Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

Update

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 2 •• August 2001

SFMANJ BUSINESS

OPENINGS: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(1) Representative from a Private/Public School
(1) Representative from an Education/Extension
(1) Representative from Parks and Recreation
(1) Representative from a College/University
(2) Representatives from a Professional Facility
(2) Student representatives

OPENINGS: COMMITTEES

Membership
Programs
Communication/Publicity

If you are interested in becoming a Board member or helping with a committee, please e-mail us at elpene99@yahoo.com or call Eleanor at 908-735-5999 or Larry at 800-942-0134 or Jim at 732-248-8979.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

SFMANJ

August 21, 3:30pm –Next Board meeting will be held at Rutgers University.

STMA

January 7,8,9 – National Conference in Las Vegas. The SAFE Scholarship committee will be allocating up to $15,000 for the 2001 scholarships and related travel to the STMA Conference in Las Vegas. Contact STMA at 800-323-3875.

NJ TURF GRASS ASSOCIATION

December 11 - 13 – Expo Conference at The Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. Sports Turf Educational session is on the 13th. For information call Dick Caton at 856-853-5973.

Floyd Perry

August 13–16, 1, 2 and 4 day workshops in Warren, NJ. SFMANJ members receive 10% discount. 800-227-9381

KAFMO Keystone Athletic Field Managers Asso. For Field day information call 610-375-8469.

MONTHLY FIELD TIPS

Proper spreader calibration

1. **Calculate the pounds of material needed per thousand Square feet.** Example: If you have a 20% nitrogen product and you want 1 pound of nitrogen per th. sq. ft., you need to apply 5 lbs. of product. Always divide 100 by the percent #. This will give you the amount of product needed to supply 1 lb. N. Multiply this # by the actual amount of N required to find out the amount of product needed for any given amount of N. Cost per th. can be figured in the same manor. Using the same equation as above just replace 100 with the cost per 100 lbs. of fertilizer and multiply by the number of lbs. required.
2. **Determine the spreading width** of the material. (put it in and turn it on). Make sure to run the tractor at PTO speed.
3. **Determine your forward speed** in ft. per min.
   Example: 4 MPH is 352' per min. [5280' (1mile) X 4MPH = 21,120 ft. per hr. divided by 60 min. = 352].
4. **Determine how many sq. ft. you spread per minute.** Width (in feet) X speed (ft. per min) – recommended overlap (***refer to owners manual***) = Sq. ft. spread per minute
   Example: if you spread 20 ft. @ 4 MPH. And your owners manual recommends a 25% overlap then 20' x 352' (ft. per min) = 7040 sq. ft. per min. - 25% (1760) = 5280 sq. ft. per min.
5. **Determine how much material you need to apply per minute.** You need 5 lbs. of product per th Sq. ft. You're spreading 5,280 sq. ft. per min. therefore you need to apply 26.4 lbs. of material per min. [5lbs. per th. X 5.28 th. = 26.4.].
6. **Adjust accordingly** by running the spreader for 1–minute catching the material and weighing it.
   Note: ***Always refer to owners' manual for specific calibration and overlap technique.***

CLASSIFIEDS

PLACE YOUR WANT AD HERE

BUYING OR SELLING? HIRING? NEED A JOB?

$10 for a 5-line ad, for members - $15 for non- members

For more information Contact Eleanor Murfitt

at 908-735-5999 or email elpene99@yahoo.com

Questions & Answers

If you have a question, comment or suggestion write us.

E-mail us a elpene99@yahoo.com

Question: I fertilized my soccer field with a 3-point hitch spin type fertilizer spreader. Although I am certain I covered the entire field with fertilizer, a month later there were green stripes running the entire length of the field. What is the proper way to spread granular fertilizer on a field?

Answer: When applying granular fertilizer through a spinner or pendulum type broadcast spreader it is important to be aware that:

Every broadcast spreader has an overlap requirement. Most spinner type spreaders also have an adjustment to correct one-sided pattern variations caused by size and weight of material being spread. Knowing your equipment and following your owner's manual is imperative in providing a uniform, effective application. Any noticeable variation in turf color is probably the product of either:

- Improper overlap
- Improper pattern adjustment
- Variations in ground speed

1 **Operate the tractor at PTO speed** (generally 2200-2500 RPM) and at a comfortable ground speed. I prefer 4-5 MPH. At faster speeds you run the risk of scuffing the turf on your turns.

2 **Be certain your spreader is calibrated to deliver the proper amount of fertilizer.** Refer to the operator's manual of the spreader for specific calibration and overlap technique.

3 **Make one pass around the entire area** you will be fertilizing. I make a second pass on the ends (headlands) of the field parallel to the first. The second pass gives me more room to make my turns and minimizes the potential for scuffing the turf.

4 **Make evenly spaced parallel passes up and down the length of the field.** Maintain the proper spacing between your wheel marks. (See Field Tips)

5 If the turf is thin and you can't see your wheel marks, mark off the spacing on the ends of the field (headlands) with flags, then just aim for the flags. Be sure to close the spreader chute when you reach the ends (headlands) of the field to avoid over application.

Suggestion:

- **Try not to make sharp turns within the playing area.** This will minimize the potential for turf damage.
- **Never fill or calibrate a spreader on turf areas.** A spill today will haunt you for months to come.
- **Always close fertilizer hopper before stopping tractor.**
- **Always resume forward speed before opening fertilizer hopper.**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED