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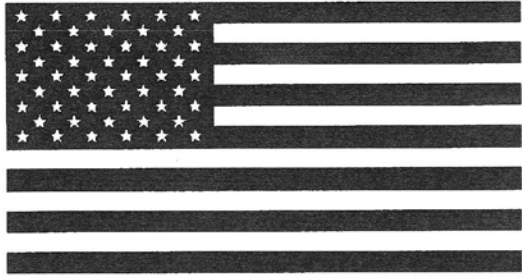
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WELCOME NEW & RENEWED SFMANJ MEMBERS

Currently we have 261 new & renewed members. In December 2008, SFMANJ mailed invoices for 2009 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. Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

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Mark Barone	Borough of Glen Rock
Scott Beachy	Twp of Millstone
Vincent Benenati	Tenafly Board of Education
Anthony Berardi	College of Staten Island

(continued on page 4)

SFMANJ Annual Membership Registration Form *receive update information by email

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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.

Contact us at:

PO Box 205 • Pennsville, NJ 08070

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National Organization
 Sports Turf Managers Association

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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

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

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

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(Continued from page 3)

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Spring Field Day 2009: Kingsway High School and Coombs Sod Farm

By Debbie Savard and Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

(Continued from page 1)

Sean Connell, owner of **Georgia Golf Construction**. His machine takes out all the guess work when setting grades. George Bannerman demonstrated his infield grooming machine. Board member Scott Bills from **Northern Nurseries** had arranged for a fascinating mound building demonstration in collaboration with Ron Martin. These guys really know their business and, I'm sure that everyone learned lots of tricks of the trade, both in field construction and helping their team perform at their best.

We then moved over to the softball field where Tony Leonard from the Philadelphia Eagles headed a logo painting demonstration as performed by our host Kevin Shipman. Paint mixtures and application were discussed as Kevin painted a big "K" in his outfield. The stencil was generously provided by **World Class Paint**.

Lunch and pesticide credit education at Coombs Sod Farm, Elmer, NJ

After packing everything up, we headed over to **Coombs Sod Farm**. A wonderful catered buffet lunch was provided by our host John Coombs in his pole barn that he had actually carpeted with sod just for our event.

As lunch settled, SFMANJ Board Member Brad Park, Rutgers University, gave a very informative talk on pesticide sprayer calibration. Pesticide credits were awarded later.

An inside look at Coombs Sod Farm

After lunch and the pesticide lecture it was off to visit the sod farm. John had thought of everything and rented a bus to take attendees out to see the sod harvesters at work. Many of our group had never seen a sod harvesting operation and the precision at which it was done.

John Coombs is the eighth generation of his family to cultivate this land where potatoes, corn, soybeans, spinach and string beans are grown. In 1999, John began to include turfgrass sod as part of a crop rotation program. A feature of this crop rotation is that insect, disease and weed problems that can affect one crop rarely reach alarming proportions because just as the pest become a problem, the host crop is gone, replaced by a much different crop. The pests leave confused. The result is reduced fertilizer and pesticide inputs and ultimately reduced production costs.

On the bus tour, we passed fields of Kentucky bluegrass and turf type tall fescue sod in various stages of the production cycle. We drove alongside one of 11 center-pivot irrigation systems on the farm, a method of crop irrigation in which equipment rotates around a pivot and a circular area is irrigated, often creating a circular pattern in crops when viewed from an airplane. The turf receives about an inch of water each time it is irrigated and it takes about 3 days for the pivot to travel 360 degrees to the starting point.

(Continued on page 6)

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Spring Field Day 2009: Kingsway High School and Coombs Sod Farm

By Debbie Savard and
Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

(Continued from page 5)

Turfgrass is mowed at 2 inches using three 22 foot wide rotary mowers pulled by 55 hp tractors. "Unlike traditional sod farms which use reel mowers for their mowing, we machine our rotary mower blades to exacting tolerances that make (the blades) as sharp as razors. But we also use a fairway mower to mow turf at the shorter heights for our golf course customers" said Coombs.

Coombs Farms sells both traditional slabs of sod rolled-up and palletized in 500 square foot units or 300 square foot big rolls popular with sports field managers. The Trebro sod harvesting machine operates in a laser guided straight line and cuts, rolls, and stacks the sod rolls in alternating courses on a pallet until it is full. Big roll sod is harvested using a different type of harvesting machine, smaller than the Trebro, and requires a 3 person team.

After the tour, we awarded the pesticide credits and held a door prize raffle with items that were donated by our very supportive vendors. The prizes were so numerous that almost everyone went home with something and if they missed out, John Coombs generously made sure that everyone got a Coombs Farm tee shirt. It was a great day and a good time was had by all that participated.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this field day a success!

Thank you to all of our vendors who supported us and provided us with information, demonstrations and great door prizes. Thank you to our hosts, Larry Lore and Kevin Shipman at Kingsway Regional High School and John and Donna Coombs at Coombs Sod Farm. Thank you to Brad Park for the IPM talk. And thank all of you who attended.

Be sure to check out our web site for updates on coming events: www.sfmanj.org

Hope to see you at our next field day!


Debbie Savard is SFMANJ Executive Secretary.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM);




Director, Athletic Facilities & Grounds, Salesianum School; and President, SFMANJ.

DID YOU KNOW?

SFMANJ will hold a Fall Field Day on September 23, 2009 in Monroe Township, NJ. The softball field at Monroe Township was awarded the 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year.




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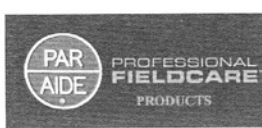





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UNDERSTANDING WHAT A SEED TAG MEANS TO YOU

By Jim Gavigan, CSFM

What is in the bag of seed I am buying? Am I getting the best for my dollar? Are there things in the bag I do not want?

All these questions can be answered by understanding what is actually on a seed tag and what it means to me.

Let's go over what components make up the seed tag.

- Shippers name and addresses required on all seed labels
- Lot number – location where seed was blended, year of production, sequence of blend
- % Purity is the % by weight of the bag for each component
- Component is the cultivar or specie of seed (see below referring to BLUE TAG)
- % Germ is the % germination of each component, most producers will max out at 90-95% to allow for regulatory testing variances
- Origin indicates the US state or country grown
- Other Ingredients
 1. Other Crop Seed indicates % content of seed from Ag. crop not listed on components
 2. Inert Matter indicates % content of chaff, stem or other product not listed as seed
 3. Weed Seed is the % of seed not defined by component or crop %
- Noxious Weeds indicates any seed found that are defined as noxious by state or federal law
- Test Date is the month and date of last germination test
- AMS Number indicates that the seed labeler is registered with the USDA agriculture marketing

Now let's look at how all this impacts your decision making process!!

First off we need to know if the seed we are buying is still as viable as the tag says. If the test date does not fit into the required time line for sale, BE WEARY. Each state has their own time line of how long a seed product can be sold. If it falls outside of that timeline it needs to be recertified in order to be sold. Buying old seed can affect the % germination.

Next we need to know if the % purity meets our needs for the blend of seed specified in a specification.

Blending Turf type tall fescues, Perennial rye and Kentucky bluegrass in the wrong %'s will lead to problems down the line of different species out growing and over growing your desired mix.

Choosing the proper components is critical for success. This refers back to % purity because we need to know the proper mix of different specie to meet our needs. Next we need to know if the cultivars we are choosing are best suited for our unique growing environment. Always research your needs by using the National Turf Evaluation Program (NTEP.ORG) to be sure you are choosing the proper cultivar to withstand the inherent problems in your field or environment. Also refer to the RUTGERS TURFGRASS PROCEEDINGS for data pertinent to each cultivar under New Jersey conditions. Remember choosing the right cultivar can reduce or eliminate problems down the road in the future and reduce or eliminate the need for expensive pesticides. Here is where the need for

BLUE TAG CERTIFIED seed comes in. BLUE TAG CERTIFIED is an assurance by an official agency that the seed meets the 3 requirements of being certified

1. The seed variety has proven unique and stable over several years of reproduction
2. The seed in the bag was harvested and cleaned under supervision of an official agency and varietal integrity was maintained
3. The seed in the bag has met certain minimum official standards for purity, germination, crop, weed and inert matter

The % germ or germination will lead us to the PURE LIVE SEED calculations. (See below for explanation of calculations)

It is critical to understand exactly what NOXIOUS WEED means. Many states list weeds that are more of a contaminant to agriculture than turf as NOXIOUS WEED. Therefore, in many states, turf contaminants such as *Poa annua*, *Poa trivialis* and orchardgrass do not have to be listed on the seed tag as noxious. In NJ, Pa., De. And Md. UNDESIRABLE GRASS SEED must be listed as NOXIOUS WEED.

(Continued on page 18)

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What's a Field Day?

By Pedro Perdomo

Editor's note:

This article first appeared in the Spring 2009 edition of NJTA Clippings & Green World

As a Rutgers grad and member of New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA), I have been to many field days over the years. While having a conversation with a friend recently, I came to realize that there are still a few people that have not attended and are not familiar with what field day has to offer. I thought I would take a few lines to give an overview and encourage all interested parties to attend.

The Rutgers Turfgrass Field Days are an annual event where the Rutgers Farms that devote space to Turfgrass research invite the public in to see what is new and exciting in the Turfgrass world. The two-day event is divided into golf and fine turf on one day with the second day concentrating on lawns and athletic fields. The number of people attending can get quite

large so we split the attendees into three smaller groups. Don't worry though, because the groups will be rotated and everyone will have the opportunity to visit each and every scheduled stop on greens and fairways, how to avoid failure of crabgrass pre-emergent

Visit the event and you will quickly notice that there is a real world approach to doing research at Rutgers. Questions that the industry may have on such things as cultural management of disease, managing water use on greens and fairways, how to avoid failure of crabgrass pre-emergent applications, and what are the best grass varieties to use for specific situations

(continued on page 14)

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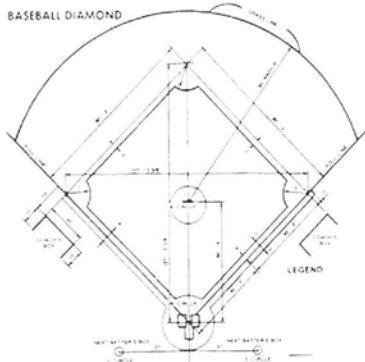
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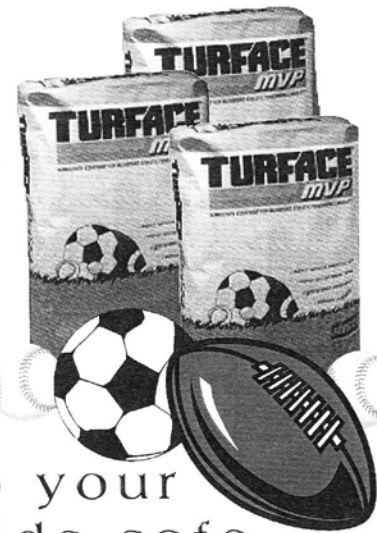
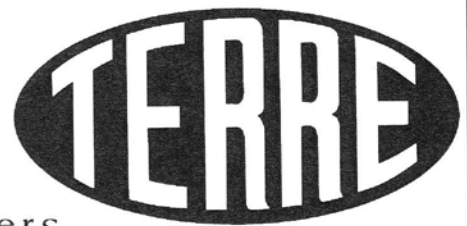
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2009 Calendar of Events

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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

2009 Fall Field Day

September 23, 2009

Sports Field Mgrs. Assoc. of NJ
Monroe Township, NJ
856-514-3179
www.sfmanj.org

New Jersey Green Expo 2009

December 8-10, 2009

NJ Turfgrass Assoc.
Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort, Atlantic City, NJ
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www.njturfgrass.org

STMA Annual Conference 2010

January 12-16, 2010

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Understanding Synthetic Fields

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Spring Field Day, April 9, 2009: Kingswa

