

Ginty Park, Morris Township, NJ, April 19, 2012

By Brad Park, Rutgers University



“SAFE PLAYING FIELDS” : What does it really mean? Part 1

Continued from page 5

slow release product. Fall should be reserved for higher amounts of nitrogen to ensure your fields will survive the demands of the season and falling soil temperatures. This is a very important point that is often overlooked. Fall fertility serves two purposes. First, nitrogen (again, ammonium sulfate is my choice) availability is crucial to establish new seed and also for recovery from fall sports damage. Secondly, it allows turf growth to extend into the end of the fall sports season. Too often fall fields are allowed to stop growing when temps drop but field use continues. Starting early in the spring and continuing all the way through the fall season will give you maximum results for your fertilizer dollar and provide a dense, consistent turf cover for the entire year.

Dr. Dave Minner from Iowa State University and I talk often about how difficult it is to overcome the amount of seedheads produced by crabgrass. Having large amounts of seed introduced into the soil and then worked in by the athletes seems like a tough thing to deal with. Crabgrass technology can be used by the sports field manager in the same manner. From August through November we live by the motto “If you see brown, throw it down”. This means introducing perennial ryegrass seed any time you see bare soil. The broadcasting of seed during the fall sports season is the key to keeping turf coverage all year long. A common perception is that you are wasting money if you seed during field activity. I disagree. Due to unpredictable weather in the spring and hot/humid conditions in the summer, fall is the season of choice for overseeding. Unfortunately, this is when athletic fields absorb the most abuse and wear. I take a nothing ventured, nothing gained approach. If you don't seed during the fall, you will end up with a good deal of bare soil at the end of the season. I believe that it is easier to grow turf from seed during moderate fall weather conditions than any other time of year. Perennial ryegrass is my choice for use during this timeframe due to its wear tolerance even as seedlings. As the season winds down, we start to introduce turf-type tall fescue into the fields. This is done later because

tall fescue doesn't hold up to traffic upon emergence as well as perennial ryegrass does. Tall fescue however, has displayed more disease resistance on our fields. It is not a common mix, but it has been working for us. My friend Scott Bills who is a Certified Sports Field Manager also points out that overseeding regularly allows for the introduction of multiple generations of seeds, including newer varieties. The amount of seed planted in the fall allows our fields to emerge from winter with almost full turf cover. This gives us a better chance of fighting off pests and stress as we enter the height of the growing season.

Rich Watson is Sports Field Manager, Pine Hill Public Schools, Pine Hill, NJ and member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors. Other members of the Pine Hill Public Schools Sports Field and Grounds Team include, Greg Bunting, Bill Loftus, Tom Crosby, and Carmelo Anguilla.



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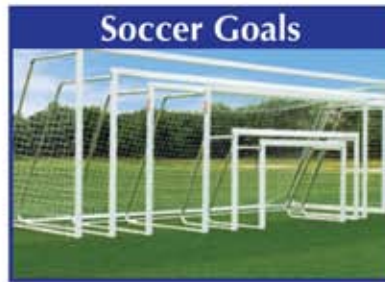


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Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, & Sports Turf Field Day
SFMANJ-sponsored equipment demonstrations
August 1, 2012

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SFMANJ Fall Field Day
November 8, 2012

East Brunswick Technical High School
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www.sfmanj.org

NJ State League of Municipalities
November 13-15, 2012

Atlantic City Convention Center
Atlantic City, NJ
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www.njslom.org

New Jersey Green Expo
December 4-6, 2012

Trump Taj Mahal
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- ☑ Check our Contact Us page for direct links to all of the Board of Directors. Call us with any questions or comments.
- ☑ Check our Vendor page for interactive links to our advertising vendors' web sites and a complete list of all our vendors. Call them first! They are happy to answer any questions.



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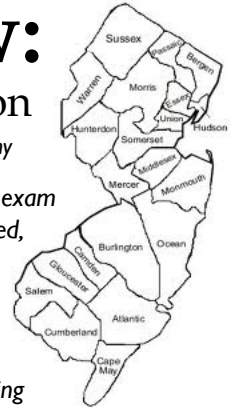
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The New Jersey Fertilizer Law:

Update on Certification, Enforcement, Penalties and Preemption

Dr. Jim Murphy



The Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification and Training (ProFACT) program was developed by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection, in response to the New Jersey Act, P.L. 2010, c. 112 (<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2010/Bills/PL10/112.PDF>). This law addresses the application, sale, and use of fertilizer for both professional and retail applications to turf.

The ProFACT program is an internet based certification program (<http://profact.rutgers.edu>) that provides professional fertilizer applicators with training and education in five subject areas as outlined by the law: i) proper use and calibration of fertilizer equipment; ii) correct interpretation of fertilizer labeling; iii) best management practices for nutrient management in turf; iv) hazards of excess nutrients to the State's water bodies; and v) applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Approximately 3,000 professionals have registered with the ProFACT program as of 22 May 2012 and more than 1,400 of those professionals have become certified and more than 700 have registered as trained fertilizer applicators.

A **"professional fertilizer applicator"** is any individual who applies fertilizer for hire, including any employee of a government entity who applies fertilizer within the scope of employment. No professional fertilizer applicator may apply fertilizer to turf without first obtaining a fertilizer application certification, or training if applying fertilizer under the direct supervision of a certified professional fertilizer applicator.

Certified Fertilizer Applicators (CFAs) are those professionals responsible for decision-making regarding fertilizer application and use. Professionals must have received

training and pass an exam to become certified, which can currently be done through an online program (<http://profact.rutgers.edu>). Training for CFAs is more extensive than for trained fertilizer applicators.

Trained Fertilizer Applicators (TFAs) are professionals that may apply fertilizer under the direct supervision of a CFA. Direct supervision means that the CFA provides the TFA with written instructions regarding the fertilize application and maintains immediate voice communication (radio or mobile phone). Trained fertilizer applicators must be trained but do not need to take an exam.

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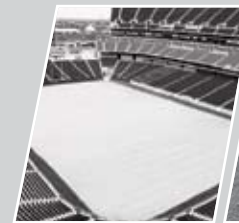
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Parks & Recr. Dept., North Smithfield, RI

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The New Jersey Fertilizer Law:

Update on Certification, Enforcement, Penalties and Preemption

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More details on the certification and training program are available on the "instructions" page at <http://ProFACT.rutgers.edu/Pages/instructions.aspx>.

The law requires Rutgers NJAES to publish a list of professional fertilizer applicators on its internet website. The listings will be enhanced for sorting in the future and currently provide names in alphabetical (last name) order. Links to the lists are provided below.

Certified Fertilizer Applicators:

<http://ProFACT.rutgers.edu/Pages/Certified-Applicators.aspx>

Trained Fertilizer Applicators:

<http://profact.rutgers.edu/Pages/Trained-Applicators-List.aspx>

For general inquiries about the certification and training program, contact the ProFACT administration team at:

Email: profact@aesop.rutgers.edu

Mailing Address:

ProFACT

Department of Plant Biology and Pathology
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
59 Dudley Road
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8520

Phone: 848-932-6373

Enforcement of the Law

As more people become aware of this new law, the issue of enforcement is an increasingly common question.

This law may be enforced by any municipality, county, local soil conservation district or local health agency. A local soil conservation district may institute a civil action for injunctive relief in Superior Court to enforce this law and to prohibit and prevent a violation of this law and the court may proceed in the action in a summary manner.

Thus, enforcement will occur at the local government level using the prohibitions, restrictions and penalties established by the law. You should direct your inquiries or requests for enforcement to local officials in municipal and county government or local soil conservation districts (<http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/anr/nrc/conservdistricts.html>).

Violations and Penalties

Any professional fertilizer applicator who violates the New Jersey Fertilizer Law is subject to a civil penalty of \$500 for the first offense and up to \$1,000 for the second and each subsequent offense, to be collected in a civil action by a summary proceeding under the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," P.L. 1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.).

If the violation is of a continuing nature, each day during which it continues shall constitute an additional, separate and distinct offense. The Superior Court and the municipal court shall have jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999".

Preemption

The provisions of the law preempt any ordinance or resolution of a municipality, county or local health agency concerning the application of fertilizer to turf, except that municipalities are allowed to establish penalties for persons other than a professional fertilizer applicator or person who sells retail fertilizer (in other works, homeowners that use fertilizers). Yes, there are restrictions on homeowner use of fertilizers as well that can result in penalties from a local government.

Any person, other than a professional fertilizer applicator or person who sells fertilizer at retail, who violates this act, or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, may be subject to a penalty, as established by municipal ordinance, to be collected in a civil action by a summary proceeding under the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," P.L. 1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.). The municipal court shall have jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999".

Dr. Jim Murphy is Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University; and SFMANJ Advisor

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Field Renovation with Sod is a Natural Fit on this Busy Sports Field

Continued from page 6

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Don Savard, CSFM, CGM is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); Certified Grounds Manager (CGM), Sports Turf Manager, Salesianum School, Wilmington Delaware; Past-President, SFMANJ; and current member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.



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