

PROUD  
SPONSOR



*Specializing in Sports Fields  
and Golf Courses*

Dr. Henry W. Indyk  
President  
Turfgrass Agronomist

Ph 732-247-8026  
Fax 732-247-8026

To sponsor the SFMANJ  
newsletter

Ph & Fax 908-236-9118 or  
[sfmanjchapter@netscape.net](mailto:sfmanjchapter@netscape.net)  
Cost: Members \$150  
Non-members \$175

## SFMANJ BUSINESS

Next Board meeting—November 20, 3:30 pm at Rutgers University. Horticulture Farm 2, Geiger Conference Room, Ryders Lane, New Brunswick.

Election of the 2002 Board of Directors will be held at the annual meeting at the NJTA Expo educational session on Dec. 13. At that time members will have an opportunity to vote or choose an addition to the nominations.

If you are interested in helping with a committee, please E-mail us at [sfmanjchapter@netscape.net](mailto:sfmanjchapter@netscape.net) or call Larry George at 800-942-0134 or Jim Gavigan at 732-248-8979.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### STMA

January 7,8,9 – National Conference in Las Vegas. Contact STMA at 800-323-3875.

### NJ TURF GRASS ASSOCIATION

December 11 to 13 – NJTA Expo Conference at The Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. Sports Turf Educational session is on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup>. For information call Dr. Richard Caton at 856-853-5973.

### RUTGERS Coming up:

January 7-11 & February 11-15 -Athletic Field Management School

February 26-28, 3-day short course-Athletic Field Construction and Maintenance

January 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6 - Professional Parks Maintenance

## MONTHLY FIELD TIP

### *“JUST GIVE IT WHAT IT NEEDS”*

When discussing maintenance and management issues on sports turf there is no one application or procedure that is going to make the difference in the direction your field is headed.

Every result has a direct cause. Every negative cause has a negative result and every positive cause has a positive result.

Even small changes in your program cumulatively make a big difference. Every situation is different. Some causes have a very noticeable effect such as the big game being played in the rain. Some causes have a less obvious effect such as adjusting the soil Ph from 5.9 to 6.5.

The more intense the playing schedule is on your field, the more intense and creative your management strategy needs to be. In order to have a winning program you should first accept a very basic principle of turf management. You can grow grass anywhere; ***“JUST GIVE IT WHAT IT NEEDS.”***

By accepting this statement as the most basic principle of sports turf management and also accepting the challenges that go along with it, the sports field manager becomes a part of one of the most demanding and rewarding areas of the green industry.

The first step in giving your turf what it needs begins with fortifying your knowledge and getting a better understanding of what athletic fields are all about. Education is acquired by networking with other individuals like you, through a membership with SFMANJ. As a member you have the opportunity to become involved in the field days and seminars provided by the chapter and classes provided by Rutgers.

The NJTA Expo Sports Turf educational session held on December 13<sup>th</sup>, is planned and conducted by our organization. It is an exceptional opportunity for the sports field manager to attend classes dedicated to the profession and also see first hand, products and equipment on display at the trade show.

“Give it what it needs” has spawned an idea to begin a monthly series of articles addressing what your fields need. The information will come from the professionals in the field of Athletic Turf. Next month, “Begin At The Beginning, Soil Sampling.”



## **NEW JERSEY'S FIRST**

Congratulations to Jim Gavigan on becoming New Jersey's first Certified Sports Field Manager. Jim is a Facility Manager for Lesco, Inc. in Edison New Jersey, and also their northeast athletic field specialist. He is one of the founders of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey and currently resides on the Board of Directors.

To become certified the sports field manager must show exemplary knowledge in four main areas:

1. Agronomics
2. Pest Management
3. Administration
4. Sports specific field management.

The National Sports Turf Managers Association developed the certification program.

The purpose of the program is to:

- Increase professionalism
- Promote better and safer sports turf areas
- Establish credentials to signify a specific level of expertise
- Increase career opportunities and promote the sports turf manager and the profession
- Provide recognition for attaining a level of expertise and performance

Jim's dedication to the sports turf industry is a testament to the profession of Sports Field Management and title of Certified Sports Field Manager

If you are interested in receiving more information on the certification program contact the National Sports Turf Managers Association at 1-800-323-3875

## **ATHLETIC FIELD RENOVATION PROJECT**

**Rutgers, The State University of NJ  
And**

### **The Bridgewater-Raritan School District**

Rutgers University, Center for Turfgrass Science - Athletic Field Working Group has established an athletic field renovation maintenance project with the Bridgewater - Raritan School District in Somerset County, New Jersey. The Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey provides support in this project.

The goal of this project is to educate and demonstrate to sports field managers, administrators, coaches and players the

basic requirements necessary to provide good quality turfgrass, enhancing the playability for athletes.

This project focuses on the following concepts:

1. Cost/benefit agronomic principles related to athletic field turfgrass management.
2. Athletic field turfgrass education programs provided by Rutgers University, and various New Jersey and national trade associations such as the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.
3. "Team work" requirements by the various stakeholders involved in athletic field turfgrass maintenance and play.

In order to expand the outreach mission of this project, additional school systems, recreation departments, etc. will be invited to participate.

Contact: Dr. John Grande

Director - Rutgers, The State University

Snyder Research & Extension Farm

Phone: 908-730-9419

Email: [grande@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:grande@aesop.rutgers.edu)

On October 18, 2001 a field day was held by the Rutgers Athletic Field Working Group at Adamsville Elementary School, the location of the renovation maintenance project. Vendors who had donated materials and or equipment to the project and people who represented school systems interested in the project attended the gathering.

Demonstrations and explanations of the various equipment used in the project were given. Pictures were provided which took the viewers thru the renovation process.

Dean Marzocca, treasurer of SFMANJ, represented the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey and was able to stand up and say a few words in behalf of the association.

**"SFMANJ Update"** will include a monthly news column entitled "Rutgers Corner". This column will help to keep the readers abreast of Rutgers athletic turf outreach program and also other educational programs offered by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

## 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](mailto:sfmanjchapter@netscape.net)

#### Question:

Iron has been around for years in many forms. I see it in many standard fertilizer formulations and I have had it promoted to me by contractors, included with my weed control applications. All I know is that it is supposed to make the grass green. How does it work? Is there more than just aesthetic value to this product?

#### Answer:

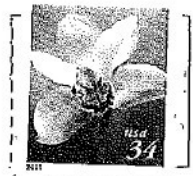
There is some controversy regarding the use of iron in turf management when there are optimum conditions for iron availability in the soil. Some scientists contend that the dark colored spray used in many iron applications is reason for the immediate "dark" greening response often observed. The small dark spots that form on the leaf after the spray application give the darkening appearance. There is little research to support any benefits or iron application beyond aesthetics when iron supply is adequate in the soil.

Under conditions of deficiency, however, iron applications will certainly improve the color and health of turf because iron is necessary for chlorophyll formation (photosynthesis) in leaves and other plant processes. Iron deficiencies are most prevalent in high pH soils. Deficiencies of iron become more prevalent as the soil pH increases above 7 (neutral). Iron deficiencies may also be associated with high soil temperatures that cause a severe loss of roots or declining root viability. A limited root system can restrict the supply of any nutrient that must be taken-up from the soil.

Under these conditions, applications of iron would be very beneficial. In high pH soils, a chelated form of iron is necessary to avoid having the iron rapidly converted to an unavailable form. Acidifying materials could also be useful in improving iron availability. Foliar applications are often used to avoid the problem of iron becoming unavailable in the soil.

KILMER N. J. P&DC 11/02/01 17:46 MLB/ISS#2

SFMANJ  
PO Box 370  
Annandale, NJ 08801



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION ENCLOSED

08834+3483 06

