Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

Update

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SFMANJ BUSINESS

Next Board meeting – NJTA Expo Thursday, December 13, 1:15pm at the Taj Mahal athletic field educational session. Election of the 2002 Board of Directors will be held at the annual meeting. At that time members will have an opportunity to vote.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

NJ TURF GRASS ASSOCIATION

December 11 – 13 – NJTA Expo Conference at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. For information call Dr. Richard Caton at 856-853-5973.

RUTGERS

January 7-11 & February 11-15 – Athletic Field Management School
January 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6 – Professional Parks Maintenance
February 26-28, 3 day short course – Athletic Field Construction and Maintenance
Contact Office of Continuing Professional Education at 732-932-9271

STMA (Sports Turf Managers Association)

January 16 – 20 – National Conference in Las Vegas. Contact STMA at 1-800-323-3875.

TIP OF THE MONTH

When temperatures drop in the late fall, four cycle, air cooled engines, which are utilized in much of the small to mid sized turf care equipment become very hard to start. A part of this problem is due to the fact that in our temperature zone, throughout the growing season a single viscosity SAE-30 is typically recommended. As the temperature falls, single viscosity oils become very thick and hinder starting. Change to a multi viscosity 10W-30 in the late fall to aid in starting your equipment. In cool temperatures multi viscosity oils remain thinner and allow the engine to turn over easier. Before trying this check with the engine manufacturer to be sure this is allowable and remember to change back to the original engine oil selection in the spring.

"Give It What It Needs"

Soil Sampling

The success or failure of your sports turf maintenance program begins and ends with the soil. You cannot develop an effective management program without gathering some basic information on your soil.

Soil testing at this initial stage gives the sports turf manager data to work with in adjusting the levels of acidity, salts and nutrients to create conditions which match plant needs as closely as possible. Test results produce quantitative figures that can be compared to acceptable standards set for the particular kind of soil being tested. On established fields, annual soil testing done late in the growing season is generally sufficient to provide necessary data. However, when difficulties arise in turfgrass growth, more frequent testing may be necessary. (Dr. Henry Indyk, Putting Tissue Tests to Work, 1998)

Test results produce quantitative figures that can be compared to acceptable standards set for the particular kind of soil being tested.

There are two types of basic soil tests. One type is a chemical soil analysis, which should include soil acidity (Ph), nutrient levels (P, K, Mg, Ca) in lbs./Acre and salt concentration measured as EC (electrical conductivity). This test should also give you the organic content of the soil as a percentage. Be aware that more complete tests are available and a plethora (*always wanted to use that word*) of information may be obtained. In general however, additional information only serves to increase the cost of the test and is typically not necessary unless specific problems cannot be diagnosed utilizing the existing information.

The results of the chemical analysis will give you lime recommendations which may be needed to adjust soil Ph, and also fertilizer recommendations, which may be needed to adjust Phosphorous and Potassium deficiencies along with giving a recommendation for Nitrogen.

The other type of basic soil test is a physical soil analysis. The results of this test will give you the percentages of sand, silt and clay in your soil.

The information provided by these two tests, when used in conjunction with constant monitoring of environmental conditions such as rain, drought, compaction etc. w ill supply the information needed to provide a better understanding and ability to evaluate problems, which arise.

The results of these two tests are an important prerequisite when seeking the advice or services of a professional. They are also an invaluable resource when used in determining a compatible topsoil or other topdressing material to use on your fields. Most reputable dealers will be happy to supply a soil test upon request. In addition to having a test supplied by your dealer, have your topdressing and topsoil products independently tested to insure that they continue to conform to your requirements, and don't hesitate to question your dealer if inconsistencies arise.

When taking a soil sample, it is important to keep in mind that the sample needs to be representative of the entire area being tested. A minimum of 10-12 individual samples should be taken from points equally distributed throughout the field. The samples should be taken to a depth of six inches. This is sometimes easier said than done.
The samples should be collected in a clean plastic bucket and thoroughly mixed before they are submitted as a single sample. Inaccurate soil test results can occur if samples are taken sooner than four weeks after a lime or fertilizer application. Avoid taking samples using containers or equipment that may be contaminated.

When locating and using a soil test lab be certain to use a lab that is familiar with the soils in your area. Try to use the same lab. Results can vary slightly from one lab to another. Soil testing is available through a number of commercial test laboratories as well as the Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory (P.O. Box 902, Milltown, NJ 08850. Telephone: 732/932-9295)

NOMINEES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2002

Six (6) members will serve a 2-year term
Beginning Jan. 2002 until Dec. 2004

1. **Ray Cipperly** –Professional Facility
   member since 1/3/01
   Ray is the Head Grounds Keeper for the Somerset Patriots. He was a great help with and spoke at our first field day.

2. **Jeff Cramer** - Rec & Park -Representing Public/Private schools
   Member since 8/10/00
   Jeff is a Supervisor of Public Works for Plainsboro Township. He is interested in helping on the Fund raising/marketing committee.

3. **Larry George** – Contractor - original member as of 3/24/00
   Larry is the President of DVH Athletic Turf. He renovates sports fields. He has served as Vice President for this chapter.

4. **Dr. John Grande** – Extension - original member as of 9/20/00
   John is the Director of the Rutgers Snyder Research & Extension Farm in Pittstown, NJ. He has a PHD in Agronomy. He is currently on the Education Committee.

5. **Jim Hermann** - Contractor - Representing Public/Private schools
   Member as of 7/1/00
   Jim is the owner of Total Control Inc., an athletic field and lawn maintenance business for 15 years and is a certified pesticide applicator. He maintains athletic fields and consults for several municipalities and Little leagues. He has been editing the SFMANJ newsletter since June 2001. He is presently on the Fund Raising Committee.
   "I feel as a person with a desire to learn more I can relate to and therefore represent the membership in an effective manner. The board can expect an honest opinion regardless of the outcome and a willingness to help".

6. **Ken Krausz**-Parks & Rec – Representing Professional Facilities
   New member – would like to be on the newsletter committee
   Ken a Golf Course Superintendent for The Borough of Paramus. He is the immediate past president of GCSANJ and the Vice President of Sports Field Management Systems, Inc,. For the past four years he has been the editor of "The Greenerside", which is the official publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Assoc. of NJ.
   "I am willing to help in whatever way possible".

Cont...

7. **Steve Ratto** - Park & Rec --member as of 5/4/01
   Steve is the Golf Supervisor for Bergen County Dept. of Parks. He is currently the Chair of the Membership Committee.

8. **John Salisbury** – Contractor – Representing College/University - member as of 3/20/01
   John is the owner of Garden State Sports Turf. He renovates sports fields. Has worked for Terre Company for five years in ballfield sales and seminars. Morris County College Agriculture program, pesticide applicator, flight control certified applicator. He is presently Chair of the Fund Raising Committee.
   "I would like to help other grounds keepers increase their knowledge of ballfield practices and help get the word out there to get people to join our assoc.; because we are there to help them. I will always be at meetings and will also be there to get advertising and fund raising as well as to get people better educated about ball field practices."

9. **Keith Wilson** – College/University
   New member
   Keith is the Education Extension Asst. Director of the Office of Continuing Professional education of Cook College, Rutgers University.

Members will be able to vote for 2002 Board of Directors at the next annual SFMANJ meeting at the NJTA Expo at the Athletic Field Educational Session, December 13th at 1:15pm. At this time you may also sign up for positions on the following committees:

- Membership
- Education
- Activities
- Fund Raising
- Newsletter

RUTGERS CORNER

Tall Fescue Varieties for NJ Athletic Fields

Dr. James Murphy

Compared to other cool-season grasses, tall fescue has the capacity to develop a deep root system that provides tolerance or avoidance of drought stress. This grass can also survive under reduce fertility, high temperatures, and tolerates insects better than many other cool-season grasses. Although short rhizomes are often observed on some plants, tall fescue has a bunch-type growth habit. Emergence of tall fescue seed occurs within 5 to 7 days in warm moist soil.

Knowing the variety of tall fescue is important because newer improved varieties will produce higher quality turf with greater persistence and less input of energy than older varieties. The good wear tolerance of well-established tall fescue make this grass a possible choice for athletic fields and other high traffic sites. Use of athletic fields should be withheld several months after seeding to ensure development of wear tolerance in tall fescue turf. Kentucky bluegrass is commonly mixed with tall fescue to increase the ability of the turf to spread laterally. Such mixtures should consist of one or more Kentucky bluegrass varieties in combination with two or more of the turf-type tall fescue varieties with the following standards (percentage by weight):

5-15% Kentucky Bluegrass
85-95% Tall Fescue (see Table 1)

NOTE: Use rust resistant, lower maintenance Kentucky bluegrass varieties such as the Bellevue Type; Mid-Atlantic Type; and Aspen, Cheri, Ram I, and NuStar. For more information on Kentucky bluegrass varieties see Rutgers Cooperative Extension publication FS738 at http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/pubs/pdfs/fs738.pdf

Table 1. Recommended high quality turf-type tall fescue varieties.

Alamo E+ Anthem II	Finelawn Petite Finesse	Rembrandt Scorpion
Apache II Arid 2	Focus Gazelle	ShenandoahII Southern
Arid 3 Biltmore	Genesis Houndog V	Choice
Aztec II Bingo	Jaguar 3 Lion	SR 8250 SR 8500
Bonsai 2000 Brandy	Masterpiece Millennium	SR 8600 Sunpro
Bravo Bulldawg Chapel	Olympic Gold Picasso	Tar Heel Tomahawk E+
Hill Coronado Gold	Plantation Prospect	Watchdog Wolfpack
Coyote Crossfire II	Reel Exeda Rebel 2000	Wyatt
Empress Falcon II	Rebel Sentry Regiment	

Rutgers Calendar

December 11-13, 2001
New Jersey Turf and Landscape Expo 2001, Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ. Call.732-821-7134 or 856-853-5973

January 10-11, 2001
Rutgers Turfgrass Research Symposium, Foran Hall, New Brunswick, NJ. Call 732-932-9400 for information

January 7-11 and Feb. 11-15, 2002
Athletic Field Management School, Call (732) 932-9271

February 26-28, 2002
Athletic Field Construction and Maintenance. (732) 932-9271

Rutgers Websites

Center for Turfgrass Science
http://aesop.rutgers.edu/~turf

Turfgrass Management Program
http://aesop.rutgers.edu/~murphy

Rutgers Cooperative Extension
http://www.rce.rutgers.edu

CLASSIFIEDS

BUYING OR SELLING, HIRING? $10/5-LINE AD FOR MEMBER . $15 FOR NON- MEMBER

FOR SALE:

Jrco
Electronic speed control broadcast spreader
130 lb. capacity. One year old.
$550 or best offer.
Call Jim at (908) 236-9118

Murphy's Law

Dr. James Murphy is an Associate Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management for Rutgers, department of Plant science. Ask Dr. Murphy your questions: E-mail us at sfmanjchapter@netscape.net

Question:

The baseball fields I maintain are perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue. Typically around mid October, when the grass starts slowing down I lower the height from 2 1/2 to 2 inches for the last few mowings and fertilize with 1 to 1 1/2 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. I have heard this will push lateral growth. Is the practice of mowing the turf shorter for the winter a good practice or should I let the turf gain some length for the winter?

Answer:

This is an excellent question. Growth during the fall and winter is different from growth in the spring and summer because plant growth habits are affected by daylength. Turfgrass growth responses to short daylength (fall and winter) include increased shoot density, tillering, and leaf appearance rate, whereas leaf, shoot, and internode length is reduced. Thus, the net effect on turf growth is a more prostrate, compact, and spreading growth habit. Management practices that will enhance these effects include lowering the cutting height (within the tolerance range for the specific turf species) and appropriated fertilization particularly nitrogen fertilization. Fertilization with phosphorus and potassium will also be beneficial if a soil test indicates these nutrients are below optimum in the soil. Soil testing is available through a number of commercial test laboratories as well as the Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory (P.O. Box 902, Milltown, NJ 08850. Telephone: 732/932-9295)

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