

## SFMANJ HOLDS 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL SPRING FIELD DAY

*By George Van Haasteren*

It was a cold, windy and cloudy day but that did not deter over 150 people to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual SFMANJ Spring Field Day that was held on April 10th at the Wall Township Athletic Complex in Monmouth County, New Jersey.

The educational portion of the field day covered several different areas that sports field managers from all across the state could relate to and learn how to best tackle each situation as it may occur.

Groups were divided into sections and brought to different areas outside where they were able to listen to Jim Hermann, CSFM demonstrate the proper way to build a pitcher's mound, Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers explained the benefits of using turf blankets. Dr. Steven Hart gave a presentation on weed identification. Dr. Henry Indyk, TurfCon explained the sight specific soil tests and how to use it. Bill Foelsch, Executive Director of NJRPA addressed playground safety. Indoor instruction included goose problems by Joseph B. Paulin, Rutgers, irrigation scheduling by Michael Pastori, Storr Tractor Co., as well as the latest update on pesticide regulations in the state for schools by Ann Waters and implementing an IPM program by Brad Park, Rutgers.

Due to the fickle weather a hot lunch was served inside where many were able to sit and network with others. After lunch the group headed outside once again where many vendors, who help support the chapter, discussed their products and equipment.

Better Materials, Partac Peat Corp., and United Horticultural Supply donated materials for the Field Day.

At the conclusion of the field day door prizes were donated by Cover Tech Fabricating, Fisher & Son Co, JDL, Lesco, Lord, Worrel & Richter, Inc., National Seed, Storr Tractor Co., Synthetic Textiles Co., Inc. The Terre Co., and Wilfred MacDonald Inc. Some of the prizes included eight tickets to the New York Yankees, (2) \$25 Home Depot certificates, sprayers, Honda 4 Cycle Weed Trimmer, seed and more. This is a great time to thank all the vendors who have so graciously supported SFMANJ. Also, a big thank you to Bryan Dempsey, Wall Township Recreation Director, and staff for working so hard to ensure that the Field Day was a great success.

The next field day for this year will be held in August at Paramus Catholic High School, Paramus, New Jersey. ▲

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**This newsletter is the official bi-monthly publication of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey. For information regarding this newsletter, contact:**

**SFMANJ at 730-7770 or 908-236-9118**

**Co-editors: Jim Hermann, CSFM & Eleanor Murfitt**



2003  
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**MISSION STATEMENT**

Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers in New Jersey by improving the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields at all levels through seminars, field days, publications and "networking" with those in the sports turf industry.

**Contact us at:**

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**"Welcome New & Renewed SFMANJ Members"**

Currently we have 281 members. If you haven't renewed your membership send in the membership form from this newsletter or call (908) 730-7770.

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*Continued on next page.....*

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## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Receive a \$10.00 discount on any SFMANJ Field Day (April, August, October)
- Receive "SFMANJ Update" the official publication of SFMANJ a bimonthly newsletter.
- Support with your sports field related problems (Watch for notice on District meetings)
- Receive a 10% discount toward any Rutgers turf related courses. ( Use your membership #)
- Receive a 10% discount on any books from Wiley. (Order from our website)
- Opportunity to attend the NJ Turfgrass Expo Athletic Field education classes ( December)
- Use the newsletter to announce job openings, sell used equipment.

## SFMANJ Membership Registration Form

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## "Monthly Field Tip"

### NJSIAA Girls Lacrosse Rule Clarification

by Barry Imboden\*

#### Clarification of Rule 3, Section A – The Playing Area

This year the rule requires a minimum of 13 yards and a maximum of 20 yards of space behind each goal line, running the width of the field. This is an increase from the 2002 measurement.

The diagram in the Rule Book is unclear, and questions have arisen regarding this measurement. The 13 or more yards should be measured from the goal line, not the back of the crease.

*Continued on next page.....*



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If the playing field is not long enough to accommodate 13 yards behind the goal, the goals must be moved closer together to maintain this space. Please reference Page 8 in the Rule Book.

Our State Rules Interpreter, Sue Paige, will contact all official's chapters. Please advise your grounds crew. ▲

\*Barry Imboden, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds at Hunterdon Central High School. He successfully had slit drainage and irrigation installed on his high school football field in June of 2002.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Rutgers July 31 - Rutgers Turf Research Field Day** at the Adelphia Plant Science Research Station in Adelphia, New Jersey. 732-932-9711 ext. 135 (*Sports Field Managers learn about the research on turf grasses to improve your turf fields*).

### SFMANJ

**August TBA - Equipment Demonstration & Field Day** in Bergen County from 8:30am to 3pm. See info on page 1. Fliers are in the mail. Call 908-730-7770 for more information.

### SFMANJ & RUTGERS PRESENTS

**October TBA - Infield mix Demonstrations and Classes** at Rutgers Snyder Farm in Pittstown, NJ. Watch for info in the next newsletter.

### NJRPA

**May 13<sup>th</sup> - Evesham Township, Marlton, NJ or  
May 14<sup>th</sup> - Roxbury Township, Succasunna, NJ**  
Professional Aquatics Safety Seminar. Questions, call 732-568-1270.

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**DID YOU KNOW?** The application of many pre-emergent, grassy weed (crabgrass) control products will interfere with the germination and development of desirable grasses when applied close to the time of seeding.



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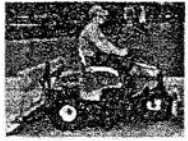
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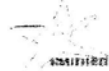
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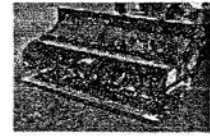
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## “Letter from the Editors”

by *Eleanora Murfitt & Jim Hermann, CSFM*

As co-editors of SFMANJ Update and also both sports field managers, Eleanora and I feel compelled to continue to provide our readers with a plethora (I love that word) of information applicable to the day-to-day activities involved in sports field management. The challenges in sports field management bring with them the demand for commitment, perseverance and knowledge. Much of the information we provide will by design test the knowledge and understanding of our readers.

We hope to continue to provide information intended to help you to develop a proactive and effective sports field management program. As part of a proactive management program it is important for the SFM (sports field manager) to remain up to date and aware of the rules and regulations affecting the industry.

There is currently state legislation slated to take affect within the next eighteen months which will govern the way that many schools and institutions initiate their pest control strategy both indoors and out. This legislation will mandate the implementation of IPM (Integrated Pest Management) into the system.

IPM necessitates the need for a deeper understanding of those factors affecting environmentally conscientious pest control. SFMANJ Update will therefore be providing information and education concerning those factors.

One such factor affecting the development of an environmentally sound IPM program is an understanding of the weather conditions and how day-to-day variations affect decisions. The following column written by Dr. Joe Russo and Dennis Watkins will provide the SFM with a deeper understanding of this decision making tool. ▲

## “Information as a Decision-Making Tool “

by *Dr. Joe Russo and Dennis Watkins*

This is the first in a series of columns in which we wish to share with readers our knowledge, experience, and in some cases, our opinions about the scientific and technical issues that either directly or indirectly impact sports turf management. Who are we? We are an agricultural meteorologist and systems scientist (Joe) and a turfgrass agronomist (Dennis). We have between us over fifty years of experience in agricultural and turf-related fields. The information provided in our columns is aimed at the practitioner of sports turf management and it will be delivered with an awareness of related environmental, social, and economic concerns.

In this column, we would like to talk about information itself. If correctly understood and appropriately

*Continued on next page.....*

applied, information can be a powerful ally in decision making. Information, like decision making, can be divided into two types: strategic and tactical. Strategic information is associated with long-range planning – typically months ahead of a particular action. Tactical information is associated with short-range planning – typically hours or a few days ahead. Strategic information tends to be general, while tactical is specific.

The difference between strategic and tactical information can be best understood with examples. As everyone knows, weather varies day-to-day and season-to-season. A maximum temperature for one day in April in a given year will likely be different from maximum temperatures observed on the same day in previous years. If we average all the maximum temperatures together, say over a 30-day period, we can compute a “climatological” value. This climatological value, referred to by meteorologists as the “normal” maximum temperature for a given day, represents a strategic bit of information. That is, “on average,” the maximum temperature on a given day in a given year should be close to the computed “normal.”

Of course, there will be a range of values if years are considered separately, but a normal maximum temperature should be representative for a given day.

A sports turf manager can utilize climatological data as strategic information for planning out future, weather-dependent activities. As weather events become more immediate in a given season, day-to-day observations and short-term forecasts can provide tactical information. That is, the present-day weather conditions and forecasts can be used to “fine-tune” pre-planned, strategic decisions. Climatological and weather data are just simple examples of how strategic and tactical information can help a sports turf manager become an informed decision-maker. ▲

*Dr. Joe Russo is president of ZedX, Inc., an information technology company located in Bellefonte, PA.*

*Dennis Watkins is a turfgrass agronomist located in Lords Valley, PA.*



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## "Rutgers Corner"

by Brad Park, Rutgers University\*

*\*Note from Dr. James Murphy: It is a great pleasure to introduce Mr. Brad Park, the new Sports Turf Research and Education Coordinator at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Brad is assisting sports turf managers of New Jersey through education and research to help provide better sports turf for the citizens of New Jersey.*

A little over a year ago, in early March 2002, I was invited to speak at Rutgers University as part of a turfgrass management symposium. It was my first trip to Rutgers and my attendance at the turfgrass symposium and overnight lodging at the University Inn and Conference Center marked my longest visit to the State of New Jersey.

On March 3, 2003, I began working at Rutgers University as part of a new sports turf research and education position. Since then I have given a talk on Integrated Pest Management for schools and school athletic fields, participated in the SFMANJ Field Day in Wall Township on April 10<sup>th</sup>, been part of the planning for a Fall 2003 Field Day sponsored by SFMANJ, and have been actively involved with turfgrass research at Rutgers.

My presentation at Rutgers in March 2002 focused on my Master of Science research, which I completed while working as a Research Technician for Penn State University, University Park, PA. My research at Penn State focused on golf course fairway renovation and control of annual bluegrass using Basamid Granular, a soil fumigant manufactured by BASF Corporation. I completed my Master of Science in Agronomy in August 2002.

As a Research Technician at Penn State, I had the privilege of working for Dr. Pete Landschoot, the Commonwealth's Turfgrass Extension Specialist and the Pennsylvania counterpart to Rutgers' Dr. James Murphy. In addition to my fumigant research, I performed research examining different liming sources and combinations of nonselective herbicides for turfgrass renovation. I'd like to incorporate my research and interest in nonselective chemistry into developing strategies for athletic field renovation, including the potential use of Basamid, for New Jersey.

I have a strong interest and background in turfgrass variety research. While working at Penn State, I was actively involved in the establishment, maintenance, and rating of six National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) trials. These tests encompassed evaluations of common turfgrass species used on athletic fields in New Jersey including: Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and tall fescue.

The results of on-going turfgrass variety research at Rutgers combined with examining the impact of wear and traffic on turf varieties and blends serve as extremely useful information for sports field managers across New Jersey. The compilation of results from this work and the creation of fact sheets that can be distributed to sports turf practitioners are very attainable goals for my role at Rutgers.

I am looking forward to working with SFMANJ in the future by helping to organize Field Days, participating in Field Day demonstrations, contributing to the newsletter, and playing a role in the Athletic Field program at the annual New Jersey Turfgrass Association Turf Expo in Atlantic City. ▲

If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at 732-932-9711 x 127 or via email at park@aesop.rutgers.edu

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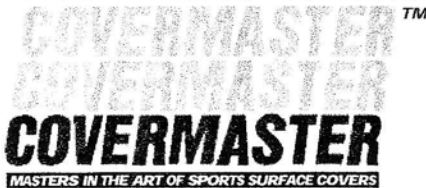
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## "SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT"

Users of power equipment, fertilizers, turf and ornamental pesticides and work vehicles should always have safety foremost in their minds. When using these types of potentially hazardous machines and materials, carelessness breeds disaster.

You need help planning your safety program, you say? There are many resources available, especially the companies that make the equipment and material. For instance, John Deere has a 16-chapter, comprehensive guide for contractors who not only want to stay in compliance with federal safety standards but who also want to educate and train employees in the proper, safe use of equipment.

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) is another purveyor of safety precautions and reminders. One of its big safety peeves is the user who doesn't read the owner's manual before using outdoor power equipment.

Before turning on the equipment, operators should read manuals thoroughly and learn critical information, the OPEI reminds landscape professionals.

Even more important – if you're handling pesticides – is to read and follow directions on the EPA-approved label.

Here are some other precautions, courtesy of the OPEI:

- Do not operate a chain saw with one hand or when you are fatigued.
- Use safety footwear, snug-fitting clothing; protective gloves; and eye, hearing, and head protective devices. When necessary, use a dust mask or respirator.
- Do not wear loose clothing, scarves, neck chains, or unconfined long hair.
- Use caution when handling fuel. Move the machine at least 10 feet from the fueling point before starting the engine.
- Do not allow other persons, especially children, to be near the equipment during start or use. Keep children, other bystanders and animals out of the work area.
- Do not start using the machine until you have a clear work area and secure footing.
- Keep all parts of your body away from the equipment when the engine is running.
- Carry or transport the equipment with the engine off.
- Do not operate equipment that is damaged, improperly adjusted, or not completely and securely assembled.
- Keep the handles dry, clean, and free of oil or fuel mixture;

continued on page 15

## “Rutgers Steps Up to the Plate”

by Jim Hermann, CSFM

Rutgers, The State University, has teamed up with the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey to develop infield mix demonstration plots at the Snyder Research and Extension Farm in Pittstown, New Jersey. These plots will be introduced at the fall field day, tentatively scheduled for the month of October.

This cooperative project will initially include a series of 10' X 10' plots intended to provide examples of the range of infield mixes available to the SFM (sports field manager), based on both the physical (sand, silt, clay) analysis and the sieve (particle size) analysis of these materials.

Based on these criteria, there will be examples of both acceptable and unacceptable infield mixes, as they compare to the ASTM Standard Guide for Construction and Maintenance of Skinned Areas on Sports Fields, publication F 2107-01.

A number of the plots utilizing infield mixes determined to be acceptable, will be expanded to demonstrate the benefits of proper maintenance and the ramifications of improper maintenance specific to those mixes. Proper construction principles and technique will also be demonstrated.

All of the plots will utilize mixes blended specifically for the intent of the individual plot. It is not the purpose of this project to label currently available brand name products as being “acceptable” or “unacceptable”. No brand or trade names will be used or made reference to in the demonstrations.

It is the objective of this project to provide the SFM with the “hands on” experience and education necessary to formulate his or her own opinion on the quality and suitability of those products available. The SFM will then be able to institute a proper maintenance strategy based on the product selected and the individual needs of his or her program.

Over the course of time Rutgers anticipates developing additional demonstrations to cover the spectrum of alternative materials and procedures available to the SFM. If you have questions pertaining to construction or maintenance procedures or materials used in conjunction with infields please direct your questions to SFMANJ, PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801 (mail) 908-730-7770 (phone) [hq@sfmanj.org](mailto:hq@sfmanj.org) (e-mail)

*We would like to express our appreciation to Geo Schofield Co. Inc. of Bound Brook, New Jersey, Partac Peat Corporation of Great Meadows, New Jersey and Better Materials Corporation (US Silica) of Woodbine New Jersey for their continued support of the industry and their donation of component materials used in the development of the initial demonstration plots. ▲*

*\* President of Total Control, Athletic Field Maintenance*

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## **“Goose Problems? Not Here Any More!”**

*by George Van Haasteren CGM*

As we all have probably noticed New Jersey is a pretty densely populated state and I am not just talking people. I have noticed over the past 20 plus years the growing number of geese that seem to make the Garden State their home, whether year round or just seasonal. Any place that has areas of turf, geese seem to be over running it. It's not just golf courses but parks, office complexes, residential, and athletic fields. To top it off not only are they eating the grass but they are also leaving behind a large amount of goose poop as well. I do not find it to be attractive nor fun walking in.

In my particular case I work part-time on athletic fields for Paramus Catholic High School in Paramus, New Jersey. In the area close to the school there is a community college, four golf courses, a county park with a river flowing through it and a cemetery. These are all great places for geese to settle and have a smorgasbord. Unfortunately, all of those places seem to have some type of goose control in place and guess where they were coming? That's right they were coming to where I have to take care of the athletic fields.

Each year it seemed the situation had become worse. The baseball, football, softball, and soccer fields were becoming infested with hundreds of Canadian geese that probably all knew that they were federally protected and could not be harmed. I swear that even some of them would stick their tail feathers up at me and laugh because they realized that I couldn't do a thing. Coaches, players and parents kept asking what could be done to get rid of them because they were tired of falling or stepping on the green turds of slime. In fact I was told that some of the athletes developed staph infections from the goose poop. Horns, whistles, repellents all failed. Riding equipment towards them did nothing but scatter them for a time and then they would just come back. The problem was extremely frustrating.

I knew for some time that border collies were being used to chase geese from golf courses and other areas. In fact three of my friends had purchased border collies several years ago and were having great success in keeping the geese away from their places. So, I began to do some research by asking my buddies a whole bunch of questions as well as using the web for further information. I soon found out why border collies were being used as the preferred choice of removing geese from areas.

Border collies are natural herders. They were originally trained to herd sheep in Scotland and Northern England well over a hundred years ago. Over time they made their way to other places such as Ireland and elsewhere. These dogs are very intelligent, some saying that probably they are the most intelligent out of all the dogs. They are working dogs, meaning that they prefer being outside and performing tasks.

Here in the U.S. border collies have been used for herding purposes for some time and in fact there are numerous herding competitions where border collies excel. It has only been recently (less than 15 years) that

these animals have been used for the purpose of removing geese. That handler, when having the dog go towards the geese, often uses the same commands used for herding. And, they do not harm the geese in any way. This is great since these birds are federally protected.

I had spoken to the administration at the school several times on how to best handle the increasing presence of the geese on the fields, as well as the campus. I advised them that a border collie would be the best bet solution. How much? They wanted to know. I replied that a trained dog was not inexpensive to purchase (\$3,500 and up) but over time it would pay for itself. I didn't expect that the school would be willing to pay for a dog until they decided to spend money on a new rubberized track. Of course, the question came back on how they would remove the goose poop from the track surface, especially after it became imbedded in between the rubber particles. Cleaning the track would be costly and how do you effectively control geese from walking all over the track? Again, I said a border collie. To which the president of the school gave me his blessing and purchase order.

Off I went down to Virginia on the second weekend of October last year. I called a breeder/trainer weeks earlier, who several individuals had recommended, and told her what I was looking for. She told me that she had a dog that would be ideal for my particular situation and was great with kids. Good thing since there are over 1200 kids at the school. I figured I would take the family with me and we all would spend some time together. I also thought it would be a good idea since the dog would be spending nights at our house. It would be a good way of having the dog and my family get to know each other a little better on the way back. Of course at the time there was that little problem of the sniper shootings that was occurring down through where we were traveling. No problem, I would just gas up before we left and again in Delaware. Made it without any problems with the exception that the area was going through a drought similar to ours and the kids couldn't go swimming. We went to pick up the dog the next day.

The owner came out to greet us and show us the dog she had picked out for us. He already had a name (Andy) who was just turning two years old. The owner brought us into her house where we sat down and watched a tape of Andy in action. The kids were already bonding with him. We went over a few things that would assist in Andy working at the school plus what to feed him and take care of him. It was back up to New Jersey and the next day Andy and I went to work on keeping geese away from the fields.

Andy made an immediate impact on keeping the geese off the fields as well as the campus. The first couple of weeks we got to know each other and I would work on the commands with him. My father-in-law also

*Continued on next page.....*

worked with him since the dog would be at the school during the day. I drop him off in the morning and he comes home with me each night. Now I am not saying things went according to plan at the beginning. There were some problems but over time they worked themselves out. Andy recognizes the commands and has bonded not only with me but also with my father-in-law and my wife and kids as well. The people at the school love him and treat him great. He's turned out to be a great employee who loves this job and takes pride in this work. Sure geese still fly over the fields daily and sometimes they still try to land on them, but only for a brief second because Andy had already seen them and is in hot pursuit.

Now, I know that there are some out there who think it might be more trouble than it is worth taking care of a border collie. After all it is a great responsibility not to mention time and commitment. Some may feel that having a company that provides a service may be a better option and I don't argue those concerns. In my case I thought it was the best solution to a problem that many of us face with our fields. As with anything, you shouldn't jump in headfirst. You should take the time and do your homework before figuring on the best course of action. ▲

*George Van Haasteren, CGM is an owner of Sports Field Management Systems, Inc.*

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## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**QUESTION:** I am currently working on a project to repair infields of various baseball fields. I was wondering if you could tell me where I could find a Spec for infield dirt. What we are trying to do is take soil samples from the various fields and have a mechanical analysis done and then compare the results to a Spec, however we are unable to find a Spec for baseball infields. Any information you could provide would be very helpful. Thank you very much.

Michael Green, Neglia Engineering

**ANSWER:** Michael, It is refreshing to see that you are looking to the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey for direction and assistance. Hopefully other engineers will follow your lead. In reference to your inquiry, The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has recently completed publication F2107 "Standard Guide for Construction and maintenance of Skinned Areas on Sports Fields". The standards provide a very broad specification and it is therefore necessary for you to have an understanding of a few contributing factors and how they affect the selection of an infield mix for your client. Some of these factors are:

1. Budget
2. Level and intensity of play
3. Level and intensity of maintenance

I have attached an article printed in our March newsletter that refers to publication F2107. You can acquire this publication by contacting ASTM directly at 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, 610-832-9585(phone) 610-832-9555 (fax) or [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org) (e-mail); or through the website [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

In addition, I am very pleased to inform you that Rutgers, Snyder Research and Extension Farm in

*Continued on next page.....*

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Pittstown NJ, in cooperation with SFMANJ is developing infield mix demonstration plots, which will be utilized to aid people like yourself in making better decisions in the selection and maintenance of a quality infield mix. These plots will be ready at our October (date TBA) field day at the Rutgers Snyder Farm in Pittstown, NJ which will be open to the public.

Jim Hermann, CSFM  
SFMANJ, VP

*\* Jim Hermann is a Certified Sports Field Manager and Vice President of SFMANJ. He has over 24 years experience maintaining athletic fields along with running his own maintenance business, Total Control Inc.*

**QUESTION:** What should I tell my customers when they ask me about the dangers that lawn pesticides pose to their cats and dogs?

**ANSWER:** You can assure them that their pets will not be harmed with pesticide applications you make. All pesticides are carefully tested before qualifying for registration by the EPA and before they can be sold. Part of this testing includes determining possible effects on non-target organisms such as pets. Pesticides that pose an unacceptable risk to non-target organisms cannot be registered. Of course, you should have your customers follow the same re-entry procedures for cats and dogs as is recommended for humans. Wait until the treated area dries (in the case of liquid application) and, for granular materials, comply with label directions for re-entering the treated area.

**QUESTION:** I had a close friend tell me that buying will-fit hydraulic filters for my mid-sized riding mowers may cause damage to them. Is that true?

**ANSWER:** Your friend is correct. These can damage your mower and will not provide the performance intended by the manufacturer. The purpose of a hydraulic filter is to modify the mower's fluid. The two contributors that destroy hydraulic fluid are heat and contamination. The contamination will break down the ability of the oil to lubricate the components. This, in turn, wears down the components and makes them less efficient. Filters also must offer the correct particle sizing to handle the flow capacity of the mower's system and the pressure rating. The flow capacity of the filter is the amount of oil that passes through the media without the bypass valve opening. The filter should be correctly matched to the amount of oil that the system generates. The filter must also be able to withstand a given pressure. If you compare filters they may have the same outside dimensions but be totally different on the inside.

*\*Grounds Maintenance, February 2003*  
Mark Welterlen  
MWELTERLEN@PRIMEDIABUSINESS.COM

Also send your questions to Dr. Murphy,  
Dr. Koppenhofer and Dr. Hart.  
E-mail us at [hq@sfmanj.org](mailto:hq@sfmanj.org)

### **"Murphy's Law"**

Dr. James Murphy is an Associate Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management for Rutgers, department of Plant science. Ask Dr. Murphy questions concerning agronomics.

### **"Ask The Grub Oracle"**

Dr. Albrecht Koppenhöfer is an Assistant Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Entomology, Cook College/Rutgers University. Ask Dr. Koppenhöfer questions concerning your insect problems.

### **"Take it to Hart"**

Dr. Stephen Hart is an Assistant Extension Specialist in the Plant Science Dept. at Cook College/Rutgers University. Ask Dr. Stephen Hart questions concerning weeds.

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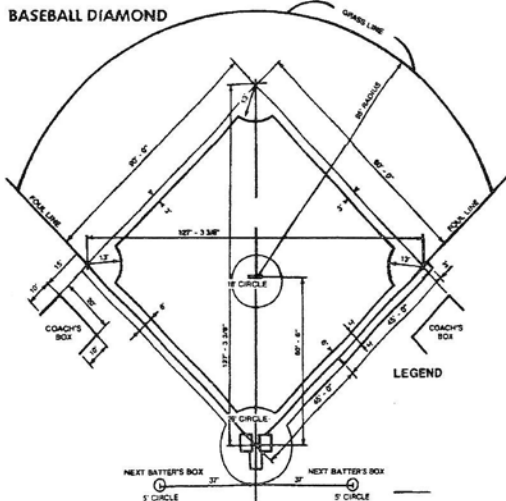
Back siphoning:

- Undersized piping
- Line repair or brake lower than the service point
- Lowered main pressure due to high water withdrawal rates.
- Reduced supply-main pressure on the suction side of a booster.

Back pressure:

- Potable water connections to pressure systems aren't equipped with backflow prevention devices
- Interconnection with another system operated at a higher pressure, like a fertigation system
- Booster pump designed without a backflow prevention device. ▲

*\*Landscape & Irrigation, March 2003*  
Luke Frank



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When installing clay blocks, it is important to study your pitchers. Place the blocks 10 inches before the shortest stride and 10 inches wider than the longest landing foot. Remember pitchers may pitch from either edge of the rubber. The entire table around the mound should be built with clay blocks or bagged material.

1. Outline your table and landing areas and use a mound gauge to obtain the desired slope. Excavate 3 1/4" below the surface.
2. Wedge the blocks into position 1/2" or less below the rubber. Water lightly and with your hands or a trowel, melt the seams together.
3. Excavate the landing area and be 10" wider and longer than the longest stride of your pitchers. Blocks should be within a 1/2" of the surface.
4. Lay blocks into landing area, and tamp the sides to wedge tightly. Water and melt seams together.
5. Water and allow clay to set up. Lightly tamp or roll the surface.
6. Rake vitrified or calcined and infield mix over the surface and hand drag.
7. Always cover your mound to hold moisture in your clay.
8. To repair holes cut up blocks or use professional mound clay. Sweep out the hole to expose pure packing clay.
9. Lightly water, add new clay, and tamp. Bring infield mix over the clay and cover the mound.

**Caring for Material:** When not in use. Store blocks under a damp towel or burlap sack while wrapped in its plastic covering. This will keep your clay blocks moist and workable. Avoid storing in direct sunlight. ▲

*\*Ed Mangan, Head Groundskeeper of the Atlanta Braves, Top 10 Tips for Field Maintenance, Amcor Consumer Products, LLC*

**continued from page 9 “Safety Is No Accident”**

- Operate the machine only in well-ventilated areas;
- All service, other than the item listed in the owner's manual maintenance instructions, should be performed by competent service personnel.

OPEI urges landscape professionals to abide by these and other tips. For safety information on outdoor-power products, the institute has an extensive Website on the Internet: [www.opei.org](http://www.opei.org).

Other sources for safety (though less industry-specific) include the National Safety Council and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. You can find them on the World Wide Web at [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org) and [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov), respectively. The N.S.C.'s phone number is (630) 285-1121; consult your local phone book for the nearest O.S.H.A. office. ▲

*\*For information on how to obtain a copy of “Safety Management for Landscapers...” phone John Deere Publishing at (800) 522-7448  
Landscape & Irrigation March 2003*



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