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SFMANJ BUSINESS

Next Board meeting—October 15, 3:30 pm at Rutgers University. Horticulture Farm 2, Geiger Conference Room, Ryders Lane, New Brunswick.

During our September meeting nominations were received for 2002 Board of Directors. We are looking for two representatives in each category:

Private & public schools, University's & colleges, Education/Extension, Parks & Recreation, Professional facility, Commercial/contractor.

Any SFMANJ member may be nominated. All officers will be elected from the Board of Director's. Please send nominations to the above address or e-mail by Oct. 12.

WATCH for your membership renewal forms in October. Interested in becoming a member? Contact Steve Ratto at equiturf@aol.com or 201-837-2140. Members receive discounts to Rutgers classes and Floyd Perry seminars. Spring and fall field days are planned. Join us at the Turf Grass Expo in Atlantic City for our annual business meeting.

MONTHLY FIELD TIPS

Pregermination is a nifty little trick-of-the-trade that has been modified by many sports turf managers. The following information was published in SportsTurf written by Mike Andresen, sports turf manager for the Iowa State University Athletic Department. Use this modified version for soccer goalmouths, football field player's areas or lacrosse goal areas.

Preparation

Begin the pregermination process four or five days before you plan to apply seed to the field.

Put 5-pounds of seed into a 5-gallon water-tight bucket. Keep four 5-gallon plastic buckets on hand and mark them 'for pregermination only'. The woven-plastic seed bags that seed typically comes in are perfect for pregermination.

Fill the container with water so that the seed is completely immersed. Keep at room temperature (70F).

Recommendations specify a 12-hour soak cycle, followed by a 12-hour drain cycle, followed by another 12-hour soak cycle. For convenience, remove the bags each morning and allow them to drain during the eight-hour workday. Before the end of the work day, set up another soak cycle for the night.

If you forget about the bags for two or three days you still will obtain a good germination.

Application

Pregerminated seed can be applied to a field by hand or with conventional seeding equipment. It's important to remember that root growth of pregerminated seed has already begun. You must use the seed within about five days of the start of the soaking process.

The seed must be dried before it's fed into spreaders or seeding equipment. Open the bags and spread the seed on a concrete floor with rakes. Calcined clay can be used to speed the drying process and make it easier to seed. Remember, seed left in equipment will continue to grow and will clog the system. The tubes in drill seeders are particularly vulnerable.

Repair

Seed can also be combined with topsoil, a combination of mushroom compost and topsoil (60/40) or sand mix to make a mix that can be placed in a specific area of the field by hand. Here are a few pregerminated mix combinations using a 5-gallon bucket to measure your topsoil.

Kentucky bluegrass: 0.2 lb. Pregerminated seed per bucket

Perennial ryegrass: 1.0 lb. Pregerminated seed per bucket.

Bluegrass/ryegrass mix (30/70% by weight): 0.5 lb. Pregerminated seed per bucket.

Dump a bucket of topsoil mix or sand mix on a concrete surface and spread a layer one inch thick. Spread the appropriate amount of seed over the topsoil or sand by hand. Use rakes and flat shovels to roll the pile together and mix in the seed. If the seed is too wet, add some calcined clay to soak up the water and make it easier to handle.

Simply fill the areas with the topsoil/seed mixture and pack it down with your foot or a roller. Spread a ¼ inch layer of the mix over thin areas. Water

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E-mail sfmanjchapter@netscape.net

Drop us a line. Ask us a question.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Watch for your membership renewal form in the mailbox, next month. Or, find it on our new web site. In addition, you will be receiving a questionnaire regarding your interests on topics and activities for the upcoming year. Please take the time to answer the questions and return it with your 2002 membership renewal. Your response to the questionnaire is critical in determining our 2002 programs.

Do you have a friend who would be interested in receiving this newsletter? Let us know. We would be happy to add them to our mailing list.

SFMANJ
PO Box 370
Annandale, NJ 08801

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Questions & Answers

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

(Got a question? E-mail sfmanjchapter@netscape.net)

Question:

I have always believed fall is the time to build a quality turf. My priority fields receive 3 lbs. nitrogen (50% slow release) between Sept. 1 & Dec. 1, in three applications at 6-8 wk intervals. The only fertilizer I apply in the spring is that which is dictated by a yearly soil test. This generally includes 1/2 -3/4 lb. nitrogen in May.

What is your opinion of this program and do you feel a program of this design has the potential to promote Brown Patch in a predominantly Perennial Rye field?

Answer:

I like the fertilizer program you described. It would work well for many fields, however, it would be good to indicate that not all fields would be suited to this program. Thus, some adjustments will likely be needed based on the particular field conditions and use patterns.

As for the brown patch disease on perennial ryegrass, the fertility program would tend to discourage or be neutral towards incidence of the disease. High N fertilization in the spring, on the other hand, would likely increase the severity of brown patch on perennial ryegrass.

