Update
Sports Field
Managers Association of New Jersey

July/August
2005
Vol. 5, No. 4

e-mail: hq@sfmanj.org
www.sfmanj.org

Rutgers Annual Adelphia Field Day Incorporates Equipment Demos and Trade Show ... Compliments of SFMANJ!

by Brad Park, Rutgers University
park@aesop.rutgers.edu

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey has joined forces with New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) to collaborate on a new format for the annual Adelphia Rutgers turfgrass field day. This year's event, now labeled, Rutgers Lawn, Landscape and Sports Turf Field Day, will

be held at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm in Adelphia, NJ on Wednesday August 3, 2005 with attendee registration beginning at 7:30 am.

The new format for 2005 will consist of 1½ hours of formal trade show time, 2 hours of sports turf and lawn and landscape equipment demonstrations sponsored by participating vendors and 3 hrs of Rutgers turfgrass education. Similar to previous Field Days held at Adelphia, New Jersey DEP pesticide credits will be offered for those in attendance.

For the first time, pre-registration will be a part of this field day. Sports Field Managers Association of New

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Inside This Issue

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 908-730-7770

Co-editors:
Jim Hermann, CSFM and
Eleanora Murfitt-Hermann, CRS

SFMANJ Business

Next Board of Directors Meeting –
August 3rd, after Rutgers Adelphia Field Day

Welcome New & Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 361 members. In the beginning of November, SFMANJ mailed invoices for 2005 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at (908) 730-7770 or download the 2005 membership form available at www.sfmanj.org. Remember to mail your renewal/payment direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801. ◆

Barcheski, Alex	Perth Amboy, City of
Borelli, Robert	GreenScapes Lawn Management LLC
Campbell, James	New Brunswick, City of
Fick, Daniel	Northern Nurseries
Hauck III, Lester	Monmouth University
Mecsey III, Joseph	Greenwich Township DPW
Moore, Tim	The Lawrenceville School
Perdun, Bud	North Brunswick Board of Ed.
Wagner, Leon R.	Middle Twp. Board of Education ◆

SFMANJ Annual Membership Registration Form
*** receive update information by email**

Name _____

Title _____

Employer _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

County _____

Phone _____ **Fax** _____

***E-mail** _____

Signature _____

Individual	$45
Associate	$45
Organization/Institution	$45
Additional member from facility	$25
Commercial/Contractor/Vendor/Supplier	$100
Additional member from company	$30
Student	$15

Send with Check or voucher to:

SFMANJ
P.O. Box 370
Annandale, NJ 08801

2005

SFMANJ Board of Directors

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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:
P.O. Box 370
Annandale, NJ 08801
Web Site – www.sfmanj.org
E-mail – hq@sfmanj.org
Ph/Fax – 908-730-7770

National Organization
Sports Turf Managers Association

www.sportsturfmanager.com
e-mail: SportsTMgr@aol.com
Phone: 1-800-323-3875

Did You Know?

Turf requires 3/4 or an inch of water a week to replace water lost through transpiration and evaporation. ◆

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Jersey has been working closely with NJTA to ensure that all SFMANJ members receive pre-registration materials via U.S. mail. Make plans to attend … you don't want to miss the new format!

Rutgers Lawn, Landscape & Sports Turf Field Day Schedule

Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, Adelphia, NJ
Wednesday, August 3, 2005
7:00 am Vendor registration
7:30 am Attendee registration and Trade Show opening
9:00 am Rutgers turfgrass education
11:00 am Lunch and open Trade Show
12:00 pm Sports turf and lawn and landscape equipment demonstrations
2:00 pm Rutgers turfgrass education
3:00 pm Pesticide credits and adjournment

Highlights of what you'll see at the Rutgers Field Day:

- New herbicides for landscape turf
- Major advances in turfgrass breeding – "See tomorrow's cultivars today"
- Identification and control of grubs and other insects
- Latest efforts for disease control on lawns

Pre-registration discount available:
Before 7/22/05
$35 (members of NJTA, GCSANJ, or SFMANJ)
$50 (non-members)
On-site registration:
$45 (members of NJTA, GCSANJ, or SFMANJ)
$60 (non-members) ►► contact info ►►

Contact: Michelle Rickard, Executive Director –
New Jersey Turfgass Association
PO Box 340, Milltown, NJ 08850
215-751-6582, fax: 732-741-6582
To obtain a copy of the pre-registration form for the Field Day, visit: www.njturfgrass.org ◆

A *Thank You* letter we received about the 2005 Spring Field Day

I just wanted to write you a note to congratulate you and your committee on conducting such a terrific Spring Field Day last week (April 6). As a person who not only has grown up on a sod farm and has operated one for the past 25 years, but as a Town Councilman who is responsible for the upkeep of parks, I learned a lot from the topics that were presented. Everything from some simple points to create a safe field to weed control and drainage was very practical. The afternoon session, which was hosted by the Betts family, was also exceptional.

Thanks again for having a well-attended, successful Field Day! I'm hopeful that in the future, as the membership grows, perhaps we can conduct a similar Field Day up here in District I. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Leonard M. DeBuck, President

Thank you Leonard for the kind words. Absolutely! We would love to host a tour at your sod farm for District I folks. Just name the date. Eleanor, President SFMANJ ◆

Rutgers Corner – Utilizing and maintaining Kentucky bluegrass as a sports turf

By Brad Park, Rutgers University
park@aesop.rutgers.edu

Kentucky bluegrass (Poa pratensis L.) is considered by many to be the "Cadillac" of cool season turfgrass species for use on sports fields in New Jersey and other areas of the United States with a similar climate. The establishment of Kentucky bluegrass from seed is relatively slow; as a result, Kentucky bluegrass turf is frequently established with sod. The aggressive rhizomes of Kentucky bluegrass spread rapidly and produce a dense, strongly knit sod. Improved varieties of Kentucky bluegrass can produce a hardy, persistent, and attractive turf. It is adapted to a wide range of soils and climates and its extensive rhizomes provide excellent survival and recuperative potential, making it a popular choice for sports fields prone to wear damage. The discovery of 'Merion' by Joseph Valentine in the early 1930s greatly increased the usefulness of Kentucky bluegrass as a turf in regions with a humid temperate climate.

The purchase of certified seed from wholesale or retail outlets is strongly suggested. Certified seed is grown in fields inspected by a state-certifying agency for genetic purity, and also must meet standards established for germination and freedom from weeds and other crop seeds. Knowing the variety of seed in the container is important because it allows the buyer to select improved varieties that will produce higher quality turf under traffic with greater persistence and fewer inputs. Seed that does not identify varieties or is described as variety-not-stated (VNS) presents a great risk to the buyer because the potential turf quality of the seed is unknown. The seed in a container labeled as 'VNS' could produce turf quality ranging from extremely poor to good.

Seed blends of Kentucky bluegrass generally include three or more varieties. Blends of Kentucky bluegrass should be seeded at two to three pounds per 1000 square feet. Kentucky bluegrass is commonly mixed with tall fescue and/or perennial ryegrass to provide greater adaptability on turfs where environmental and management factors vary over the site. Such mixtures should consist of one or more Kentucky bluegrass varieties in combination with two or more varieties of the other species with the following standards (percentage by weight):

(Seed at 4 to 6 pounds per 1000ft2)

85 95% Turf-type Tall fescue
5 15% Kentucky bluegrass

(Seed at 3 to 5 pounds per 1000ft2)

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80 - 95% Kentucky bluegrass
5 - 20% Perennial ryegrass

Mixtures including all three species are also used; however, such broad species mixtures have a greater likelihood of becoming non-uniform (clumpiness). Mixtures of all three species are more likely to be uniform when seed weight is greatest for tall fescue followed by Kentucky bluegrass, and least with perennial ryegrass. For information on specific Kentucky bluegrass variety recommendations based on Rutgers traffic tolerance research and a description of the classification system utilized to group Kentucky bluegrass types, see Rutgers Cooperative Extension publication FS 545, Kentucky Bluegrass Varieties for New Jersey Sports Fields (www.rce.rutgers.edu/pubs/).

Kentucky bluegrass is adapted to well-drained fertile soil of slight acidity (optimum pH of 6.5 to 6.7). A soil pH of 6.0 is recommended for Kentucky bluegrass sports fields suffering from summer patch disease. A moderate to high level of fertility will improve persistence of Kentucky bluegrass grown on poor quality soil; however, the overall appearance will not be of high quality without measures taken to improve the soil. Mowing heights of 1½ to 2 inches can be used when Kentucky bluegrass is maintained with moderate levels of fertility and sufficient water under cool to warm environmental conditions. Mowing heights below 1½ inch are only recommended for sports fields were the demand for playability is very high and management inputs can be optimized for persistence under close mowing (high labor and inputs).

Annual nitrogen fertilization rates vary depending on the soil fertility, desired turf quality, and intensity of field use. Annual nitrogen rates range from 1 to 4 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet of turf area. Higher annual nitrogen rates are needed for establishing turf or intensively trafficked sports fields where recovery from severe wear damage is necessary. Older turf where soil fertility has been built-up will generally require lower rates of nitrogen fertilization. Applying the majority of nitrogen fertilizer in late summer and early fall will improve density and health of the turf better than spring application of fertilizer. For more information on fertilization of sports fields see Rutgers Cooperative Extension publication FS 105, Maintaining Athletic Fields (www.rce.rutgers.edu/pubs/).

Irrigation may be necessary under severe drought conditions to maintain green vigorous growth; however, a healthy Kentucky bluegrass will survive drought for many weeks by going dormant. Survival during drought-induced dormancy will be best if traffic, insects, or disease is not damaging the turf while the turf is dormant or entering dormancy (under drought stress). Kentucky bluegrass turf grown on shallow or poor quality soils will have a limited root and rhizome system and, therefore, less persistence under severe drought stress. More information on insects and diseases of turf can be found at www.rce.rutgers.edu/pubs/ or your county Extension office.

Literature Cited

Murphy, J.A. and B.S. Park. 2004. Kentucky bluegrass varieties for New Jersey sports fields. Rutgers Coop. Ext. Pub. FS 545 ◆

Queston/Answer "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 *hq@sfmanj.org*

Question: The soccer fields in our area are currently dormant, brown and dry as a bone. If these conditions continue can permanent or excessive damage to the turf result from typical play on the fields?

Answer: Absolutely!

Dormant turf has very low vigor. Dormant turf has prepared itself to survive without water; but not to withstand intense traffic. Thus, the low vigor of the dormant turfgrass plants will only be able to tolerate a very limited amount of traffic.

Signs of severe damage include thin open turf and bare soil. The lower leaf sheaths and crowns of the turfgrass plants have been and will continue to be damaged once you start to see bare soil in the playing field. This is a serious problem because regeneration of new healthy shoots and roots come from the crowns. Dead crowns translates into dead grass with no hope for recovery (I can not word it more bluntly)!

If you can still find crowns as a fresh, translucent green appearance, then the turf can recover. Dried up, brown crowns are severely damaged and have a high probability of being dead. Weed invasion is another problem with intense use (traffic) under dormant turf conditions. The dormant turf wears out very quickly with use. Once natural rains return or irrigation is applied, the dormant weed seeds in the soil have ample opportunity to germinate, emerge, and infest the field. Thus, you will likely observe greater weed problem on fields that receive significant play (use) under dormant conditions. ◆

Field Tip
Reality, What A Concept

by Jim Hermann, CSFM*

- Reality is the difference between a state of the art utility vehicle that grooms, carts and dumps and a 1980 pickup truck equipped with a length of chain link fence.
- Reality is the difference between a ten-man grounds crew for one field and a one-man grounds crew for ten fields.
- Reality is the difference between what works on paper and what works in the field.
- Reality is the difference between treating for crabgrass and being thankful the field is green.

In the realm of absolute right and absolute wrong, if your lucky, reality

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lies somewhere in the middle.

Accepted yet never formally discussed, reality is the single most limiting factor in the management of every athletic field. Dealing with and understanding the effects and consequences of reality is a primary objective for every sports field manager. It is kind of like putting a round peg in a square hole and making it fit.

Reality should never be used as an excuse. A clear vision of what is ideal should always be maintained as a point of reference for what is real. In order to evaluate what we can do, it is important to know what we should do. Education is critical. Education is a like a road map. We are taught the most direct route. As sports field managers we learn to deal with roadblocks. We learn to get around obstacles. There is no such thing, as "I can't get there from here".

Sometimes we need to look at our objectives from a different perspective. I often times discuss selection of the proper infield mix. Ideally, selection of the proper infield mix should be based on an understanding of the physical analysis of that product and how different percentages of sand, silt and clay affect the characteristics of that product. In reality, selection of an acceptable mix is more often based on price. Therefore, a more realistic objective for the sports field manager would be to have the ability to recognize and understand the characteristics of the infield mix chosen, rather than the ability to choose a mix based on an understanding of its characteristics. The key point remains, an understanding of infield mixes.

We are all aware or should be aware that soil testing is critical if a quality turf is to be established and maintained. Unfortunately when recommendations are made based on soil test results; these recommendations vary from field to field. Ideally, each field should be treated precisely as the recommendations have prescribed. Realistically, you and I both know "that may not happen". Typically in a situation like this I would select a fertilizer formulation that addresses the needs of all the fields but may not provide the nutrients required by some fields in the total prescribed amount.

An agronomist once told me that soil testing should be used as a means of determining soil fertility trends. These trends are determined by periodic testing on a yearly or biyearly schedule. What that means to me is that, within limits of acceptability, as long as the fertility of a field is headed in the right direction, I'm a happy camper. The education received on what is ideal has allowed for the ability to discern what is acceptable and real.

It was once said, "although the primary objective may be to drain the swamp, it is sometimes difficult to remain focused when you are up to your butt in alligators". A clear vision of the objectives and the ability to prioritize applications and procedures is key in dealing with reality.

*Jim Hermann, is a Certified Sports Field Manage and serves on the Board of Directors of SFMANJ and is President of Total Control Athletic Field Management. ◆

Recruiting and Coordinating Volunteer Efforts to Maintain Public Sports Fields

by Dr. Richard G Caton*

The United States is in the grip of a growing dilemma surrounding the demand by the public for space to carry on athletic activities. In almost every community across the country we see desperate struggles between those who desire to use athletic fields and those who control and maintain the available facilities. We simply have more requests for athletic field use than can be accommodated in any kind of sensible fashion.

When we say "sensible fashion" we refer to the prudent use of a particular facility that allows for the field to be taken out of play periodically so that cultural practices can be employed to keep the fields in good condition so that play can be carried on in a relatively safe environment. Mowing, fertilizing, controlling weeds and other pests, grooming, raking core aerification, is dictated by Mother Nature and kept on a clock that had not changed since the dawn of life on this planet.

Turfgrass – you see, that wonderful natural cushion that athletes of all ages and all skill levels crave, provides the finest and safest playing surface. However, it requires constant care to maintain it in a healthy condition and this care requires sufficient manpower, equipment, and materials to properly do the job.

Now, however, we add the vicious paradox or as Shakespeare said "the unkindest cut of all". At a time when we have the greatest need for improving our programs by providing more fields, and better maintenance to accommodate demand (all of which take increased funding and increased maintenance), we see budget reductions. A dilemma indeed!

The question is – "What can I do given this woeful scenario, to improve conditions and to somehow stem the tide toward total destruction of our athletic fields, hence our programs?"

Providing for proper maintenance requires a commitment to generate adequate funds for the aforementioned manpower, equipment, and materials; - volunteerism, properly organized and managed, can contribute significantly to offset the demand for increased funding.

A major problem for most Boards of Control and administrators is providing adequate maintenance which ever dwindling funds. The areas of field grooming, mowing, and a variety of other tasks lend themselves well to volunteerism, which is a viable means of meeting basic maintenance requirements without "breaking the bank".

The establishment of such a program is fundamentally based on communication. People don't know about things until they are told and they can't give you something until you tell them what you want. Such programs, by the way, are not new. They just aren't widely known or utilized.

The following is a brief outline on how to get started with a volunteer program to provide manpower and financial assistance to ailing programs:

I. Clearly define the problem and communicate verbally and in writing to the citizenry. Develop slide shows or videotapes to illustrate the problem and take groups to visit fields that need "a friend".\

II. Clearly define your manpower and monetary deficiencies and do so in an easy to understand format field by field. Be sure that in each instance you list the materials, equipment, and services that the Board of Control can provide and the kinds of assistance you seek.

III. Give your program a name (acronyms work best), for example: ROBIN – Retired Old Buddy Is Needed, or RSVP – Retired Senior Volunteer Program. The program should not be completely aimed at the local cadre of retirees. For example, the local Boy and Girl Scouts, YM or YWCA's, civic groups (Kiwanis, Jaycees, LI9ons, Elks, American Legion, etc.) can be of great assistance through contribution/ solicitation of funds and/or manpower.

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An acronym for the scouts might be SCATTR – Scouts Come Again To The Rescue.

IV. Development of group leaders – Provide hands-on training programs particularly for group leaders.

V. Be sure to get "Moms" involved. There is no stronger force on earth than a mother's desire to provide for her children. PTA's and other parents groups and women's auxiliaries of various organizations provide a powerful source of assistance and leadership in all such endeavors.

VI.Start with just one field. Some refer to it as the "Adopt a Field" Program or other catch phrases. Be sure that you know exactly what kind of assistance you need. Work out the timing involved and assign clear responsibilities and the aforementioned training to group leaders.

VII. Develop a short contract showing some minimal formalization of the agreement to help and have "save/harmless" clause in it to protect the Board of Control in the event of accident or injury. Be sure assignees have their own insurance coverage and are willing to assume certain risks.

VIII. Widely publicize early successes and praise the volunteer efforts with pictures of improvements and estimates of savings to the community. Refer to individuals and organizations by name.

IX. Give all volunteers, both individuals and groups, distinguished status within the community by providing identification cards that give them "free" access to all games, concerts, or special events for which one otherwise would have to pay admission.

X. After the program is in "high gear" so to speak, get donations and volunteer assistance to provide an annual dinner for all volunteers. As a special feature of the event give awards for various categories, i.e. most hours logged by and individual, largest single financial contribution, most innovative idea introduced, field most dramatically improved (use before and after pictures, etc.) and other kinds of incentives to encourage increased participation and a sense of satisfaction and belonging to those actively engaged in the program. Be sure all community dignitaries are present and offer words of gratitude.

XI. Publicize and communicate everything to the end that the program is recognized as an indispensable part of the fabric of the community.

XII. After a time, seek to have the group become more self-sustaining by election of officers from within the group to provide leadership and inspiration to the group, with community officials acting as resource people as opposed to occupying leadership roles.

To reiterate a point, remember that individuals and groups can only give what they know you need. To accomplish this, you must "reach out" to them. We live in the most dynamic country in the would and one which repeatedly gives and gives to help each other and to provide relief around the world in time of crisis.

We have a crisis in America. Our athletic fields are not sufficient in numbers or in quality to support the programs and expectations of our citizens. We must do something about it. Voluntee4ism can provide significant relief to the "public purse". Perhaps it's time you tried it.

I sincerely hope that the thoughts and ideas offered herein will be of some assistance.

*Dr. Richard G. Caton "Doc", recently retired, served as the Executive Director of New Jersey Turfgrass Association since 1993. ◆

Renovation of Athletic Fields

by Dr. Henry W. Inkyk*

Natural turfgrass athletic fields provide not only an aesthetically pleasing and attractive appearance but also more importantly a high quality dense resilient playing surface as a cushion for accommodating athletic activities. Intense use of natural turf athletic fields can severely impact on the suitability of the playing surface. Symptoms of intense use are reflected in severe wear, loss of density, resiliency and cushion. Additionally, the soil may become severely compacted and the surface pocketed with footprints. Under such conditions, the increased potential for athlete injury and impact on playability are of major concern.

The degree of sensitivity of the playing surface to athletic activities is closely associated with a variety of factors closely associated with turfgrass growth. Included among the major factors are the following:

- Intense use above and beyond the wear tolerance of the specific turfgrasses.
- Uncontrolled or lack of supervised use particularly under adverse soil and weather conditions.
- Deficiencies in construction procedures particularly with respect to proper soil drainage.
- Absence of a well-planned maintenance program directed toward the most favorable conditions for turf grass growth and persistence performed effectively and timely.
- Acidic and/or low fertility soils.
- Appropriate and proper diagnosis and timely treatment (if required) of weeds, insects and/or diseases.
- Delay in repair until relatively complete obliteration of the playing surface rather than at and early stage of turfgrass damage.

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County College of Morris: New Program Option in Turf and Turfgrass Management

by Craig Tolley*

The County College of Morris, Landscape and Horticultural Technology Program is pleased to announce a New Program Option in Turf and Turfgrass Management. This exciting new option will focus on preparing students to manage recreational and athletic turf areas including golf courses and sports fields. Graduates of this program will be ideal candidates for direct entry into the green industry or transfer to a 4 year institution.

Courses will be available as conventional Face-to-face courses, Hybrids (part online, part face-to-face), and as Online courses. For advisement/enrollment information please contact the Landscape and Horticultural Technology Program 973-328-5363 (Professor Craig Tolley or Jan-Marie Traynor) or the Office of Admissions 973-328-5100

*Professor, Biology and Chemistry Depart., Landscape and Horticultural Technology at County College of Morris. (www.CCM.edu).◆

Sports Field of The Year

SFMANJ is inaugurating an annual New Jersey "field of the year" contest. Individual awards will be presented to the school, **"F.O.Y."** and parks/recreation "**F.O.Y.**"

ENTERING is easy, send to:
SFMANJ Contest, Po Box 370, Annandale, NJ 08801
Entries must be received by September 30, 2005

ELIGIBILITY:
*two categories; School or Parks/Recreation fields only
*current member of SFMANJ
*natural grass fields

SEND:
*color photos of your natural grass field (10 maximum)
*name of facility and location
*name of owner
*your name, position and contact number. ◆

Taking Care of Athletic Fields is a Growing Business

Turf Management Industry Booms as Golf Courses & Youth Sports Facilities Keep Expanding

Appeared in the New Jersey section of the Star-Ledger, Monday, June 13, 2005
by Stefanie Cohen, Star-Ledger Staff

There's more to maintaining an athletic field than cutting the grass.

These days, people in charge of making sure the grass is green and clipped to perfection must understand plant pathology and soil chemistry. They must be trained in pesticides, turf varieties and fertilization. And it helps to know how to drive a John Deere tractor.

As golf courses and fields for youth sports continue to sprout across the state, the business of "turf management" practices has been growing like, well, a weed.

"There is major growth in this area," said Bruce Clarke, director of Rutgers University's Center for Turfgrass Science. "Every school system, every town, has athletic fields. It's becoming much more of a science than it has been."

And it is providing jobs.

Nearly 58,000 people work in turf management in New Jersey, Clarke said.

"We have seven or eight job openings per student each year," said Craig Tolley, a landscape and horticulture professor at the County College of Morris. Tolley said he has a three-inch binder on his desk full of job listings.

New Jersey spends $2.6 billion a year on athletic field and golf course development and maintenance, commercial landscaping and sod and seed manufacturing, Clarke said. Golf courses spend $540 million alone.

These figures come from an economic impact study of the "green industry" by Rutgers University. The study will be released this fall.

In the mid-1980s, the state had 219 golf courses. Now there are 293, a 34 percent increase, said Michelle Rickard, executive director of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association in Milltown.

Youth sports is another big factor.

Jim Hermann,CSFM of the Sports Field Managers Association in New Jersey, which was established six years ago as an educational clearinghouse for the burgeoning turf management industry, said children don't play the way they once did. Stickball doesn't cut it anymore. Now they play organized sports year-round, giving athletic fields a workout.

Athletes' expectations have grown as well, Clarke said. People want to play on lush fields and courses like those they see on television. Then there is the liability factor. Towns don't want to be sued when someone twists an ankle on an uneven patch of grass, he said.

The growth of the industry is reflected in new college offerings tailored to meet the demand.

For example, this fall, the County College of Morris will start a degree program for Turf and Turfgrass Management. Ocean County College plans to teach its first turf management course next spring. Mercer County Community College, Brookdale Community College and Bergen Community College already offer the subject, among other schools in the state. About 40 high schools and vocational schools offer turf management classes as well, said Nancy Trivette of the state Department of Agriculture.

Rutgers University has a comprehensive turfgrass science program that prepares students for jobs throughout the green industry. In the past 20 years, the Rutgers program has added six faculty members to train a growing student body.

"It's more than cutting grass," said Brad Park, Rutgers' sports field management specialist.

Those wishing to enter the field, he said, need to be properly educated. With a degree, students can start their careers at a higher pay scale. Entry-level salaries range from $25,000 to $40,000, according to the Rutgers study.

Earlier this month, the Sports Field Managers Association sponsored a District I meeting for the industry at Sussex County Technical School in Sparta. Sports Field Managers from schools, townships, and recreational

facilities throughout Northwestern New Jersey came to see demonstrations of new machinery and hear lectures on topics like "Fertilizer Spreader Calibration."

Participants also watched some Sussex Tech students, who are studying turf management, convert a softball field from grass to clay. The students expertly circled the infield on a Rotadiron, or reverse tiller, which pulls soil to the top of the field and buries rocks and grass at the bottom.

Jim Welch, a 16-year-old freshman, took a break from work and leaned against his shovel. Wearing a John Deere hat and blue jeans streaked with soft red dirt, he contemplated the thought of attending the new turfgrass program at County College of Morris.

"I didn't think I would ever go to college before, but maybe now," he said. "Maybe." ◆

Did You Know?

Raising mowing height 1/4 to a 1/2 inch during the summer will help to maintain turf quality. ◆

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, July 27, 2005 District III Meeting
Lakewood Blueclaws baseball field tour and complimentary game sponsored by Wilfred MacDonald. District III members are invited at no cost. Watch for invitations in the mail. Questions? call 908-730-7770

Wednesday, August 3, 2005 - Rutgers Lawn, Landscape and Sports Turf Field Day
See research plots, equipment demonstrations and trade show. Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, Adelphia, NJ For more info contact 732-932-9375, ext 338 Or visit www.njturfgrass.org or www.sfmanj.org

September 9 & 10, NJLCA Brush up on topics for the Certified Landscape Technician
September 14 - CLT test written only at County College of Morris, Randolph
October 1 - CLT test at CC of Morris, Randolph
For more information, call the NJLCA office at (201) 703-3600 fax (201) 703-3776

September 19-22, 2005 NCA Training Course, "Retrofitting for Accessibility" Gatlinburg, Tennessee
Provides education on federal legislation and accessibility requirements as applied to park and recreation facilities and programs. For registration and tuition information, visit www.ncaonline.org ◆

Important Information for Members

To keep up to date with what's going on at SFMANJ please read the following information:

Email – If you have a new email address or if you haven't been receiving up to date info from us please send us an email from your's so we can keep you up on the latest events. If you have a blocker please remember to allow us in from hq@sfmanj.org and finally, we promise not to add attachments or give your email out to anyone without your permission.

2005 Directory – The directory will be in the mail very soon if you haven't received it already. Only the lead person will receive a directory. If you want more than one directory for your organization, you may purchase more at $20 a directory or you may copy the one we send you. You will not receive the full bylaws however, you will receive any changes in the bylaws. If you would like a new copy of the bylaws email us for one.

2006 Membership brochure – We are accepting applications for advertising in our 2006 membership brochure. We will order 2000 brochures, which are distributed throughout the year at various shows, classes and mailings. August 31 is the deadline for receiving applications. Check out our website for more info at www.sfmanj.org or call us at 908-730-7770.

Articles – We welcome articles for the newsletter "Update". Anyone can write and article. Tell us what you are doing. Do you have an idea you would like to share? Do you have a job opening? Are you looking for work? Do you want to sell anything? Have you gotten a new job and you would like to share the news with your membership? Email us information you would like to share with your membership at hq@sfmanj.org

Sports Field of the Year Contest – September is the deadline to enter your field. Now is the time to take pictures. Put your town on the map. Let everyone see your hard work. See the article in this newsletter for the rules.

Board of Directors – SFMANJ is seeking applications for an opening on the Board of Directors for the seat of Treasurer. Any member in good standings with the capability of balancing a checkbook with quickbooks and able to donate three hours a month please email us with your resume at hq@sfmanj.org

Letter we received – Thank you to Leonard M. DeBuck for the kind words and encouragement concerning our Spring field day. See letter in this newsletter. ◆

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• Budgetary restrictions limiting the availability of essential materials, equipment and/or qualified personnel for proper maintenance.

• Reliance upon unproven miracle products and/or procedures for the correction of deficiencies and/or maintenance.

• A lack of understanding and appreciation of the value of a high quality natural turf-playing surface for the protection of participating athletes and pride in the facilities.

Turfgrasses on playing surfaces which have deteriorated for anyone of the cited and/or other reasons can be effectively restored to a satisfactory condition by means of renovation procedures exclusive of correction of built-in construction deficiencies. The specific in steps in the renovation procedure are determined by:

• Soil sampling and laboratory testing as a means of determining soil acidity, soluble salts and available nutrients (macro and micro). This information will serve as a basis for the correction of deficiencies by appropriate l8ming and fertilizing.

• Removal of exposed surface debris (rocks, glass, concrete, macadam, construction debris, tree remnants) of any type, which contribute to a potential risk of injury.

• Proper application of an appropriate herbicide for eh removal of any weed infestation – a selective broadleaf herbicide for broadleaf weeds and preservation of existing turfgrasses. In situations of very little or no turfgrasses, and/or a heavy infestation of weeds resistant to selective control, the application of a non-selective herbicide such as glyphosate would be appropriate.

• Fill-in holes and major depressions with high quality sandy loam topsoil. Smooth out rough surface areas, including the entire field if necessary with topdressing with a high quality sandy loam solid mixture.

• Cultivate by means of intensive core aerification to alleviate soil compaction.

• Apply lime if necessary in accordance with the results of soil test to correct soil acidity.

• Slit-seed with an appropriate slit-seeder capable of rotating blade penetration of at least one inch into the soil with a minimum width of two inches between blades. A wider spacing of blades will necessitate double or triple slit seeding. Seed with a high quality turfgrass seed mixture or blend in accordance with Rutgers Extension Service FS 105. Turf-type perennial ryegrasses are a major consideration because of their rapid germination and establishment together with a high degree of wear tolerance.

• Drag with a flexible steel drag mat when dry and remove any surface debris.

• Apply fertilizer in accordance with the results of soil tests.

• Maintain satisfactory soil moisture if irrigation is available. In situations where irrigation is not available, the fall season would be the most desirable period for renovation.

• Mow as needed at a height of 2.5-3.0 inches at a frequency that will avoid clipping accumulation.

• Restrict use of the field until the new seeding has become strongly established and sufficiently mature to tolerate use without quick obliteration of the seeding of turfgrasses.

In situations where the restricted use of the field is in conflict with the demand for use of the field, a more rapid renovation procedure to reduce the period of restricted use is sodding.

Although more costly than seeding, sodding will substantially reduce the period of restricted use from 6-9 months for seeding to 4-6 weeks for sodding.

Sodding requires an increased effort in site preparation and the establishment of a new mature playing surface. Important considerations in the sodding procedure include the following steps:

• Removal of the existing vegetative growth (turfgrasses and weeds) from the area of concern by stripping with a sod cutter removing as little topsoil as possible remove and discard.

• Minor correction of deficiencies in grade with filling of major depressions with a high quality sand loam topsoil and/or light grading for a finish grade.

• Light tillage by means of aggressive core aerification to alleviate surface compaction and provide a more suitable solid environment to enhance rooting of the sod. The Aeravator is an effective aerifier, which can achieve this objective with a firm surface. Rototilling is not suitable from the standpoint that tit will produce a very fluffy soft surface, which would require rolling or some other means of firming or proper installation of the sod.

• Apply lime (if required) and

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fertilizer in accordance with the results of laboratory analyses on soil samples taken in preparation for the sodding procedure.

- Drag with a flexible steel drag mat and if the soil surface is dry lightly irrigate cautiously avoiding excessive wetness.
- Installation of a pre-selected high quality "Big Roll" sod containing a blend of improved cultivars of Kentucky bluegrass ore a mixture of improved cultivars of tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass (refer to FS 105 and FS 738). Sod should be delivered within 6 hours after harvest and installed within 6 hours after delivery.
- Sod should be placed in a manner to avoid overlapping of sod pieces with tight joints free of voids. Roll and irrigate immediately after installation. Maintain satisfactory soil moisture with frequent and light irrigation. Avoid excessive wetness, which can contribute to a variety of other problems. Immediately after installation of the sod and until the sod develops a new root system, the sod is very sensitive to soil moisture stress. Close monitoring of soil moisture during his sensitive period is very critical for the survival and establishment of the sod.
- Renovation with sod should not be attempted without adequate provision for maintaining favorable soil moisture conditions.
- Mow at a height of 2.5-3.0 inches as soon as the topgrowth grows to a height of 4 inches and at a frequency to avoid clipping accumulation on the surface. The use of a lightweight walk-behind mower is preferred to a heavier riding mower.

In the sodding procedure, an alternate to the stripping of the vegetative growth with a sod cutter is the incorporation of this material into the soil. The vegetative growth can be incorporated in its green condition or after complete eradication with a non-selective herbicide such as glyphosate. The use of a Rota-Dairon is an effective means of achieving thorough incorporation (including surface stones) and a clean resultant soil surface. The resultant fluffy soft surface must be firmed with rolling to obtain the desirable firmness for sod installation.

The outlined Renovation Procedure by means of seeding or sodding is an effective means of restoration of a suitable natural turfgrass-playing surface for accommodating athletic activities. However, it is important to understand that it is not a substitute for negligence in maintenance, abuse in use and/or drainage problems associated with deficiencies in construction. Furthermore, there are no miracle products and/or procedures in any maintenance program that can overcome or alleviate drainage problems. In addition, drainage conditions impact not only on the turfgrass growth and its sensitivity to destruction from athletic activities but also upon the safety and playability of the field. In situations where soil drainage is a major problem, consideration should be given to procedures for improvement. Substantial improvements in drainage conditions can be achieved without a complete destruction of an existing field by means of the installation of a sand/slit drainage system. A more costly and invasive procedure is complete reconstruction of the field with the proper installation of an internal soil drainage system. The most opportune and less costly time for providing satisfactory drainage would be during the initial construction of the field.

*Prof. Emeritus-Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management-Rutgers University sports Field Consultant- GSI Consultant/Turfcon, Somerset, N.J. ◆

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