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# Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 220 new & renewed members. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey mailed invoices for 2012 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](http://www.sfmanj.org). Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

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*Continued from page 1*

## EXPO 2012 DO AC

### Have an Action Plan

Develop a plan for how operations will continue in your absence. Make sure you are accessible by phone (please turn off or set on vibrate during sessions!!!!) to address any concerns that might arise in your absence.

Consider preparing and presenting a report on the information you learned and how you plan to put it into practice at your facility. Demonstrate how you will share the technical information learned with your staff for their continuing educational development.

### Let's DO AC in December!

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

## 2012 SFMANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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:

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### National Organization

Sports Turf Managers Association

[www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org)

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



# A Message from the President

By Matt Olivi

**T**he dog days of summer are behind us and we are well into what might be our busiest time of year. We are already looking forward to next year's challenges as we sow the seed for a healthy turf next spring. Sports field managers are always required to be one step ahead of the game. However, before we move forward, let's quickly reflect upon what we have done over the summer. On August 1, Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) held its annual summer trade show in collaboration with the New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Facility in Freehold, NJ. Despite the weather taking a turn for the worst, the event still proved to be a great success. Our commercial members were greatly supportive this year and we nearly exceeded our capacity for vendor booths. Although the weather cut our equipment demonstrations short, attendees still had plenty of face time with suppliers and industry professionals. Thanks to all of you who were able to take part in the event. The contributions of commercial members at this year's event has greatly contributed to the financial health and good standing of our chapter. Your continued support will always be appreciated by the entire membership.

Now that we are well passed the halfway point this year we are looking forward to a strong finish. As mentioned earlier, we always try to stay a season ahead of the game. We are all aware that what we do in fall will pave the way for our spring field maintenance programs. So, this fall we'll be returning to Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School for our Fall Field Day event. On November 8, SFMANJ will be sponsoring a Baseball Field Maintenance Clinic featuring our local Minor League Field Managers. Our all-star line-up will include Ryan Radcliffe, Ryan Hills, Bill Butler, Dan Purner, Will Reardon and host Ray Cipperly. The professionals will be speaking on topics such as mound construction, grass cutting techniques, line painting, infield skin maintenance and more. Be sure to join us and pick up some useful tips and effective strategies for maintaining your fields.

In case you can't make it out to East Brunswick in November, we'll all be meeting again in December at the Expo 2012 Conference in Atlantic City New Jersey. The three day conference will be held December 4-6. This year's Sports Field educational program will include Speakers such as Vickie Wallace (University of Connecticut), Brad Park (Rutgers University), Don Savard, CSFM and more. If you need NJ pesticide applicator recertification credits this will be the event to attend. Also, it's never too early

to start planning your trip to the national STMA convention in January of 2013. This year's national event is right here on the east coast and will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida. For more information visit [stma.org](http://stma.org) and click on conferences.

STMA leadership training is always a great resource for sports field managers. Our New Jersey chapter has always benefited from having our members attend national events and/or involving themselves with our parent organization. We are very fortunate to have another CSFM and former STMA board member, Kevin Merideth, join our chapter recently. Kevin's experience in the industry speaks for itself and we welcome him into our local association.

Moving forward, SFMANJ will continue to keep you updated on legislative issues and developments that effect our day-to-day operations and field managers. Our legislative committee continues to work with the New Jersey Green Industry Council (NJGIC), State representatives and other interested parties. Please contact us if you ever have any questions or concerns relating to legislative affairs. We always encourage you to participate and provide the SFMANJ board of directors with feedback. Let us know how we're doing and how we can help you. There's nothing we can't accomplish when we work together.

*Matt Olivi is Sports Field Manager, Piscataway Board of Education, Piscataway, NJ; and SFMANJ President*

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# "SAFE PLAYING FIELDS":

## What does it really mean?

### Part 2


By Rich Watson

Speaking of pests, sometimes even with your custom fertility plan in place and an overseeding program enacted things can still go wrong. The School IPM Act is the law that schools in NJ abide by when it comes to dealing with pests. Integrated Pest Management is often a misunderstood term. The EPA has a great definition for IPM. It is an approach to pest management that blends all available management techniques- nonchemical and chemical- into one strategy: Monitor pest problems, use nonchemical pest control and resort to pesticides when pest damage exceeds an economic or aesthetic threshold. The NJ school IPM law is a little more restrictive than that. If pest problems persist with non-chemical options (proper mowing/irrigation, aeration, seeding with appropriate varieties and soil monitoring/testing) being implemented, the law requires that you consider a low-impact pesticide from a predetermined list of products before making a restricted pesticide application. In my mind it is a very simple process. By performing good cultural practices in conjunction with proper fertility and a good seeding program, you can do some impressive things with your turf. However, it is the sports turf manager's job to take responsible action when pest stresses start exceeding thresholds and put field safety at risk.

Gaining an understanding of pest problems through education and knowing where to set your thresholds are the keys to a good IPM program. We live with a lot of things on our fields and choose to treat only after thresholds are exceeded and field quality as related to safety is in question. We have considered the limited list of low-impact pesticides provided in the law. Reading the Rutgers report: "Managing Turf using Low Impact Pesticides" was very helpful in shaping our decision.

Last year the cost and efficacy of these products did not allow us to use them in our turf program. We are currently evaluating this decision for the upcoming year. Hopefully some day there will be an expanded list of products to choose from. When the decision is made to apply a pesticide, we give consideration to reduced risk products first if they are available. After a product is selected, we look at the field's history to decide what part of the field needs to be sprayed. A spot application may be in order or maybe just the middle of the field is compromised. Sometimes it may be necessary to spray the entire playing surface, but not the buffer areas surrounding the field.

*Continued on page 17*



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# Question & Answer

## with Rutgers University

By Brad Park and Dr. Jim Murphy., Rutgers University

**Q:** I am being told by my facility manager that using weed preventer or weed killer on school grounds is illegal. Can anyone shed some light on this?

**A:** Herbicide use (i.e. weed preventers, weed killers, etc) is permissible on school sports fields and grounds as long as the application(s) is made in accordance with the New Jersey School IPM Act. The specifics of the Law can be found at the website of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office: <http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/IPM/SchoolIPM/index.htm>

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) calls for employing a variety of strategies (i.e. proper mowing, fertilization, seeding, cultivation, irrigation, etc), in lieu of routine pesticide applications, to keep pest within acceptable limits. However, IPM does allow for synthetic pesticide use to manage pest problems when limits have been exceeded.

For example, it is NOT consistent with the principles of IPM to make a postemergence broadleaf herbicide application for control of white clover and dandelions when weeds are not present.

As another IPM example, documentation/records should be generated indicating those sports fields and grounds locations where crabgrass populations have exceeded acceptable limits in August and September. Late summer and fall cultural strategies should include cultivation, seeding, fertilization, regular mowing and proper irrigation. Implementation of these practices should also be documented. In spring of the following year, the use of a preemergence herbicide should be based on whether or not additional seed is required. If turf cover is still lacking, the choice should be to seed and not apply a preemergence herbicide as most preemergence herbicides will also inhibit the establishment of new seedings. If turf cover is deemed sufficient, and documentation has been generated indicating that the field has a history of crabgrass encroachment, the application of a preemergence herbicide is justifiable.

Note that the New Jersey School IPM Act requires consideration of low-impact pesticide options when solving pest problems. Corn gluten meal is a low-impact pesticide that can provide some preemergence control of crabgrass. However, limited product efficacy should be expected where crabgrass populations have been severe and where application rates are limited by the 2011 NJ Fertilizer Law.

Additional resources on the School IPM Act include: Rutgers Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office, (o) 848.932.9801; and New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection Pesticide Control Program, (o) 609.984.6507

I hope this helps to clarify this often confusing issue. - bsp

**Q:** I understand that an organic program is not only environmentally correct but fast becoming a politically correct direction to move with athletic field fertility. If a person has been in diligent in his fertilizer program and to date has balanced P & K in the soil to where there is little or none required, it would seem an organic fertilizer cannot be utilized since there are none (to my knowledge) that do not include P & K in their composition.

**A:** There are not many organic fertilizers that do not contain P and/or K but there are some including: Blood Meal is made from dried slaughterhouse waste and is one of the highest non-synthetic sources of nitrogen. If over-applied, it can burn plants with excessive ammonia.

Feather Meal is sourced from poultry slaughter and meal has fairly high nitrogen levels but is slow to release the nitrogen

Corn gluten meal materials have a high percentage of nitrogen. It carries a warning to allow 1 to 4 months of decomposition in the soil prior to seeding. Allelopathic properties will inhibit the germination of seeds. However, there is no danger to established or transplanted plants. This product is also marketed as a pre-emergent weed control for annual grasses in lawns.

See <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/mg/gardennotes/234.html#alfalfa> for more examples of organic fertilizers.

Note that NJ law allows certified and trained professionals to apply organic fertilizers containing available phosphate as long as the application rate is no more than 0.25 pounds of available phosphate per 1,000 square feet, which, for many organic fertilizers, greatly restricts how much nitrogen can be applied with that product. See [https://profact.rutgers.edu/Pages/training\\_module.aspx?CID=48](https://profact.rutgers.edu/Pages/training_module.aspx?CID=48) for more details on phosphate restrictions in NJ. - JAM

**Q:** I was hoping I could ask you for your opinion on the following. We are going to be having our soccer/lacrosse game field scalped, mix in some sand without topsoil as the field is tilled about 6 inches down. We have good draining soil and a

*Continued on page 9*

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# Making Plans for NEXT YEAR

by Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

How well did your sports field do this past year? Did it look and play as you expected it to? Are you satisfied with the results? Many sports field managers' review the past year and make plans (and budgets) now for the upcoming year. It is time to take an honest, hard look at how well the 2012 program worked so that you will know what to keep and what to change. Not sure where to start? Here's a hint: Ask your crew, your owners and user groups for their thoughts. Their answers might surprise you.

Were there any injuries on your fields? Safety is always a good place to start. Even if you were fortunate that nobody had an injury, there may be problems out there waiting to happen. You probably have walked by these potential accidents so many times that you don't notice them anymore. Ask a qualified third party (such as a trusted fellow sports field manager from another facility) to bring fresh eyes to your site. You will be amazed at what someone else will find questionable at your facility. Be sure to document every deficiency with a digital camera, then correct and document again after the corrections are made.

Do your fields play well? Are the surfaces fast or slow enough for the level of play? Do balls roll or bounce with expected predictability? Coaches and players (including those from visiting teams) can give you important feedback. You won't know unless you ask! Drastic changes like buying new mowing equipment might make a big improvement, but, so can subtle changes like adjusting mowing heights or mowing frequency.

Many of us have to schedule our cultural practices around the field users. Do we have the flexibility to adjust our schedules so that we don't have to mow grass when it covered with dew? Can early morning, evening or weekend work schedules be used to safely perform tasks that would otherwise not have time to be done?

How effective is your irrigation? The goal here is to provide enough water to the turf when it needs it, factoring in the amount of natural rainfall and the normal moisture loss due to

*Continued on page 13*



## 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](mailto:clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu) or  
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# Question & Answer

Continued from page 6

## with Rutgers University

nice sand based silt reading on our tests. My questions to you: What would you recommend as a mixture for our turf? We are going to be getting sod laid down and this is probably going to be in mid to late august, so any advice on thickness of the sod would also be great. We do have an irrigation system in place and will remain through this construction.

Background information this is our first year of women's lacrosse so it is the first time our field will be used in the spring. We have two soccer teams in the fall, we do have a second practice field that is heavily used by all three teams during both fall and spring.

**A:** Based on your comments, I'm not necessarily sold on the incorporation of sand into the existing topsoil, particularly if it is already well-drained. Depending on soil test results you may be better served with ensuring that the surface is laser-graded prior to sod installation and there is a 1.5% crown in-place.

On the issue of sod, I'd lean towards 100% Kentucky bluegrass - particularly if you have irrigation available. If play is scheduled for the field until Spring 2013, I suggest a 'normal' thickness of cut (approximately 0.25 to 0.5-inch soil).

Be sure to spec non-netted sod!

As soccer and lacrosse are traffic-intensive sports, budget for a rigorous perennial ryegrass overseeding program following opening of the field as field centers and goal creases will wear-out. - bsp

*Brad Park (bsp) is Sports Turf Education and Research Coordinator, Rutgers University; Editor, SFMANJ Update Newsletter; and member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.*

*Dr. James Murphy (JAM) is Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University; and SFMANJ Advisor*

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# Vendor re-cap of Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day 2012, August 1, 2012

