainage issues. Where necessary infield lips are removed from the ball fields using a Ryan Jr. sod cutter.

The fertilizer program starts in early April with an application of 19-0-6 w/Dimension to help control crabgrass and other annual weeds. In mid May, an application of 23-3-6 with Trimec is completed to control early broadleaf weeds. Next, a split application of 18-0-8 with Allectus is applied to control above and below ground insects. In August, a lime application is made. Finally, a 20-10-10 fertilizer application is made in October.

Unwanted vegetation is controlled under the fence lines and on skinned surfaces with Roundup. Spot treatments are made on the turf areas with Momentum and Acclaim.

All granular applications are handled by a Lely broadcast spreader, mounted on a 1030 Massey-Ferguson tractor or Permagreen Magnum spreader/sprayer. Spot treatments are handled with a backpack sprayer.

In September, aeration and seeding is completed using a John Deere 300 tractor with a 60-inch AERATOR/seeder. Perennial Ryegrass is used during this treatment.

Mowing practices include two weekly cuts on all of the playing fields and one cut per week on the common areas. A fleet of Toro Groundmaster 345 mowers handles the mowing.

The irrigated fields have Toro systems and are normally set for 20 minutes per station.

Infield preparation is completed daily for spring, summer and fall leagues. During the season there are also two games per night. A Smithco super rake handles the grooming.

The residents of Monroe Township should be

proud to have two dedicated professionals, Tom Torpey and Virgil Caputo, maintaining their sports fields. For their accomplishments, Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) is proud to honor Tom and Virgil by selecting the Monroe Township softball complex field as 2008 Field of the Year.'

Tom and his crew would like to thank Mayor Richard Pucci and the Township Council for their support as well as Wayne Hamilton, Business Administrator, Ernie Feist, Director, and Wayne Horbatt, Superintendent.

The 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year runner-up was Singley Park, Hillsborough Township, NJ. John Crossen, Park Supervisor, had created a truly special facility. Singley Park is located in the western section of Hillsborough Township. The park has four softball fields, one full size soccer field and eight small-sided soccer fields.

John states, 'Singley Park gets many, many compliments for being one of the best facilities to play softball.' John strongly feels the compliments he gets from coaches and players, is due to the dedication of his staff.

SFMANJ would like to congratulate John and his staff for their accomplishments as Singley Park.

Scott Bills is Sales Consultant, Northern Nurseries, Inc.; and member of the SFMANJ Board of Director

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SPORTS TURF MANAGEMENT DURING LATE WINTER AND SPRING

By James Murphy, Ph.D.

CLEAN-UP

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

Use small equipment with wide, low pressure tires to pick up debris whenever feasible. Be careful not to drive large equipment (pickup trucks, etc.) equipped with narrow high pressure tires on playing surfaces during late winter and spring; stay off to the sides of fields with large equipment. The load and high pressure created by tires on large equipment can deeply rut the playing surface. Thus, creating additional work (repair) and a less safe playing field until the repair is complete.

SPRING MOWING STRATEGIES

As temperature and soil water conditions become more favorable for growth, turf will break dormancy and green-up. Vigorous growth and minimal environmental stresses during spring can lead to a false sense of security. Spring is a critical time to use proper mowing frequency and cutting heights along with appropriate nitrogen fertilization to encourage good root growth.

Peak shoot growth occurs at 60 to 75 °F during the spring. Additionally, roots will be extending deeper into the profile at this time, if properly managed. Mow at the correct height and frequency (remove no more than 1/3rd of the leaf tissue); otherwise excessive defoliation during mowing will deplete the carbohydrate (food) supply of the turf. Excessive defoliation will cause roots to stop growing and possibly dieback under severe mower scalp. Additionally, recovery from scalping will be slower than you might expect due to the low carbohydrate supply described above. Scalped turf will have low vigor and density, which will allow weeds such as crabgrass and goosegrass to invade later in the spring.

Be prepared for wet (rainy) weather that interrupts the mowing schedule in the spring. It can be difficult to mow at the desired frequency when sports fields are wet. Under this scenario, shoot growth can become excessive if fields were not properly mowed and fertilized up to this point in time.

NITROGEN FERTILIZATION

Fertilization with nitrogen is a valuable management tool for sports field as long as it is done correctly. Table 1 summarizes the basic timings and rates of N fertilization recommended for sports field. These recommendations should be used to initiate a fertilization program with the recognition that adjustments will be made as turf performance dictates (see footnotes in Table 1). Sports field receiving limited use in the spring should have N fertilization delayed as late as May to avoid over stimulation of the turf and increasing demand for mowing. Sports field being used in the spring should be fertilized with nitrogen as early as March to encourage the vigorous growth needed to tolerate and recover from intense springtime use. Use soil testing to determine the need, if any, for lime, phosphorus, potassium, etcetera. (Brad, please place an ad for Rutgers Soil Testing near this article, Jim. I will pay for the ad if necessary.)

TABLE 1. Minimum nitrogen fertilizer timings and rates for sports fields based on season of use/play.

Month	Spring Sports	Autumn Sports	Year-round multi-use
Pounds of Nitrogena per 1000 ft ² (acre)			
March	1 (44)	0	1 (44)
May	0	1 (44)	1 (44)
August/September	1 (44)	1 (44)	1 (44)
October	1 (44)	1 (44)	1 (44)

^a Typically, at least 30% of the nitrogen is applied as a slowly available form, also known as water insoluble nitrogen [WIN]. Slowly available forms of nitrogen include natural organics, IBDU, sulfur-polymer coated urea, methylene urea, and others. Nitrogen rate can be adjusted up to 1-1/2 pound if turf conditions at the time of application are poor or down to 1/2 if turf conditions are excellent.

When sports turf becomes overgrown, it is best to return to the desired mowing height over several cuttings rather than one aggressive cutting ("cutting hay"). Raise the cutting height so that you cut about 1/3rd of the total height of the turf and then decrease the cutting height with each successive mowing. For example, if conditions result in a 5 inch turf height and the desired mowing height is 2 inches, the next mowing should be at 3.5 inches followed by a mowing at 2.5 inches and finally mowing at the desired 2 inches. If feasible, it is also helpful to increase the mowing frequency during the time that the turf height is being reduced. For example, mow the field at 3.5 inches two times per week rather once per week, then two times at 2.5 inches, etcetera.

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



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**Dr. Henry W. Indyk
Graduate Fellowship
in Turfgrass Science**

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

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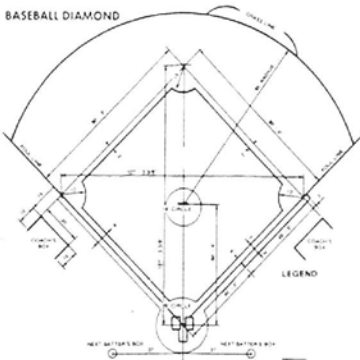
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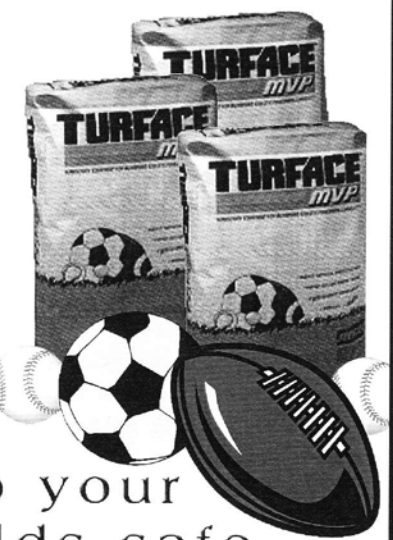
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2009 Calendar of Events

SFMANJ Spring Field Day

April 9, 2009

Sports Field Mgrs. Assoc. of NJ
Kingsway High School, Woolwich, Twp., NJ
856-514-3179
www.sfmanj.org

2009 Rutgers Golf and Fine Turf Research Field Day

August 4, 2009

New Jersey Turfgrass Assoc. and Rutgers University
Hort. Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ
973-812-6467
www.njturfgrass.org

2009 Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic

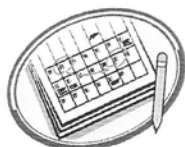
May 4, 2009

New Jersey Turfgrass Assoc.
Fiddler's Elbow CC, Far Hills, NJ
973-812-6467
www.njturfgrass.org

2009 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Research Field Day SFMANJ-sponsored trade show and equipment demos included

August 5, 2009

New Jersey Turfgrass Assoc., SFMANJ, and Rutgers University
Adelphia Research Farm, Adelphia, NJ
973-812-6467
www.njturfgrass.org



Dennis DeSanctis, Sr.

New Jersey / New York
Cell: 610-608-3181
ddesanctis@aer-core.com

Ryan Davidheiser

Pennsylvania / Delaware / Maryland
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RUTGERS STUDENT TEAM COMPETES IN 2009 STMA STUDENT CHALLENGE

EDITOR'S NOTE: SFMANJ awarded \$1000 to assist a team of three Rutgers undergraduate students to compete in the 2009 STMA Student Challenge, held at the STMA Annual Conference in San Jose, CA in January 2009.

January 26, 2009

SFMANJ Board of Directors
c/o Mr. Don Savard
PO Box 205
Pennsville, NJ 08070

Dear Mr. Don Savard:

The Rutgers University turf students who competed in the Student Challenge in San Jose this January at the STMA National Conference would like to extend a very large thank you to your association for its sponsorship! Without your generous donation of \$1000 to the Rutgers Turf Club we would have never been able to fund a trip out to California with three undergraduate students. Opportunities like these truly bring our education to a higher level and expand our horizons.

It was great to interact with professionals of the industry from all over the country and hear their lectures, multiple view-points coming from multiple professionals creates a great learning environment. Fortunately we were also able to meet students at other universities and begin friendships that may last throughout our careers. Of course leaving the below freezing temperatures of New Jersey to bask in the 75 and sunny weather was a major plus to the trip as well!

Thank you again for your support, we look forward to interacting with your association this year as newly joined student members. Best of luck to everyone as the spring rapidly approaches, the grass begins to rejuvenate and the athletics resume!

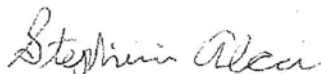
The 2009 Rutgers University STMA Student Challenge Team,



Will Reardon



Eric Koch



Stepahnie Alea