

# UPDATE

September/October, 2008

Vol. 8, No. 5

e-mail: [hq@sfmanj.org](mailto:hq@sfmanj.org)

[www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org)

**Sports Field**  
Managers Association of New Jersey



## EXPO 2008 IS COMING!

BY: Chris Carson

The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Green Expo is all set for December 9-11 at the Taj Mahal Hotel in Atlantic City, and this year's show is filled with education, credits, and good times. A few highlights:

**CREDITS, CREDITS, CREDITS...** many NJ, PA, MD, DE, CT pesticide recertification credits will be available, and we've also applied for -and expect- NY credits as well. GCSAA PDI credits will also be offered.

**EDUCATION...** a comprehensive Educational Program, with over forty sessions, will focus on all of the turfgrass and landscape disciplines. Local, national, and internationally known industry and university leaders will be presenting important information that you can use to make your operation better.

**TRADE SHOW...** one of the largest trade show events in the region, Expo proudly presents many of the best vendors and suppliers of services. 'Kick the tires' of equipment and discuss your specific management issues with the best companies our industry has to offer.

**FELLOWSHIP...** many opportunities exist to meet old friends and to make new ones. Whether on the trade show floor, or in the hallways between sessions, or in the many formal social opportunities, or in the informal social get-togethers (Irish Pub, anyone?), the three days at Expo offer you a great opportunity to learn what others are doing in our business in a relaxed atmosphere. Many attendees have told us that these informal discussions are highlights of the conference!

**ONE-ON-ONE DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS...** including the many professors and scientists at Rutgers University and at other top-notch Universities. Rutgers Professors Clarke, Murphy, Hart, Koppenhöfer, Bonos, Meyer and more will be there to answer your management questions, as will Dr. Gausson from the Univ. of Nebraska, Dr. Mike Fidanza from Penn State, and Dr. Jeff Derr from Virginia Tech. And Rich Buckley will be there too... prepared to answer any questions you might have about plant diseases, cultural programs, or the Grateful Dead.

**BUSINESS TOPICS, TOO...** Tom Shotzbarger will be talking about meeting customer expectations, for example, and Rick Schreib will be giving you definitive answers on choosing between lease of purchase of your equipment.

**A NEWLY REFURBISHED HOTEL...** the Taj Mahal has just completed



*Dr. Mike Goatley, Virginia Tech University and STMA Board Member presents a talk at Expo 2007 at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ.*

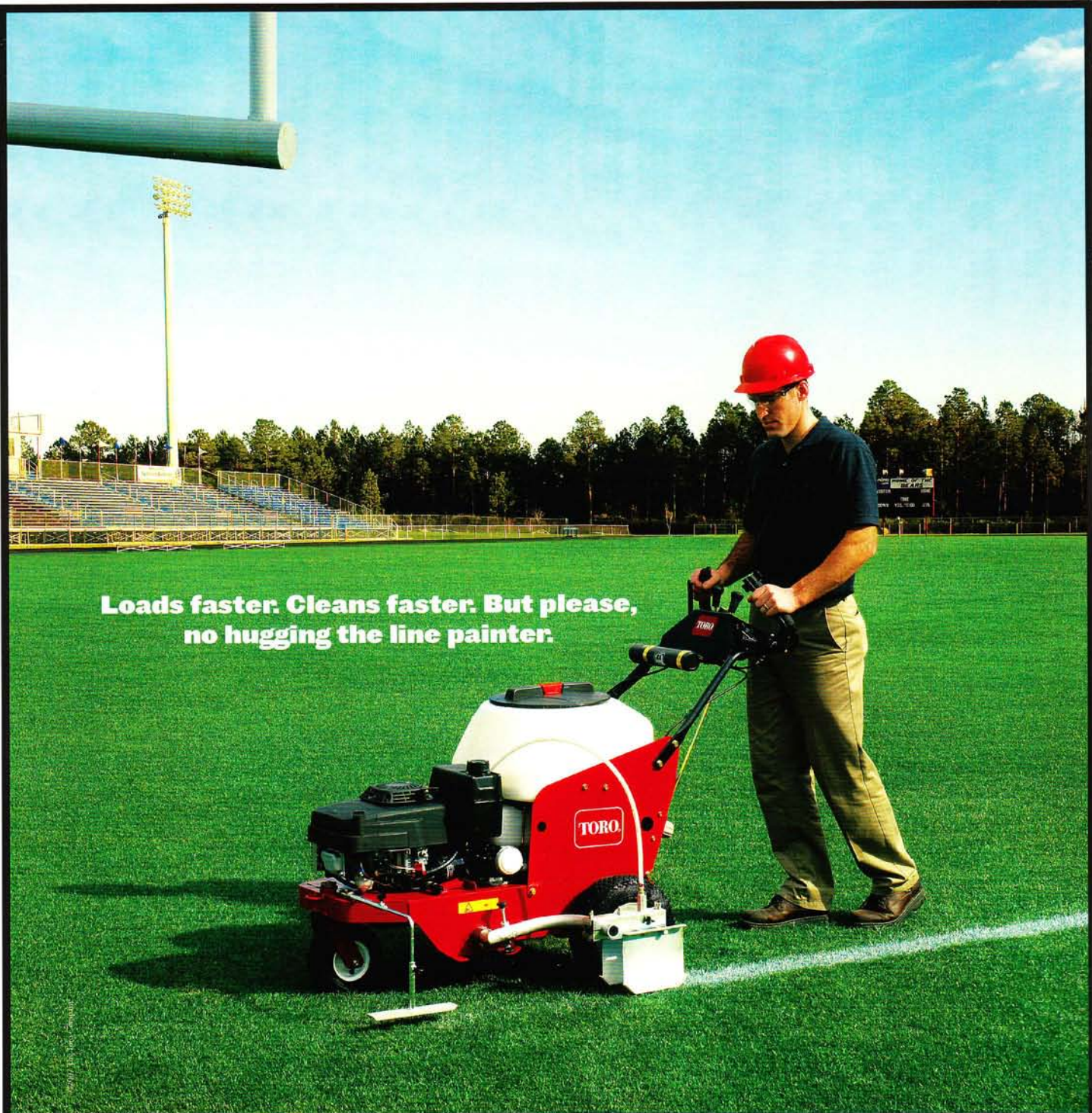
a hundred million dollar upgrade of its facilities, including new restaurants and clubs, and refreshed rooms. The atmosphere has changed for the better at our host hotel!

**SUPPORT OF THE TURF PROGRAM AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY...** your attendance at our conference is a visible sign to our friends at Rutgers, and to their administrative bosses, that the industry professionals in our area support their important work. In these times of declining government support of Rutgers, your attendance helps NJTA and The Center for Turfgrass Science and all of our presenting partners fight the good fight for continued support of the Center's mission.

The Expo mission statement: **The NJ Green Expo is a science based conference and trade show that provides education, business, fellowship, and environmental stewardship opportunities in partnership with the Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers University.** Your attendance and participation is ultimately what makes Expo work, so please come... we look forward to greeting you at Expo!

*Chris Carson is Golf Course Superintendent,  
Echo Lake Country Club;  
Past President, NJ Turfgrass Assoc.(NJTA);  
Expo General Chairman; and Expo Education Chairman*





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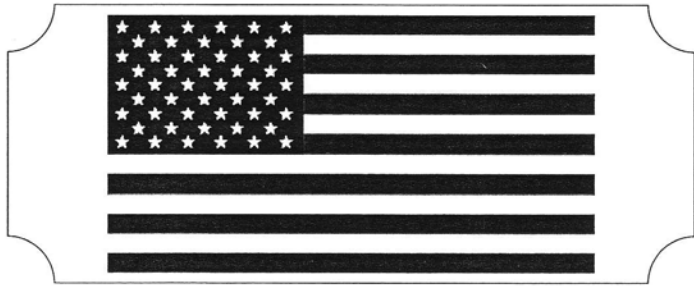
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# WELCOME NEW & RENEWED SFMANJ MEMBERS

Currently we have 279 new & renewed members. In December 2007, SFMANJ mailed invoices for 2008 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 856-514-3179 or download the membership form available at [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org). Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

- |                |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
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| Dooley, Jerry  | Clayton Sand Company, LLC           |
| Martin, Thomas | Pritchard Industries, Inc.          |
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**SFMANJ Annual Membership Registration Form**  
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**Executive Secretary:** .....Debbie Savard

**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
 Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers 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:**  
 PO Box 205 • Pennsville, NJ 08070  
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National Organization  
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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 (856) 514-3179 or Brad Park at (732) 932-9711, x127**

*Editor:* Brad Park, Rutgers University  
 Email: [park@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:park@aesop.rutgers.edu)

*SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.*

# SFMANJ HAS A NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY!

By: Craig A. Tolley

In the last issue of SFMANJ *Update* I had to announce the departure of our executive secretary. Since that time, the board created a search charged with filling the position. I would like to announce that we have completed that task, and welcome to our association Mrs. Debra Savard. Debra has been appointed to fill the position of executive secretary for the SFMANJ. Our search committee (consisting of Brad Park, Jeff Cramer, and myself) interviewed several candidates and unanimously agreed on Debbie.

Debbie comes to us with a broad range of experience in office management, bookkeeping, and customer service. She also has an extensive background in graphic design and printing. The search committee felt that Debbie's unique experience and skills would greatly benefit our association. She presented herself as very positive, energetic, and motivated individual.

After reviewing all the candidates the search committee felt that Debbie would be the best fit for SFMANJ. Please join the board in welcoming Debbie to our association. As part of our transition to the new executive secretary we have changed the SFMANJ mailing address and phone number.

SFMANJ  
PO Box 205 • Pennsville, NJ 08070  
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Should you have questions regarding these changes please feel free to contact myself or any of the board members with questions.

*Craig A. Tolley is Assistant Professor,  
County College of Morris; and SFMANJ President*

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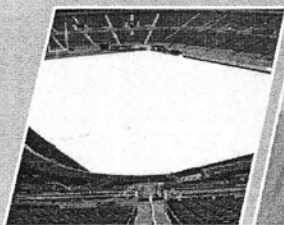
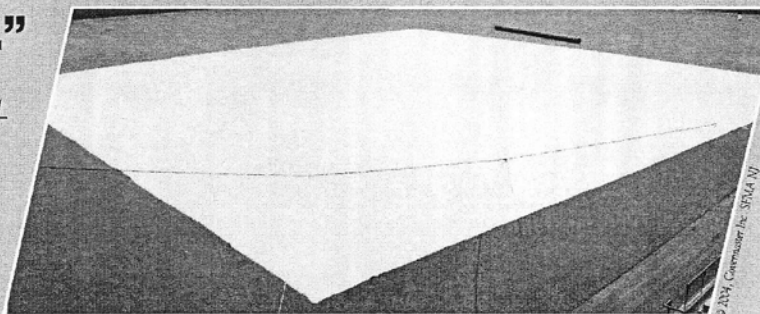
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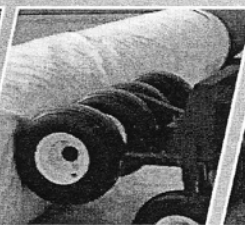
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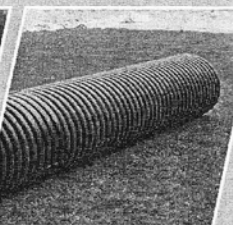
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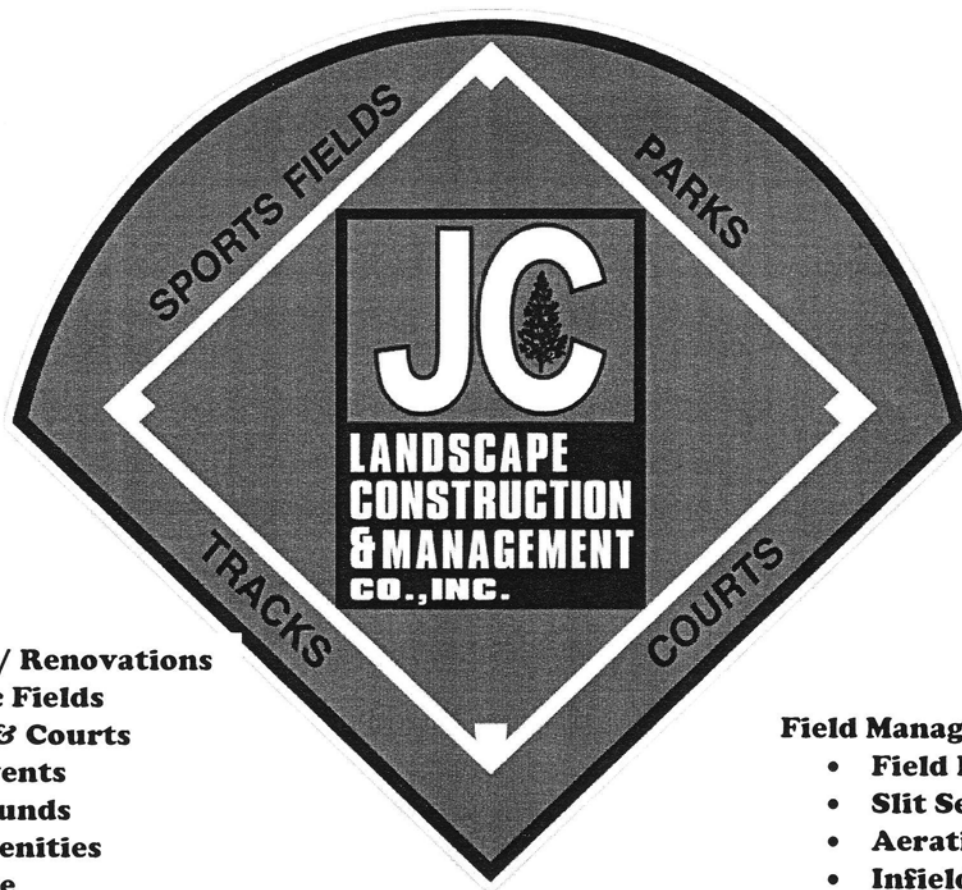


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**References Available Upon Request**





**Dr. Henry W. Indyk  
Graduate Fellowship  
in Turfgrass Science**

As many of you know, the turfgrass industry lost a dear friend and colleague in September 2005. We will all miss Henry very much and would like to insure that his legacy lives on. The Indyk family would like to establish a memorial fellowship to support graduate students interested in applied turfgrass science. This fellowship is being created to help assure that tomorrow's graduate students have the financial resources to get an advanced degree in turfgrass science at Rutgers University. To fund a full graduate assistantship each year in Henry's name, we will need to raise a total of \$400,000. Your generous support at this time will bring us closer to reaching this goal.

To make a tax-deductible contribution today, please send a check payable to the Rutgers University Foundation, 7 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Be sure to indicate "Indyk Fellowship, Turfgrass" in the memo portion of your check. If you desire, you may provide a donation in the form of a pledge payable over several years.

For information on other ways to support this fellowship, please contact Dr. Bruce B. Clarke, Director – Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science (732-932-9400, ext. 331; or [clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu)) or John Pearson, Director of Leadership Gifts at the Foundation, by calling (732) 932-7899 or email: [pearson@winants.rutgers.edu](mailto:pearson@winants.rutgers.edu)

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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWER WITH DR. JAMES MURPHY

**Q** Is there any benefit to be gained by spraying off existing vegetation with a glyphosate product (i.e. Roundup PRO) prior to tilling with a Rota-dairon to a depth of 6.0 to 8.0" as opposed to tilling in green vegetation?

My objective is to add lime based on recommendations and till the existing infield topsoil before stripping it to install select fill material.

**A** Tilling in green vegetation isn't necessarily a problem - depends what the vegetation is and how dense/thick it is. I would spray off if

there are any difficult to control perennial weeds present - tilling won't kill all vegetation and surviving plant material will re-invade including the existing turfgrasses. Also, any large "mats" of dense/thick vegetation will form clumps in the tilled soil which may present problems during final grading and smoothing operations.

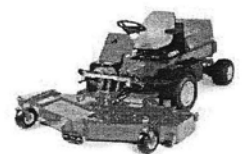
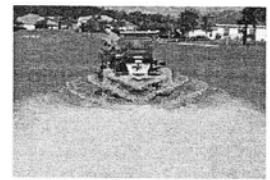
*Dr. James Murphy is Turfgrass Management Extension Specialist, Rutgers University; and SFMANJ Advisor*

## DID YOU KNOW?

The 33rd Annual Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference 2008 will be held at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort in Atlantic City, NJ on December 9-11, 2008

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# Rutgers Corner - Broadleaf Weed Control in Cool Season Turfgrasses

By: Dr. Steve Hart\*

*Editor's Note: This article, along with information related to the effectiveness of herbicide active ingredients on specific broadleaf weeds, can be accessed as a Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Fact Sheet (FS385) at [www.rcrc.rutgers.edu/pubs](http://www.rcrc.rutgers.edu/pubs)*

The presence of broadleaf weeds not only reduces the aesthetic quality of the turf, but more importantly they compete with the desired turfgrass for water, nutrients, and light. Failure to control these weeds often results in a deterioration of the turfgrass stand over time. Broadleaf weed infestations are often symptomatic of a more basic cultural or soil problem in many cases. If these problems persist, weeds also will be a continuous problem. Thus, a sound weed management strategy not only includes removal of existing weeds, but also using corrective management measures for the factors causing poor quality turfgrass.

## CULTURAL CONTROL OF BROADLEAF WEEDS

The numbers and types of broadleaf weeds found in turfgrass are greatly influenced by management and cultural practices. For example, close mowing and too little nitrogen favor white clover. Close mowing also favors weeds such as carpetweed, spurge, plantains, and dandelion. Poorly drained areas favor weeds such as ground ivy, while compacted sites favor knotweed and plantains.

Correcting improper management practices to maintain a dense, vigorous turf is the best and most lasting method for broadleaf weed control. Of particular importance are proper fertilization, mowing, and watering. Several broadleaf weed species cannot be satisfactorily controlled with proper use of herbicides, further increasing the importance of proper cultural management to reduce the opportunity for their establishment and spread.

Herbicides should be considered an aid, but not a cure, for broadleaf weed problems in landscaped turf.

## CHEMICAL CONTROL OF BROADLEAF WEEDS

In turf where broadleaf weeds have become a problem, application of an effective herbicide may be necessary for their removal so that the turf can be improved through better management and cultural practices. Several herbicides are available for broadleaf weed control, but weeds vary in response to different products. Thus, proper identification of the weeds is essential before the most economical and effective herbicide is selected. Suggested resources for weed iden-

tification include "Weeds of the Northeast" by Richard H. Uva, Joseph C. Neal, and Joseph M. Ditomaso available through Comstock Publishing Associates (a division of Cornell University Press).

Also, two web sites can be accessed at:

[www.rcrc.rutgers.edu/weeds](http://www.rcrc.rutgers.edu/weeds) and [www.cook.rutgers.edu/~turf](http://www.cook.rutgers.edu/~turf), then click on turfgrass weeds.

Two or more different herbicides are frequently sold as prepackaged mixtures. Most of the materials discussed are sold by several manufacturers, often under different trade names differing in formulation and concentration. Therefore, no rates are presented here. READ and FOLLOW carefully the label directions on the herbicide container. Applying rates too low may result in inadequate control, while applying rates too high may cause turfgrass injury. The following herbicides are available for the selective removal of broadleaf weeds from cool season turfgrasses.

**2,4-D** is the oldest and most widely used herbicide and provides broad spectrum weed control in turfgrass. This chemical is particularly effective for control of weeds with taproots such as dandelion, broadleaf plantain, mustards, and shepherd's purse. Amine formulations are most commonly used. However, the low volatile ester form of 2,4-D is often recommended for control of wild garlic and wild onion. Some weeds not controlled well by 2,4-D are white clover, chickweed, purslane, and ground ivy.

**MCPA** is chemically-related to 2,4-D and may be used as a substitute for 2,4-D in prepackaged mixtures. MCPA is not a broad spectrum herbicide as is 2,4-D and its use alone (i.e., not mixed with another herbicide) is not usually recommended.

**MCPP** is most effective in the control of several perennial or winter annual weeds such as chickweed and clovers.

**DICAMBA** controls many different weeds, several of them are not easily controlled by 2,4-D or MCPP. Of particular importance are the summer annual weeds that have a prostrate growth habit, including knotweed, purslane, and spurge. Dicamba however, does not control plantains.

**DICHLORPROP (2,4-DP) AND TRICLOPYR** are sold in prepackaged mixtures with 2,4-D and provide broad spectrum weed control.

(Continued on page 15)



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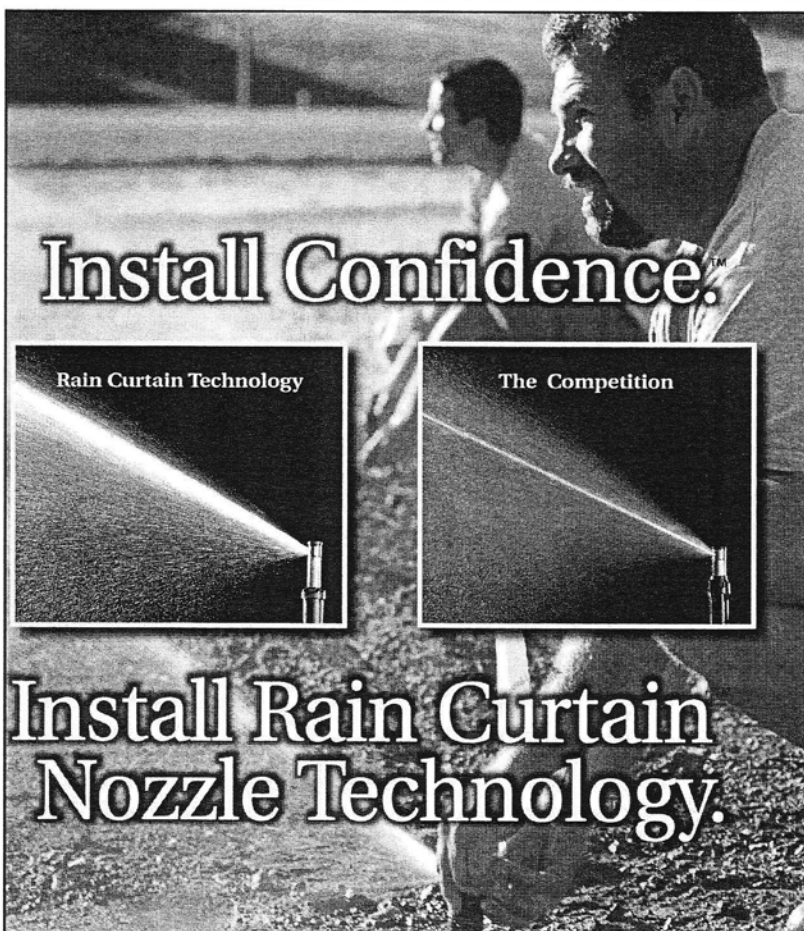
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# 33rd Annual Green Expo - Turf

## December 9-11, 2008 • Trump Taj Maha

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008

### Credits, Credits, Credits!

We've packed our Tuesday schedule with pesticide applicator credits and your favorite speakers, so start off Expo with quality education and the credits you need to maintain your professional license!

#### 9:00 - 11:30 AM CORE SESSION 5 Credits: CORE

- 9:00-10:30 **Understanding a pesticide's mode of action is the first step toward selection, effectiveness and safety**  
Dr. Steve Hart, Rich Buckley and  
Dr. Albrecht Koppenhöfer, Rutgers Univ.
- 10:30-11:30 **Pesticide Core Jeopardy: A game-show format to review pesticide safety and handling**  
Mike Oleykowski, Fisher & Son

#### 12:30 - 2:30 PM 3A SESSION 4 Credits: 3A, 6B, 8C, PP2

- 12:30-1:30 **Significant insect pests & other nasty beasts in the NJ landscape** Rich Buckley, Rutgers Univ.
- 1:30-2:30 **Controlling weeds in ornamentals is not as difficult as you might think. Dr. Jeff Derr, Virginia Tech Univ. Let's talk about controlling Invasive Weeds**  
Dr. Jeff Derr, Virginia Tech Univ.

#### 2:45 - 4:45 PM 3B SESSION 4 Credits: 3B, 6B, 8C, PP2

- 2:45-4:45 **Doing more with less: Developing a pest control program that will help you grow better grass... and better businesses.**  
Dr. Jim Murphy, Dr. Steve Hart, John Buechner

#### 12:30 - 4:00 PM GOLF SESSION Nutrients, the Golf Course and the Environment 1 Credit: 5, 3B, 6B, 8C, PP2

Last year, golf attendees asked us to pull together a program that touches on the environment, fertility, and the golf course. We've assembled a powerful lineup of speakers who will address those issues... and in this time of spiraling fertilizer costs, awareness of fertility choices can not only help you grow a healthy golf course but also keep your budget in line.

- 12:30-1:15 **What's up with all of the weeds in your ponds? An IPM approach to Pond Management**  
Dr. Steve Souza, Princeton Hydro
- 1:15-2:00 **Foliar Fertility- a splash on the grass**  
Dr. Roch Gaussoin, Univ. of Nebraska
- 2:15-3:00 **It's not easy being green: An organic approach to Golf Course Management**  
Jeff Carlson, Vineyard Golf Club, MA
- 3:15-4:00 **How to Manage the Organic Matter in your Golf Greens... and why!**  
Dr. RochGaussoin, Univ. of Nebraska

#### 4:00 - 7:00 PM GRASS ROOTS, INC. presents: Golf Mix and Mingle Cocktail Reception

Thanks to Ken and Keith Kubik, Grass Roots Inc. once again is sponsoring a 3-hour cocktail reception for golf attendees. Many of you have told us that this is the social highlight of Expo, and that you enjoy greeting old friends and meeting new ones while enjoying the fabulous Kubik hospitality. Thank you, Grass Roots, for providing this opportunity to eat, greet, and network!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2008

### 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM GENERAL SESSION

In addition to giving you some insight into the amazing science going on at Rutgers, this session will include a new version of Dr. Jim Murphy's management slide show. Our keynote speaker is a nationally known speaker who will provide us with a view of our industry's future. This year's general session is a must attend event!

- 9:00-9:05 **NJTA Annual Meeting**
- 9:05-9:10 **Official welcome from Rutgers University**
- 9:10-9:40 **Rags to Riches: Turf Management in 2008**  
Dr. Jim Murphy, Rutgers Univ.  
NJTA Environmental Stewardship Award Presentation
- 9:45-10:10 **Location, location, location... what turf species – and mixtures- go where? Dr. Bill Meyer, Rutgers Univ. NJTA Member of Year Award Presentation NJTA Recognition Award Presentation**
- 10:20-10:40 **Mating Disruption of Turf Pests- Sex and the City?**  
Dr. Albrecht Koppenhöfer, Rutgers Univ.
- 10:45-11:10 **10 things you never knew about the Rutgers Turf Program... a peak behind the scenes**  
Dr. Stacy Bonos, Rutgers Univ.
- 11:10-11:45 **What Lies Ahead for the Green Industry?**  
David Crowe, DC Legislative & Regulatory Services
- 11:50-12:00 NJTA Hall of Fame Award Presentation

### 12:00 - 1:00 PM LUNCH sponsored by STORR TRACTOR COMPANY

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### 1:00 - 4:00 PM USGA GOLF SESSION

- 2 Credits: 3B, 6B, 8C, PP2 1 Credit: Core
- 1:00-1:30 **USGA Year in review**  
Adam Moeller, USGA Agronomist
- 1:30-2:00 **Understanding the different pesticide chemistries currently used in the golf industry**  
Dr. Mike Fidanza, Penn State Univ.
- 2:00-2:30 **Annual bluegrass weevil problems in 2008... let's look at their biology, ecology, and monitoring.**  
Ben McGraw, Rutgers Univ.
- 2:30-3:00 **Chemicals update... what's new on the label**
- 3:00-3:30 **Resumes, interviewing, and power points: How best to impress and be selected**  
Dr. Rich Hurley, Rutgers Univ.
- 3:30-4:00 **Trees and turf: A peaceful coexistence**  
Dr. Roch Gaussoin, Univ. of Nebraska



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### 1:00 - 4:00 PM LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR & LAWN CARE

1 Credit: 3A; 2Credits: 3B, 6B, 8C, PP2

- 1:00-1:30 **Ornamental grasses and drought tolerant landscape plants** Bruce Crawford, Rutgers Gardens
- 1:30-2:00 **Ornamental weed control**  
Dr. Jeff Derr, Virginia Tech Univ.
- 2:00-2:30 **Low maintenance turf varieties**  
Dr. Stacy Bonos, Rutgers Univ.
- 2:30-3:00 **Growth regulators and other add on services**  
Dr. Jim Murphy, Rutgers Univ.
- 3:00-3:30 **The customers want results! Are you able to meet their expectations?** Tom Sholtzberger, Tomlinson Bomberger Lawn Care & Landscape
- 3:30-4:00 **Fleas, ticks, gypsy moths, mosquitoes and other pesky pests** Dr. George Hamilton

### 1:00 - 4:00 PM SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT

- 1:00-1:30 **SFMANJ Business Meeting**
- 1:30-2:15 **Communication and Leadership skills for sports field managers**  
Boyd Montgomery, CSFM, SCPS, Toro Company
- 2:15-2:45 **A director of recreation's perspective on synthetic infill fields**  
M. Bruce Kaufmann, CPRP, Town of Westfield
- 2:45-3:30 **A National look at sports field management**  
Kim Heck, Sports Field Managers Association
- 3:30-4:00 **Update on synthetic turf human health issues**  
Jerry Fagliano, NJ Dept of Health and Senior Services

### 4:00-7:00 TRADE SHOW – DAY 1

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## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008

*Our Thursday sessions pick up with important science for golf attendees, plus a mixture of science and management for the Sports Fields and Landscape/Lawn Care disciplines. Nationally known scientists and managers have come together to provide you with valuable information you can use to make your operation better.*

### 7:00 - 10:00 AM GOLF EARLY BIRD SESSION I

5 Credits: 3B, 6B, 8C, PP2

- 7:00-7:45 **New strategies for fairy ring control on golf course greens** Dr. Mike Fidanza, Penn State Univ.
- 7:45-8:30 **Crane flies, cicada killers and other scary bugs**  
Dr. Albrecht Koppenhofer, Rutgers Univ.
- 8:30-9:15 **Are you using all of the tools in your toolbox to control turfgrass diseases?**  
Dr. Bruce Clarke, Rutgers Univ.

### 9:15-10:00 A resurgence of an old nemesis- Summer Patch: Lessons learned from 2008

Dr. Bruce Clarke, Rutgers Univ.

### 7:00 - 10:00 AM SPORTS FIELD MANAGERS

1 Credit: 3B, 6B, 8C, PP2

- 7:00-8:00 **Early bird sports field managers Networking Roundtable**
- 8:00-9:00 **Turfgrass management for sports fields 101**  
Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers Univ.
- 9:00-9:30 **Recent turfgrass traffic tolerance research at Rutgers** Brad Park, Rutgers Univ.
- 9:30-10:00 **Developing utility sports fields using farming principles** Dr. John Grande, Rutgers Snyder Farm

### 8:00 - 10:00 AM LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR & LAWN CARE

3 Credits: 3A, 6B, 8C, PP2

- 8:00-8:45 **Least Toxic Products for the Control of Insects and Diseases in the Landscape**  
Rich Buckley, Rutgers Univ.
- 8:45-9:30 **There's new herbicide products on the market... and more coming!**  
Patrick McCullough, Rutgers University
- 9:30-10:00 **Lease or purchase: what is your best choice?**  
Rick Schreib, GE Money

### 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM TRADE SHOW

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### 12:30 - 2:30 PM CORE SESSION 4 Credits: Core

*Three years ago Dr. Mike Agnew presented a core session that discussed application techniques. It was our highest rated core session ever, and more than 160 people attended. We've asked Mike to reprise and update that talk, and he's graciously agreed. Working with Penn State's Dr. Mike Fidanza, they will be presenting important –and immediately useful– data of maximizing plant protection with proper application. In this day of tight budgets, this session is surely a can't miss opportunity to make your operation better.*

### Making your plant protection products work for you! An examination of how products are applied and the impact on plant protection products on efficacy.

Dr. Mike Agnew, Syngenta and Dr. Mike Fidanza, Penn State University

### 12:30 - 2:30 PM SPORTS FIELD MANAGERS

12:30-12:00 **Renovation of First Energy Stadium, Reading, PA**

- Dan "Dirt" Douglas, Reading Phillies
- 1:00-1:30 **Responsibilities of a New Jersey School IPM Coordinator**  
Erik Hammerdahl, Morris-Jointure Commission
- 1:30-2:00 **Authoring specifications and managing sports field construction** Tom Miller, Environmental Resolutions
- 1:30-2:00 **Sports field and grounds management at a New Jersey High School**  
Kevin Shipman, Kingsway High School

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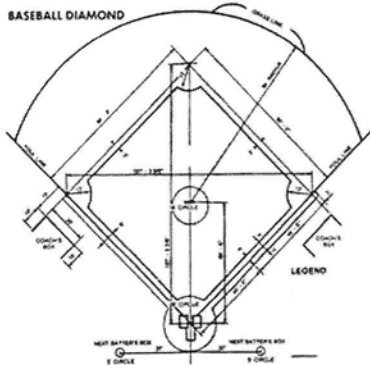
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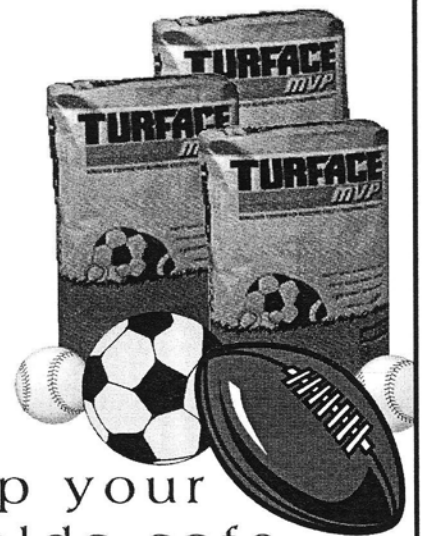
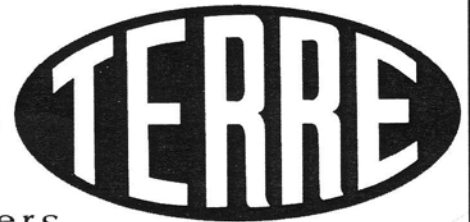
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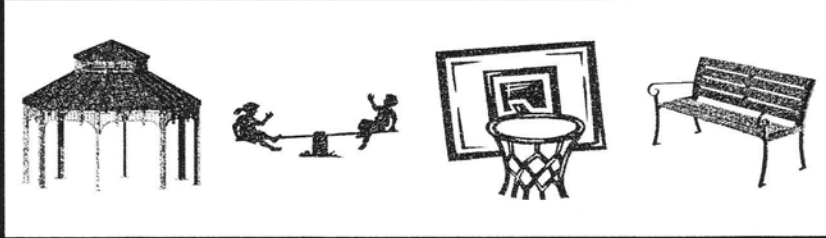
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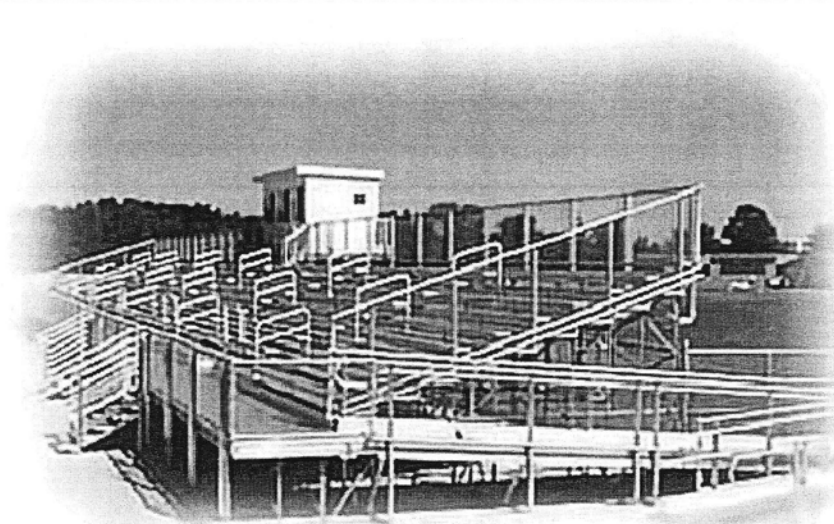
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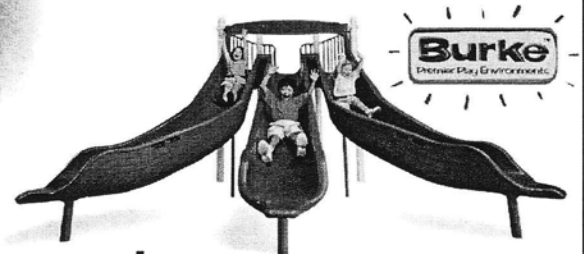
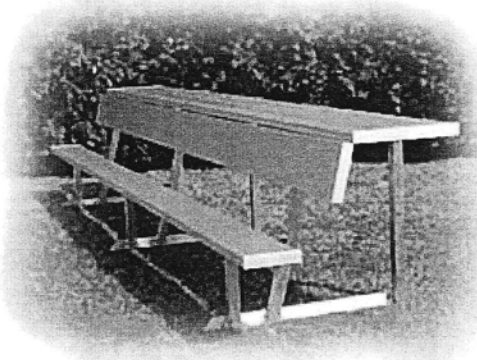


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## Rutgers Corner -

# Broadleaf Weed Control in Cool Season Turfgrasses

(Continued from page 8)

**TRICLOPYR + CLOPYRALID** is a non-phenoxy, prepackaged mixture sold only under the trade name of Confront. This mix also provides broad spectrum control of many common broadleaf weeds including oxalis. Clopyralid is now available alone under the trade name of Lontrel. Recently, several companies have started to sell herbicide combinations containing triclopyr and/or clopyralid.

**ISOXABEN** is sold only under the trade name of Gallery, and is used primarily in the early fall for preemergence control of numerous winter annuals (especially henbit and common chickweed) and some perennial broadleaf weeds. It has no postemergence activity on emerged broadleaf weeds. Delay over-seeding for at least 60 days following application.

**QUINCLORAC** is sold only under the trade name of Drive. It effectively controls a few broadleaf weed species including white clover and corn speedwell, but the primary use of quinclorac will be for postemergence crabgrass control.

**CHLORSULFURON AND METSULFURON** are sold

under the trade names of Corsair and Manor, respectively. Both herbicides are labeled for use (in some cases as a spot treatment only)

on a limited number of cool season turf species (primarily Kentucky bluegrass). Both herbicides will kill perennial ryegrass and chlorsulfuron will kill tall fescue.

**CARFENTRAZONE** is a quick acting herbicide that will cause rapid desiccation of the foliage of many broadleaf weed species. It will only be sold in combination with other herbicides such as 2,4-D, MCPP and dicamba.

(continued on page 17)

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# APPLYING GYPSUM - When is it really needed?

By: Dr. David D. Minner

Gypsum ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ) is often applied but seldom needed on Iowa [or New Jersey] sports fields. The classic misunderstanding with gypsum arises from its association with improving water movement and soil structure on sodic (high sodium) soils that are not typically found in Iowa [or New Jersey].

Gypsum is correctly used on sodic soils that have undergone a process of deflocculation. In this case, gypsum will likely improve soil structure and water infiltration. A brief review of soil cation exchange capacity (CEC) and soil aggregation may help you understand how this is actually accomplished by gypsum. There are many negatively (-) charged sites on the surface of clay particles. Some of the more important nutrients are positively charged (calcium  $\text{Ca}^{++}$ , magnesium  $\text{Mg}^{++}$ , iron  $\text{Fe}^{++}$  and potassium  $\text{K}^+$ ) and attach themselves to the negatively charged soil particles. These positively charged nutrients are called cations. The CEC is simply a measure of how many negative sites are available to attract the positively charged nutrients or cations.

Soil aggregation is another term you will need to understand to follow this discussion. Small individual soil particles are lumped together to form aggregates or "soil crumbs." Calcium - gypsum is a source of calcium - can cause this granulation to initiate in a process called flocculation, however flocculation alone does not make aggregates stable. Organic matter and other viscous microbial products stabilize soil aggregates. In a well aggregated soil there are larger voids between the "soil crumbs." The larger voids or macropores improve water infiltration.

Now, back to gypsum. The CEC sites in sodic soils are dominated by Na. Other cations that help soil aggregation, such as  $\text{Ca}^{++}$  and  $\text{Mg}^{++}$ , are displaced by  $\text{Na}^+$ . The excessive sodium reverses the process of aggregation and causes the "soil crumbs" to disperse into individual soil particles. The deflocculation that occurs in sodic soils results in a very tight arrangement of individually dispersed soil particles saturated with  $\text{Na}^+$ . Macroporosity is greatly reduced and water infiltration slows to near zero. When wet, sodic soils are slick, sticky, and have poor drainage. When dry they become quite hard. Gypsum is correctly used to remedy this situation caused by excessive sodium in the soil. The  $\text{Ca}^{++}$  in gypsum ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ) displaces  $\text{Na}^+$  on the exchange site. The  $\text{Na}^{++}$  reacts with sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^-$ ) to form sodium sulfate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ); a highly water soluble material that is leached from the soil. Removing  $\text{Na}^+$  and replacing  $\text{Ca}^{++}$  on the exchange site reduces deflocculation and allows natural aggregation of particles that eventually restores soil structure. Gypsum is very useful when soil structure deteriorates because of high  $\text{Na}^+$ .

The **misconception** arises when there is a belief that gypsum can improve structure and drainage in any heavy clay soil, even those

not necessarily affected by  $\text{Na}^+$ . A  $\text{Na}^+$  impact on soil structure that requires the application of gypsum only occurs on a small percentage of sports field soils. A soil test will determine the need for gypsum application. The problematic symptoms of sodic soils are very similar to those of heavily trafficked clay soils that are not affected by  $\text{Na}^+$ ; both are hard and have poor structure and drainage. To add confusion, gypsum is often advertised as a "soil softener" material. Most soil scientists agree that gypsum will not be useful for improving poor permeability due to problems of soil texture, compaction, hardpans, claypans, or high water tables. Most sports field managers should not anticipate a reduction in compaction and improved drainage by using gypsum. Even with this misconception, there are situations where gypsum is useful in sports fields.

**Gypsum ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ) can be used to supply Ca.** When pH is above 6.7 and Ca is deficient, gypsum instead of lime ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), should be used to supply Ca. Lime applied to an already high pH would further increase pH and may lead to iron deficiency. Gypsum supplies Ca without increasing pH. A suggested target range for Ca in the plant is 0.4 to 1.2%.

Many water supplies are often high in  $\text{Na}^+$ . Sand based systems irrigated with high  $\text{Na}^+$  water may have excessive  $\text{Na}^+$  on the exchange complex. Since sands do not deflocculate, the high  $\text{Na}^+$  in this case will not result in reduced drainage. Sands retain their macroporosity through particle size arrangement rather than by aggregation of particles. The high  $\text{Na}^+$  irrigation water can easily displace  $\text{Ca}^{++}$  and make it deficient in sandy soils with low CEC. Gypsum can be used in this case as a source of  $\text{Ca}^{++}$ . Testing both soil and plants associated with sand based sports turf has revealed that apparently adequate levels of  $\text{Ca}^{++}$  in the rootzone have produced apparently deficient levels of  $\text{Ca}^{++}$  in the plant. Application of gypsum in these situations increased plant calcium and improved turf growth (Dr. David York, personal communication 1998). Calcium availability, uptake, and effect on turfgrass performance in athletic fields continues to be evaluated.

Sodium Chloride ( $\text{NaCl}$ ) is commonly used as a deicer for roadways and sidewalks. Soil Na levels may be elevated in grass areas adjacent to paved surfaces treated with  $\text{NaCl}$  for deicing. Gypsum may be helpful to remove excessive Na from the soil in this situation.

*Dr. David D. Minner is Extension Turfgrass Specialist,  
Iowa State University*



## Rutgers Corner -

# Broadleaf Weed Control in Cool Season Turfgrasses

(Continued from page 15)

### HERBICIDE MIXTURES

The use of mixtures of the above-mentioned herbicides is very common. Combination products result in the control of a broader range of weeds than single herbicides. Some herbicide mixtures may effectively control certain weeds that cannot be easily controlled by the individual herbicides used alone. Some commonly used herbicide mixtures are: 2,4-D + MCPP; 2,4-D + dicamba; 2,4-D (or MCPA) + MCPP + dicamba; 2,4-D + dichlorprop; 2,4-D + triclopyr and clopyralid + triclopyr. These herbicides will successfully control many broadleaf weeds found in cool season turf. The best times of year to control most broadleaf weeds are fall (especially late September) or spring (especially May).

To use these herbicides effectively for broadleaf weed control in turf, remember several points:

1. READ and FOLLOW the label directions CAREFULLY.
2. Spray when the temperature is above 70°F and the weeds are actively growing. Do not spray when the temperature

is over 85°F because turfgrass injury may result and some of these products (i.e., low volatile esters) are prone to volatilization causing injury to nearby ornamental plants.

3. Treat only when soil is moist and plants are growing vigorously. Do not apply herbicides during drought periods or when soil is dry.
4. Do not mow one day prior to and after spraying.
5. Spray formulations (i.e. liquids) are generally more effective than granular forms of broadleaf herbicides, but granular products are easier to handle and apply, especially for homeowners.
6. Apply granular formulations when the foliage is moist, during early morning hours when there is a heavy dew.

(continued on page 18)



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## Rutgers Corner -

# Broadleaf Weed Control in Cool Season Turfgrasses

(Continued from page 17)

### PRECAUTIONS FOR USING BROADLEAF HERBICIDES

1. Ornamental plants, trees, shrubs, and vegetables can be susceptible to these chemicals. Do not spray around homes and gardens when there is a wind. Even a slight breeze is likely to carry spray droplets to susceptible ornamental and garden plants. Ester formulations (even low-volatile types) are volatile and are therefore more likely to injure nearby ornamentals and vegetables when sprayed at high temperatures.
2. Dicamba is included in many herbicide combination products and also in some weed and feed (fertilizer-herbicide) combinations. This chemical and other broadleaf herbicides move readily in some soil types and can be absorbed by plant roots. Therefore, products containing dicamba in particular should not be used near the drip-line of trees or near ornamentals where it can be absorbed by roots.
3. Do not use any of these herbicides on newly-seeded turf. Wait until the new lawn has been mowed at least three times before treating (usually about 6 to 8 weeks after seedling emergence).
4. The herbicides listed in this publication are safe to use on established tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and fine-leaf fescues (i.e., strong creeping red, hard, Chewings, blue and sheep). All herbicides have the potential to cause some foliar yellowing. Do not use 2,4-D on turf where bentgrasses or roughstalk bluegrass are considered desirable species.
5. Thoroughly clean the sprayer tank, hose, and boom after using herbicides. One sprayer should be used for turf and another for spraying ornamentals. Do not allow spray mixtures to spill or leak onto areas where they can be taken up by foliage, roots of trees, or ornamentals.
6. Keep herbicide containers closed, properly labeled, and safely stored.
7. Always store a pesticide in its original container.

*\* Dr. Steve Hart is Extension Specialist in Weed Science, Rutgers University*

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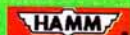
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