



# Update

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 1 •• July 2001

HELP US KEEP OUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMED BY SPONSERING THIS SPACE NEXT MONTH  
COST: MEMBERS \$100 PER ISSUE- NON-MEMBERS \$125 PER ISSUE

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**DVH ATHLETIC TURF PROUDLY SPONSORS  
THE FIRST EDITION OF S.F.M.A.N.J NEWS LETTER  
CONTACT US FOR ALL OF YOUR RENOVATION AND FIELD SUPPLY NEEDS  
1-800-942-0134**

## SFMANJ BUSINESS

Our chapter's First Field Day was held at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater (Patriot's Stadium), on June 22. The event was a great success, educating and feeding 95 potential sports field managers.

Head Grounds Keeper, Ray Cipperly's instruction on infield maintenance was very informative. Rutgers Plant Science specialist, Dr. Steve Hart gave an interesting lesson on weed identification and control. Extension Specialist in Turf Grass Management at Cook College, Rutgers University, Dr. Murphy demonstrated how aeration affects turf growth.

Many thanks to everyone who was involved in making this successful day happen.

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

### SFMANJ

August 21, 3:30pm -Next Board meeting will be held at Rutgers University. If you are interested in working with a committee call Jim Gavigan at 732-248-8979.

### 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.

### RUTGERS - Turfgrass Research Field Days

August 1 - Lawn & Landscape Section  
August 2 - Golf & Fine Turf Research Section  
For Info. Call Bea Devine 732-821-7134

### NJ TURF GRASS ASSOCIATION

December 11 - 13 - Expo Conference at The Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. Sports Turf Educational session is on the 13<sup>th</sup>. For info 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

For Field day info call 610-375-8469

## MONTHLY FIELD TIPS

Soil tests should be done at least once per year on each field. If you haven't done them yet, now is a good time. The information provided in your soil test results will help you to determine your fall fertilizer program. A physical analysis (sand, silt, clay distribution) of the soil is also helpful if you anticipate topdressing your fields. This should be requested, as it is not normally provided in a typical soil test.

Evaluate fields and determine which fields are in need of early fall seeding and or complete renovations. Determine whether weed populations are such that they will impede or substantially compete with your seeding program.

Where necessary, apply weed control, 4--6 weeks in advance of early fall seeding. Take care not to apply weed control products in temperatures above 80 degrees or to turf under drought stress.

Soccer goalmouth and major field repairs can be done now but should be limited to those areas that are absolutely necessary for the continued safety and playability of the field and can be watered effectively

After the close of the spring baseball season home plate and pitchers mound repairs can be done.

With the fields hard and dry, it is a good time to grade fields to get rid of depressions and add infield mix where it is needed.

## 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 908-413-3772 or email [elpene99@yahoo.com](mailto:elpene99@yahoo.com)

PRO'S Choice Infield Conditioner

Mound Clay & RAPID DRI

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### **Job Opening**

Athletic Field Tech – N.J.

Experience in all types of Ath. Field & Turf

Maintenance.. Self Starter! Exc. Opp.

Fax Resume: 856-427-9684

"AXIS" Soil Conditioner – Relieves Compaction

Contact Larry George at 1-800-942-0134

## Tell us what you are doing on your fields

Let us know what is working for you. Growing and maintaining turf is not an exact science. What works for us may not work for you. We would like to share your successes and failures with SFMANJ members.

SFMANJ  
PO Box 370  
Annandale, NJ 08801

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Questions & Answers

(Got a question? E-mail us a [elpene99@yahoo.com](mailto:elpene99@yahoo.com)

**Question:** What is the proper mowing height for my athletic fields?

**Answer:** Proper mowing height is determined by a number of factors. Some of which are:

1. The desires of the leagues
2. The roll of the ball
3. Mowing routine
4. Staff available to mow
5. Fertilizer program
6. The 1/3 rule

During the playing season I have found 2 ½ inches to be the magic number. I can mow on a twice a week schedule, provide an effective fertilizer program and the leagues can find the ball on the fourth day after mowing. During the summer months between playing seasons the height can be raised to 3 inches and the mowing schedule can typically be extended to 5 to 7 days. The 1/3 rule should always be followed as much as possible. The 1/3 rule states that no more than 1/3 the green leaf should be removed at any one mowing. This means that mowing at 3 inches, no more than ¾ -1 inch of grass should be removed.

Drop us a line on how you liked Field Day. Here are some remarks we received:

Maintenance turf supervisor from North Hunterdon Little League said, "Field day was great, I would go again".

Jack Shannon from West Deptford Bd of Ed stated, "I thought the field day was a extremely well planned event and very informative, I enjoyed the whole day".

