

UPDATE

SUMMER, 2009

Vol. 9, No. 2

e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

www.sfmanj.org

Sports Field
Managers Association of New Jersey



RUTGERS LAWN, LANDSCAPE AND SPORTS TURF FIELD DAY

SFMANJ to Sponsor Trade Show & Equipment Demos at Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm

SAVE THE DATE - Wednesday, August 5, 2009

By Brad Park

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) will once again collaborate with the New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) and Rutgers University to take part in the annual Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day at the Rutgers Adelphia Turfgrass Research Farm in Adelphia, NJ. Both a morning trade show and equipment demonstrations will be sponsored by SFMANJ.

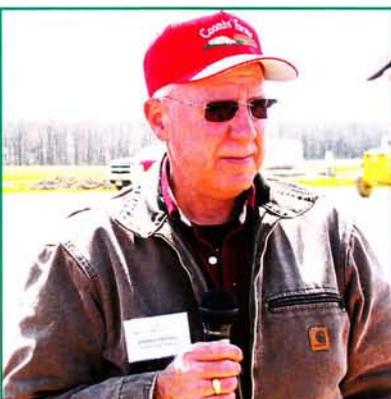
This is a great opportunity for SFMANJ members and other Green Industry professionals to network with peers and industry representatives, examine the latest product offerings at the trade show, see the latest sports field and landscape equipment in action during the demonstration period, and learn about selecting and managing turfgrass. Pesticide credits will be available to those certified applicators in attendance.

The schedule for August 5 is as follows:

7:30 am	Registration and Trade Show Opening
9:00 am	Research Tours & Equipment Demos
1:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Optional Core Pesticide Credit Session
2:30 pm	Conclusion

Look for registration materials in the mail. Online registration is available at the NJTA website: www.njturfgrass.org

Brad Park is Sports Turf Res. and Ed. Coord., Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member, and Editor, SFMANJ Update



John Coombs, Owner, Coombs Sod Farm, hosted lunch and an afternoon tour of his farm in Elmer, NJ on April 9, 2009 as part of Spring Field Day.

Spring Field Day 2009: Kingsway High School and Coombs Sod Farm

By Debbie Savard and Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

We had a beautiful spring morning for our field day at Kingsway Regional High School on Thursday, April 9, 2009. As vendors and attendees gathered, Northern Nurseries treated us to coffee and donuts.

SFMANJ President Don Savard, CSFM welcomed everyone and then passed the microphone to Plant Food Company, Till Paint, Tri State Materials/Green Pro, Turf Equipment and Supply, Power Place, Rainbird, Turface, Fisher and Son, The Viersma Company and Farm-right as they told us about their companies and products. Dryject was first up for the demos. They demonstrated their Dryject machine which forces high pressure water into ground then fills the hole with a dry soil amendment to aid in drainage. Board Member Jim Gates from Jim Gates & Co. brought along some of his equipment suppliers. Jason and Dave from Blec USA came up from South Carolina and showed us their Blec turf renovation equipment and George Bannerman from Ontario, Canada later demonstrated his Superject Aerator.

Tour of Kingsway High School Sports Fields, Woolwich Township, NJ

Kevin Shipman, head groundskeeper at Kingsway gave us a few words and took us on a guided tour of his facility. Then it was over to his baseball field where Ron Martin from MarCo Clay Products demonstrated field layout. The group also saw a live demonstration of laser grading by board member

(continued on page 5)



Kevin Shipman, Sports Field Manager, Kingsway High School, demonstrates how to create a logo at the SFMANJ 2009 Spring Field Day

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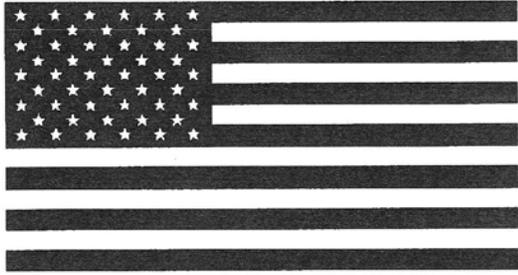
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Currently we have 261 new & renewed members. In December 2008, SFMANJ mailed invoices for 2009 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 856-514-3179 or download the membership form available at www.sfmanj.org. Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

Tom Allen	Twp of Monroe
Mark Barone	Borough of Glen Rock
Scott Beachy	Twp of Millstone
Vincent Benenati	Tenafly Board of Education
Anthony Berardi	College of Staten Island

(continued on page 4)

SFMANJ Annual Membership Registration Form *receive update information by email

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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.

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Ph/fax: 856-514-3179

National Organization
 Sports Turf Managers Association

www.stma.org

Email: stmainfo@stma.org

Phone: 800-323-3875

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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

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

WELCOME NEW & RENEWED SFMANJ MEMBERS

(Continued from page 3)

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 Joe Betulius Profile Products, LLC/Turf
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 Ed Biernacki South River Board of Ed.
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Spring Field Day 2009: Kingsway High School and Coombs Sod Farm

By Debbie Savard and Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

(Continued from page 1)

Sean Connell, owner of **Georgia Golf Construction**. His machine takes out all the guess work when setting grades. George Bannerman demonstrated his infield grooming machine. Board member Scott Bills from **Northern Nurseries** had arranged for a fascinating mound building demonstration in collaboration with Ron Martin. These guys really know their business and, I'm sure that everyone learned lots of tricks of the trade, both in field construction and helping their team perform at their best.

We then moved over to the softball field where Tony Leonard from the Philadelphia Eagles headed a logo painting demonstration as performed by our host Kevin Shipman. Paint mixtures and application were discussed as Kevin painted a big "K" in his outfield. The stencil was generously provided by **World Class Paint**.

Lunch and pesticide credit education at Coombs Sod Farm, Elmer, NJ

After packing everything up, we headed over to **Coombs Sod Farm**. A wonderful catered buffet lunch was provided by our host John Coombs in his pole barn that he had actually carpeted with sod just for our event.

As lunch settled, SFMANJ Board Member Brad Park, Rutgers University, gave a very informative talk on pesticide sprayer calibration. Pesticide credits were awarded later.

An inside look at Coombs Sod Farm

After lunch and the pesticide lecture it was off to visit the sod farm. John had thought of everything and rented a bus to take attendees out to see the sod harvesters at work. Many of our group had never seen a sod harvesting operation and the precision at which it was done.

John Coombs is the eighth generation of his family to cultivate this land where potatoes, corn, soybeans, spinach and string beans are grown. In 1999, John began to include turfgrass sod as part of a crop rotation program. A feature of this crop rotation is that insect, disease and weed problems that can affect one crop rarely reach alarming proportions because just as the pest become a problem, the host crop is gone, replaced by a much different crop. The pests leave confused. The result is reduced fertilizer and pesticide inputs and ultimately reduced production costs.

On the bus tour, we passed fields of Kentucky bluegrass and turf type tall fescue sod in various stages of the production cycle. We drove alongside one of 11 center-pivot irrigation systems on the farm, a method of crop irrigation in which equipment rotates around a pivot and a circular area is irrigated, often creating a circular pattern in crops when viewed from an airplane. The turf receives about an inch of water each time it is irrigated and it takes about 3 days for the pivot to travel 360 degrees to the starting point.

(Continued on page 6)

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Spring Field Day 2009: Kingsway High School and Coombs Sod Farm

By Debbie Savard and
Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

(Continued from page 5)

Turfgrass is mowed at 2 inches using three 22 foot wide rotary mowers pulled by 55 hp tractors. "Unlike traditional sod farms which use reel mowers for their mowing, we machine our rotary mower blades to exacting tolerances that make (the blades) as sharp as razors. But we also use a fairway mower to mow turf at the shorter heights for our golf course customers" said Coombs.

Coombs Farms sells both traditional slabs of sod rolled-up and palletized in 500 square foot units or 300 square foot big rolls popular with sports field managers. The Trebro sod harvesting machine operates in a laser guided straight line and cuts, rolls, and stacks the sod rolls in alternating courses on a pallet until it is full. Big roll sod is harvested using a different type of harvesting machine, smaller than the Trebro, and requires a 3 person team.

After the tour, we awarded the pesticide credits and held a door prize raffle with items that were donated by our very supportive vendors. The prizes were so numerous that almost everyone went home with something and if they missed out, John Coombs generously made sure that everyone got a Coombs Farm tee shirt. It was a great day and a good time was had by all that participated.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this field day a success!

Thank you to all of our vendors who supported us and provided us with information, demonstrations and great door prizes. Thank you to our hosts, Larry Lore and Kevin Shipman at Kingsway Regional High School and John and Donna Coombs at Coombs Sod Farm. Thank you to Brad Park for the IPM talk. And thank all of you who attended.

Be sure to check out our web site for updates on coming events: www.sfmanj.org

Hope to see you at our next field day!

Debbie Savard is SFMANJ Executive Secretary.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM);

Director, Athletic Facilities & Grounds, Salesianum School; and President, SFMANJ.

DID YOU KNOW?

SFMANJ will hold a Fall Field Day on September 23, 2009 in Monroe Township, NJ. The softball field at Monroe Township was awarded the 2008 SFMANJ Field of the Year.



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UNDERSTANDING WHAT A SEED TAG MEANS TO YOU

By Jim Gavigan, CSFM

What is in the bag of seed I am buying? Am I getting the best for my dollar? Are there things in the bag I do not want?

All these questions can be answered by understanding what is actually on a seed tag and what it means to me.

Let's go over what components make up the seed tag.

- Shippers name and addresses required on all seed labels
- Lot number – location where seed was blended, year of production, sequence of blend
- % Purity is the % by weight of the bag for each component
- Component is the cultivar or specie of seed (see below referring to BLUE TAG)
- % Germ is the % germination of each component, most producers will max out at 90-95% to allow for regulatory testing variances
- Origin indicates the US state or country grown
- Other Ingredients
 1. Other Crop Seed indicates % content of seed from Ag. crop not listed on components
 2. Inert Matter indicates % content of chaff, stem or other product not listed as seed
 3. Weed Seed is the % of seed not defined by component or crop %
- Noxious Weeds indicates any seed found that are defined as noxious by state or federal law
- Test Date is the month and date of last germination test
- AMS Number indicates that the seed labeler is registered with the USDA agriculture marketing

Now let's look at how all this impacts your decision making process!!

First off we need to know if the seed we are buying is still as viable as the tag says. If the test date does not fit into the required time line for sale, BE WEARY. Each state has their own time line of how long a seed product can be sold. If it falls outside of that timeline it needs to be recertified in order to be sold. Buying old seed can affect the % germination.

Next we need to know if the % purity meets our needs for the blend of seed specified in a specification.

Blending Turf type tall fescues, Perennial rye and Kentucky bluegrass in the wrong %'s will lead to problems down the line of different species out growing and over growing your desired mix.

Choosing the proper components is critical for success. This refers back to % purity because we need to know the proper mix of different specie to meet our needs. Next we need to know if the cultivars we are choosing are best suited for our unique growing environment. Always research your needs by using the National Turf Evaluation Program (NTEP.ORG) to be sure you are choosing the proper cultivar to withstand the inherent problems in your field or environment. Also refer to the RUTGERS TURFGRASS PROCEEDINGS for data pertinent to each cultivar under New Jersey conditions. Remember choosing the right cultivar can reduce or eliminate problems down the road in the future and reduce or eliminate the need for expensive pesticides. Here is where the need for

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The % germ or germination will lead us to the PURE LIVE SEED calculations. (See below for explanation of calculations)

It is critical to understand exactly what NOXIOUS WEED means. Many states list weeds that are more of a contaminant to agriculture than turf as NOXIOUS WEED. Therefore, in many states, turf contaminants such as *Poa annua*, *Poa trivialis* and orchardgrass do not have to be listed on the seed tag as noxious. In NJ, Pa., De. And Md. UNDESIRABLE GRASS SEED must be listed as NOXIOUS WEED.

(Continued on page 18)

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What's a Field Day?

By Pedro Perdomo

Editor's note:

This article first appeared in the Spring 2009 edition of NJTA Clippings & Green World

As a Rutgers grad and member of New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA), I have been to many field days over the years. While having a conversation with a friend recently, I came to realize that there are still a few people that have not attended and are not familiar with what field day has to offer. I thought I would take a few lines to give an overview and encourage all interested parties to attend.

The Rutgers Turfgrass Field Days are an annual event where the Rutgers Farms that devote space to Turfgrass research invite the public in to see what is new and exciting in the Turfgrass world. The two-day event is divided into golf and fine turf on one day with the second day concentrating on lawns and athletic fields. The number of people attending can get quite

large so we split the attendees into three smaller groups. Don't worry though, because the groups will be rotated and everyone will have the opportunity to visit each and every scheduled stop on greens and fairways, how to avoid failure of crabgrass pre-emergent

Visit the event and you will quickly notice that there is a real world approach to doing research at Rutgers. Questions that the industry may have on such things as cultural management of disease, managing water use on greens and fairways, how to avoid failure of crabgrass pre-emergent applications, and what are the best grass varieties to use for specific situations

(continued on page 14)

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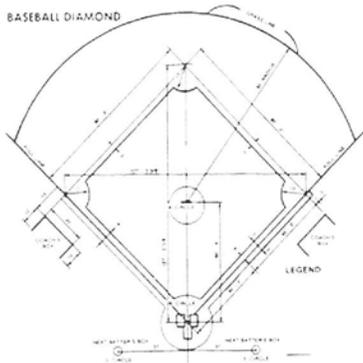
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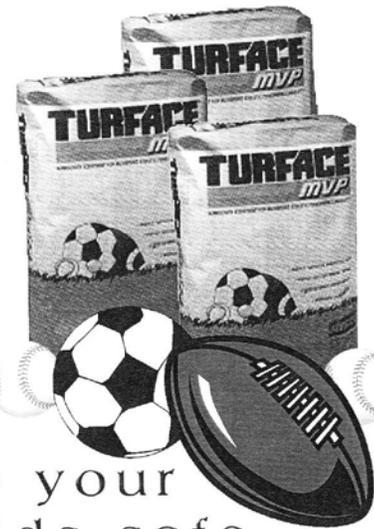
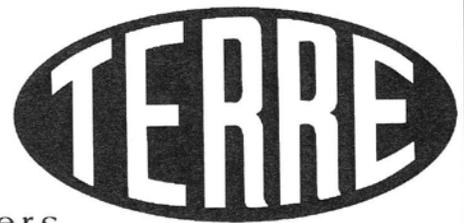
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2009 Calendar of Events

2009 Rutgers Golf and Fine Turf Research Field Day

August 4, 2009

New Jersey Turfgrass Assoc. and Rutgers University
Hort. Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ
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2009 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Research Field Day SFMANJ-sponsored trade show and equipment demos included

August 5, 2009

New Jersey Turfgrass Assoc.,
SFMANJ, and Rutgers University
Adelphia Research Farm, Adelphia, NJ
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2009 Fall Field Day

September 23, 2009

Sports Field Mgrs. Assoc. of NJ
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New Jersey Green Expo 2009

December 8-10, 2009

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Understanding Synthetic Fields

February 23, 2010

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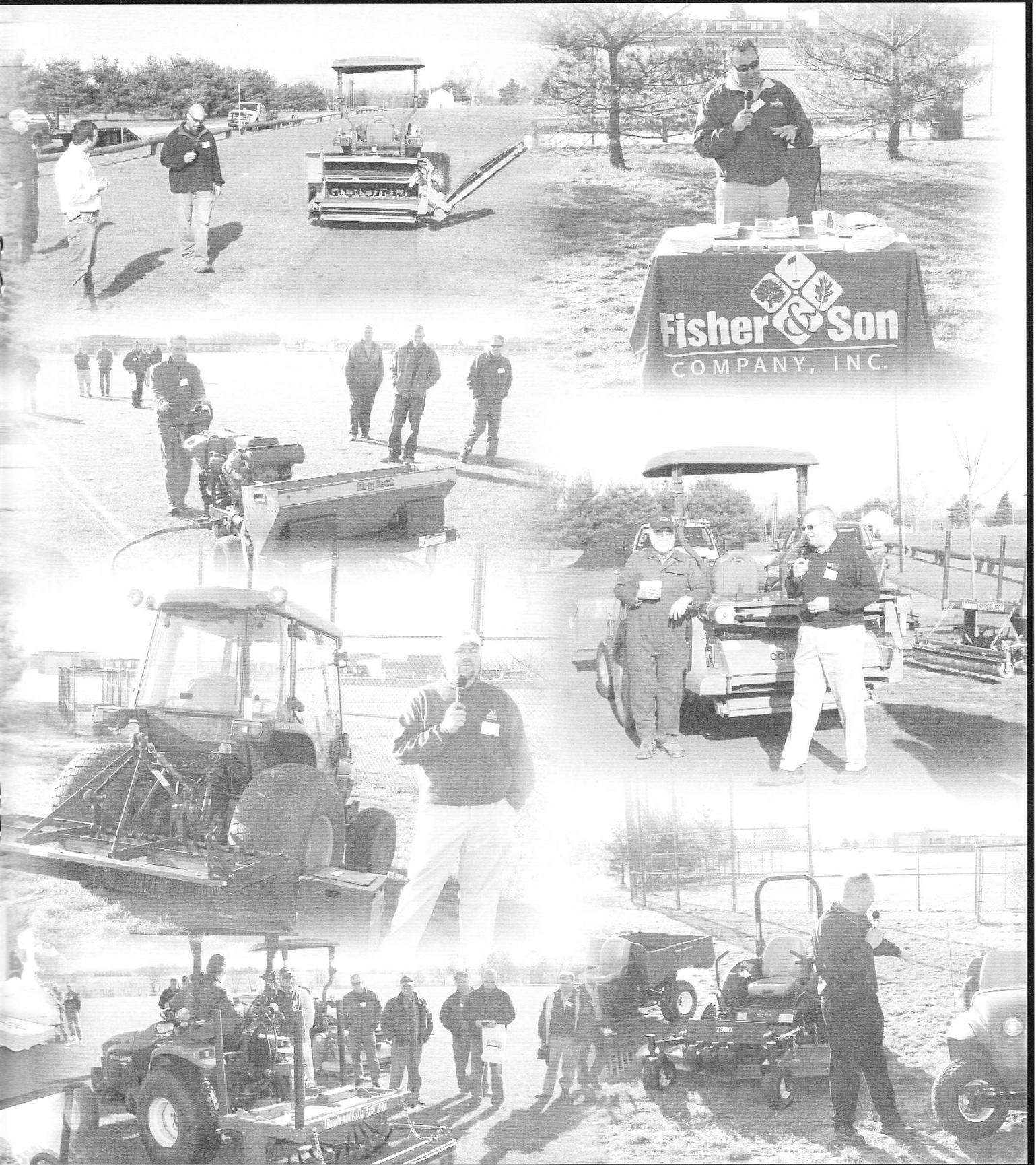
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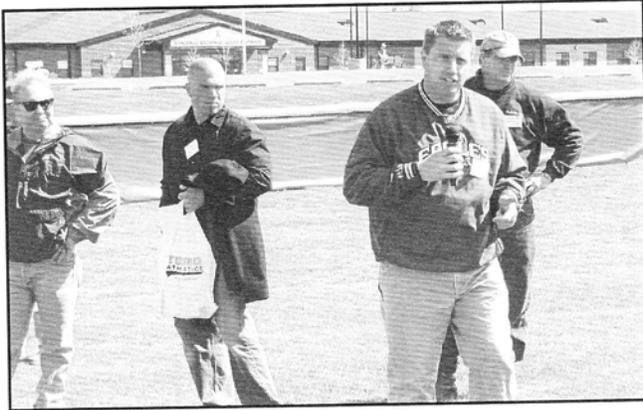
Equipment

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ay High School, Woolwich Township, NJ



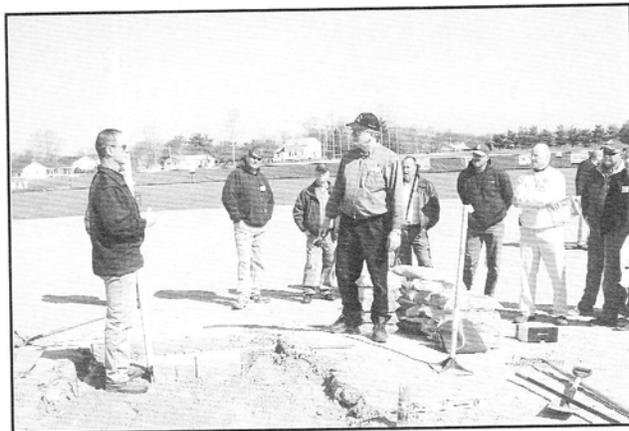
Spring Field Day, April 9, 2009: Kingsway High School and Coombs Sod Farm



Logo creation:
Tony Leonard, Philadelphia Eagles



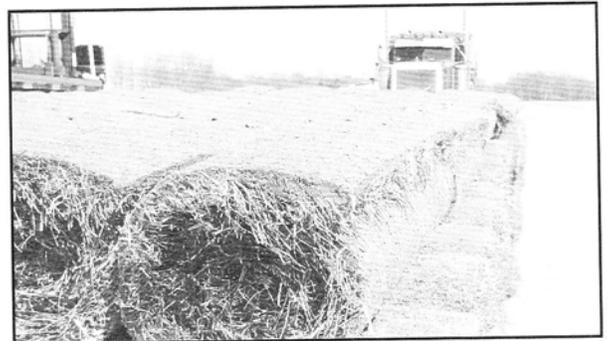
Kingsway High School Football Field:
Kevin Shipman



Mound construction:
Scott Bills, Northern Nurseries and
Ron Martin, Mar-Co Clay Products



Skin surface laser grading:
Sean Connell, Georgia Golf Construction



Sod rolls: Coombs Sod Farm



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What's a Field Day?

(continued from page 8)

are answered here. The researchers will highlight what they have found and what are other questions still need to be answered. For those of you needing pesticide credits you will find a healthy amount of pesticide credits for New Jersey and many neighboring states.

If you get the opportunity to attend this year make sure you bring your questions. You may also want to bring a notepad to write down all of the tips that you will get during the day. Also, bring your appetite because the barbeque style lunch has become a field day tradition. And save room for the brownies.

Perdro Perdomo is Director of Research & Regulatory Affairs, Cleary Chemical Corporation; and Board Member and Field Days Chairman, NJTA.

Just a Reminder:

SFMANJ has a new address and phone number:

**P.O. Box 205
Pennsville, NJ 08070
856-514-3179**

Our mail and phone calls have been forwarded since last August, however that will soon stop.

Please advise your administrators of our new address and phone number.

Also, our new email address is :

mail@sfmanj.org

Thank You!

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SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest 2009

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey is announcing its annual
Field of the Year (FOY) contest.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be a current member of SFMANJ
- Only school and parks/recreation fields are eligible
- Must be a natural grass field/fields

CRITERIA:

Award will be presented basis:

- Playability and appearance of the playing surfaces
- Describe your maintenance program and what you did to improve your field
- Describe yearly budget used for this field
- Feel free to have sports groups in your photo



Monroe Township Softball Field - SFMANJ
Field of the Year 2009

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY:

Entries are to be submitted by mail and must be received by September 30, 2009. Entries are limited to 10 color photos. Please include the name, location and owner of the facility, along with your name, position, and contact number.

Mail to:
SFMANJ 2009 FOY Contest
PO Box 205
Pennsville, NJ 08070

OR Email:
hq@sfmanj.org

AWARDS:

Winner will be honored with a plaque at New Jersey Turfgrass and Landscape Conference & Expo in December 2009 and will be featured in an article in SFMANJ *Update* newsletter. The winner will also receive a two-night stay at the Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City and three days of education and trade show admission at Expo 2009.

NOTE:

Photos will **not** be returned and may be used on SFMANJ website and promotional settings.

THE POLITICS OF SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT - PART 3 OF A SERIES

Power and Control - Do We Really Have Any?

By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

For many, the thought of Organizational Politics conjures up images of people being manipulated and hard fought power struggles. We all want to be in control. After all, control means power. Power helps you get things done so more control seems to equal more power. Or, said another way, if not to control everything around us, at least to not let external forces control and manipulate us. For the less Machiavellian among us, we just want to go to work, do a good job and not be hassled by people. Like it or not, conflicts with people, whether it's the people we work for, work with, or deal with in some way make us feel like someone else is in the driver's seat. We feel powerless and not in control.

The truth is, I have very little power. I have no power over the people I come in contact with, the places where I work or things I use to do my job. People still do what people do. Some years my sports fields are better than other years. I have some influence of course, but I really don't control the outcome. I have no power or control over the weather. Well maintained machinery occasionally fails. I have no power over whether a delivery of materials shows up when I specify it. People don't do what they promise. Budgets get cut. Sometimes things just happen.

That's it. Powerless!

But I don't have to be defeated. Especially, if I take care of myself, keep my attitude under control, and I keep things in the proper perspective.

Here is the paradox. By knowing what I have no power over means that I don't have to waste what power I do have on the things that I have no power over. And that is empowering!

For example, when a game has to be to be played in the rain, my field is probably going to be trashed. I might not have the power to stop the game, but I can do two things. First, I need to find acceptance of the things I cannot change. Why? I cannot control the weather, or what people do. It is what it is. If I can't change it, I don't have to worry about it because I can't control it. All I have to do is accept it. I don't even have to like it. Now I have to do the second thing - I have to deal with it. If I know my capabilities, the limits of my authority, and use my tools and talents to change the things I can; here is what I can do:

- I can advise the decision maker the consequences of playing on a saturated field.
- I can adjust my turf management program to the conditions.
- I can submit a detailed itemized bill for field repair.
- I can use tact respect and diplomacy when dealing with people.

Notice that in these last statements, I have self control. That is my power. If I take care of myself by tending to my basic needs - not be hungry, angry, and lonely or tired - I have a better chance of maintaining self control. So you see, I might not be able to control the outcome, but I don't have to make it worse. My advantage is I am only responsible for what I control, not what I can't control.

I just need to know what I have to accept and what I have to change. The skill is in knowing what is no longer acceptable, what needs to be changed, how and when. But please remember, that when the winds of change blow hard enough, the most trivial of things can become deadly projectiles.

NEXT ISSUE: Putting it all to Work- Best Practices for Dealing with People

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and President, SFMANJ

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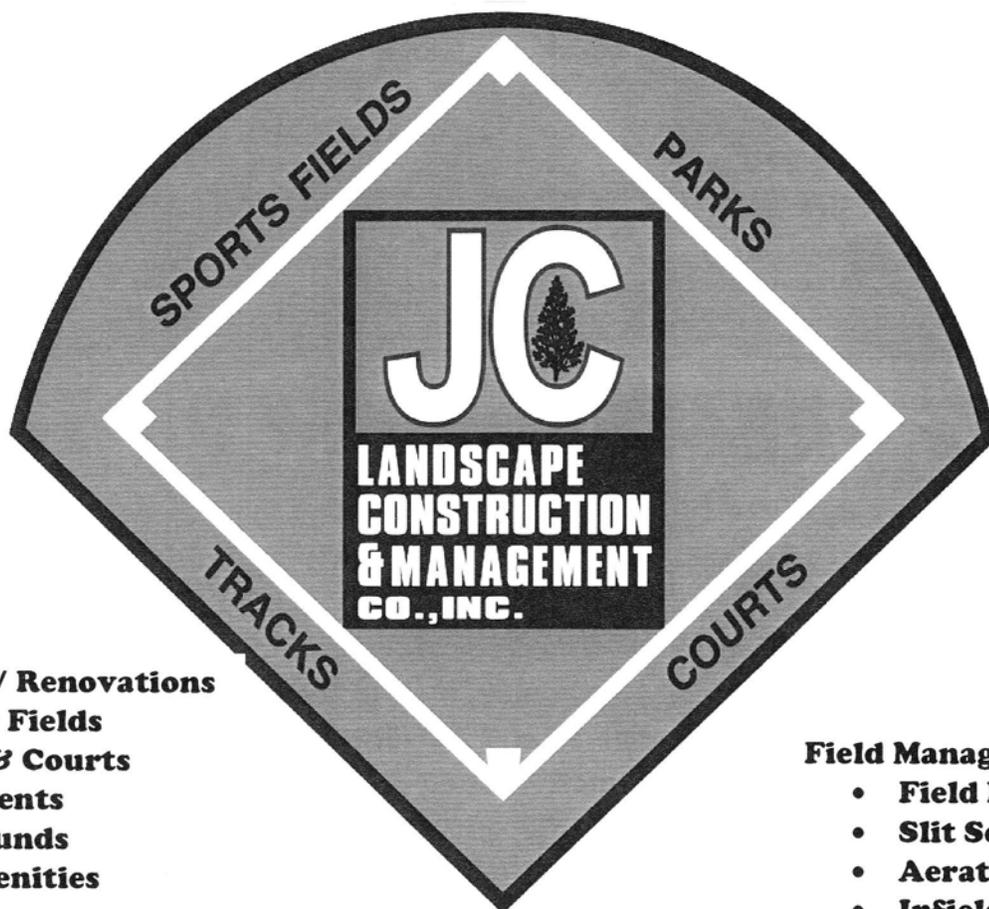
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References Available Upon Request

UNDERSTANDING WHAT A SEED TAG MEANS TO YOU

By Jim Gavigan, CSFM

(Continued from page 7)

Now, let's take a look at the actual copy of a seed tag label to go over PURE LIVE SEED calculations:

Product: SUPERIOR ATHLETIC MIX

LOT NUMBER: M123-7-482 Item: 083201

% PURITY	COMPONENT	% GERM	ORIGIN
29.55	BILTMORE TALL FESCUE	90	OR
24.89	PADRE TALL FESCUE	90	OR
24.63	MAGELLAN TALL FESCUE	90	OR
13.8	LAKESHORE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS	88	OR
5.98	EXCURSION KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS	88	WA

OTHER INGREDIENTS

	NOXIOUS WEEDS
0.02 OTHER CROP SEEDS	NONE FOUND
1.33 INERT MATTER	
0.00 WEED SEED	

DATE TESTED: 07/08

IN CA/NY/NH/NJ/PA/MN SELL BY: 10/09

NET WEIGHT: 50 LBS

SHIP TO:

DC

AMS 635

PURE LIVE SEED CALCULATION

All purity percentages on the seed label are based on the bulk weight of the seed product. The PURE LIVE SEED (PLS) content is defined as the percentage of purity x the percentage of germination. To figure the PLS on the bag, each component should be calculated separately, than added together.

Component	Purity	Germination (%)	Pure Live Seed (%)
Biltmore	29.55	90	26.6
Padre TG	24.69	90	22.22
Magellan TF	24.63	90	22.17
Lakeshore KB	13.8	88	12.14
Excursion KB	5.98	88	5.26
Total PLS (%)			88.39

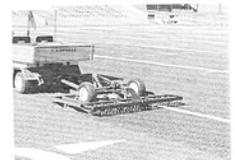
A 50 pound bag of this seed contains 44.20 pounds of PLS (50 lbs x 0.8839)

Jim Gavigan, CSFM is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); and member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors

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