

# UPDATE

## Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

Fall 2012

Vol. 12, No. 3

P.O. Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070 • 856-514-3179 • www.sfmanj.org • e-mail: mail@sfmanj.org

## EXPO 2012:

# DO AC

by Brad Park

*(Editor's note: This article was adapted from materials provided by Sports Turf Managers Association)*

It's time to begin planning your trip to Expo 2012. The New Jersey Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference will be held at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ on December 4-6, 2012. How can you convince your employer to send you?

Continuing education and industry connections are crucial to your success and the success of your sports fields. Here are some suggestions to help your employer understand how your attendance at Expo 2012 can add value to the overall operation of your facility.

### Educate yourself on the Conference and Exhibition

Provide your employer an overview of the size and scope of Expo 2012 and a copy of the education agenda. This edition of SFMANJ Update provides the Sports Field Managers Program for Expo 2012.

Pinpoint specific sessions you plan to attend, and tie their relevance to your sports facility. As part of the Sports Field Managers Program in 2012, the entire Tuesday, December 4 afternoon session is focused on School IPM. It is anticipated that tough-to-acquire New Jersey DEP Category 13 credits will be awarded for attendance at this session.

Highlight the trade show and cite suppliers and equipment manufacturers you plan to meet. Discuss the networking opportunities you will have with peers who share challenges similar to the ones you have.

Explain how innovations in products, new research, and cutting edge management techniques continually change, and why it is important to stay abreast of those changes.

Reinforce how the success of your sports fields ultimately depends upon the continued professional development of you and your staff.

### Know the Cost

Make a case for efficient and effective use of your facility's training dollars. By attending Expo 2012, you will be exposed to the most relevant education and technology in one place, making it the most effective use of training dollars.

Research travel times and hotel costs. While Atlantic City is feasible day trip from almost anywhere in New Jersey, the New Jersey Turfgrass Association does its part to negotiate reasonable room rates at the Trump Taj Mahal to make staying a night reasonable. Expo 2012 will feature online registration at [www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

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SFMANJ-sponsored vendor demonstrations generated significant attendee interest at the annual Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm on August 1, 2012.

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# Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 220 new & renewed members. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey mailed invoices for 2012 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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Continued from page 1

## EXPO 2012 DO AC

### Have an Action Plan

Develop a plan for how operations will continue in your absence. Make sure you are accessible by phone (please turn off or set on vibrate during sessions!!!!) to address any concerns that might arise in your absence.

Consider preparing and presenting a report on the information you learned and how you plan to put it into practice at your facility. Demonstrate how you will share the technical information learned with your staff for their continuing educational development.

### Let's DO AC in December!

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

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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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Sports Turf Managers Association

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*This newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the  
**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.***

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



# A Message from the President

By Matt Olivi

**T**he dog days of summer are behind us and we are well into what might be our busiest time of year. We are already looking forward to next year's challenges as we sow the seed for a healthy turf next spring. Sports field managers are always required to be one step ahead of the game. However, before we move forward, let's quickly reflect upon what we have done over the summer. On August 1, Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) held its annual summer trade show in collaboration with the New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA) at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Facility in Freehold, NJ. Despite the weather taking a turn for the worst, the event still proved to be a great success. Our commercial members were greatly supportive this year and we nearly exceeded our capacity for vendor booths. Although the weather cut our equipment demonstrations short, attendees still had plenty of face time with suppliers and industry professionals. Thanks to all of you who were able to take part in the event. The contributions of commercial members at this year's event has greatly contributed to the financial health and good standing of our chapter. Your continued support will always be appreciated by the entire membership.

Now that we are well passed the halfway point this year we are looking forward to a strong finish. As mentioned earlier, we always try to stay a season ahead of the game. We are all aware that what we do in fall will pave the way for our spring field maintenance programs. So, this fall we'll be returning to Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School for our Fall Field Day event. On November 8, SFMANJ will be sponsoring a Baseball Field Maintenance Clinic featuring our local Minor League Field Managers. Our all-star line-up will include Ryan Radcliffe, Ryan Hills, Bill Butler, Dan Purner, Will Reardon and host Ray Cipperly. The professionals will be speaking on topics such as mound construction, grass cutting techniques, line painting, infield skin maintenance and more. Be sure to join us and pick up some useful tips and effective strategies for maintaining your fields.

In case you can't make it out to East Brunswick in November, we'll all be meeting again in December at the Expo 2012 Conference in Atlantic City New Jersey. The three day conference will be held December 4-6. This year's Sports Field educational program will include Speakers such as Vickie Wallace (University of Connecticut), Brad Park (Rutgers University), Don Savard, CSFM and more. If you need NJ pesticide applicator recertification credits this will be the event to attend. Also, it's never too early


to start planning your trip to the national STMA convention in January of 2013. This year's national event is right here on the east coast and will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida. For more information visit [stma.org](http://stma.org) and click on conferences.

STMA leadership training is always a great resource for sports field managers. Our New Jersey chapter has always benefited from having our members attend national events and/or involving themselves with our parent organization. We are very fortunate to have another CSFM and former STMA board member, Kevin Merideth, join our chapter recently. Kevin's experience in the industry speaks for itself and we welcome him into our local association.

Moving forward, SFMANJ will continue to keep you updated on legislative issues and developments that effect our day-to-day operations and field managers. Our legislative committee continues to work with the New Jersey Green Industry Council (NJGIC), State representatives and other interested parties. Please contact us if you ever have any questions or concerns relating to legislative affairs. We always encourage you to participate and provide the SFMANJ board of directors with feedback. Let us know how we're doing and how we can help you. There's nothing we can't accomplish when we work together.

*Matt Olivi is Sports Field Manager, Piscataway Board of Education, Piscataway, NJ; and SFMANJ President*

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# "SAFE PLAYING FIELDS":

## What does it really mean?

### Part 2


By Rich Watson

Speaking of pests, sometimes even with your custom fertility plan in place and an overseeding program enacted things can still go wrong. The School IPM Act is the law that schools in NJ abide by when it comes to dealing with pests. Integrated Pest Management is often a misunderstood term. The EPA has a great definition for IPM. It is an approach to pest management that blends all available management techniques- nonchemical and chemical- into one strategy: Monitor pest problems, use nonchemical pest control and resort to pesticides when pest damage exceeds an economic or aesthetic threshold. The NJ school IPM law is a little more restrictive than that. If pest problems persist with non-chemical options (proper mowing/irrigation, aeration, seeding with appropriate varieties and soil monitoring/testing) being implemented, the law requires that you consider a low-impact pesticide from a predetermined list of products before making a restricted pesticide application. In my mind it is a very simple process. By performing good cultural practices in conjunction with proper fertility and a good seeding program, you can do some impressive things with your turf. However, it is the sports turf manager's job to take responsible action when pest stresses start exceeding thresholds and put field safety at risk.

Gaining an understanding of pest problems through education and knowing where to set your thresholds are the keys to a good IPM program. We live with a lot of things on our fields and choose to treat only after thresholds are exceeded and field quality as related to safety is in question. We have considered the limited list of low-impact pesticides provided in the law. Reading the Rutgers report: "Managing Turf using Low Impact Pesticides" was very helpful in shaping our decision.

Last year the cost and efficacy of these products did not allow us to use them in our turf program. We are currently evaluating this decision for the upcoming year. Hopefully some day there will be an expanded list of products to choose from. When the decision is made to apply a pesticide, we give consideration to reduced risk products first if they are available. After a product is selected, we look at the field's history to decide what part of the field needs to be sprayed. A spot application may be in order or maybe just the middle of the field is compromised. Sometimes it may be necessary to spray the entire playing surface, but not the buffer areas surrounding the field.

*Continued on page 17*



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# Question & Answer

## with Rutgers University

By Brad Park and Dr. Jim Murphy., Rutgers University

**Q:** I am being told by my facility manager that using weed preventer or weed killer on school grounds is illegal. Can anyone shed some light on this?

**A:** Herbicide use (i.e. weed preventers, weed killers, etc) is permissible on school sports fields and grounds as long as the application(s) is made in accordance with the New Jersey School IPM Act. The specifics of the Law can be found at the website of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office: <http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/IPM/SchoolIPM/index.htm>

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) calls for employing a variety of strategies (i.e. proper mowing, fertilization, seeding, cultivation, irrigation, etc), in lieu of routine pesticide applications, to keep pest within acceptable limits. However, IPM does allow for synthetic pesticide use to manage pest problems when limits have been exceeded.

For example, it is NOT consistent with the principles of IPM to make a postemergence broadleaf herbicide application for control of white clover and dandelions when weeds are not present.

As another IPM example, documentation/records should be generated indicating those sports fields and grounds locations where crabgrass populations have exceeded acceptable limits in August and September. Late summer and fall cultural strategies should include cultivation, seeding, fertilization, regular mowing and proper irrigation. Implementation of these practices should also be documented. In spring of the following year, the use of a preemergence herbicide should be based on whether or not additional seed is required. If turf cover is still lacking, the choice should be to seed and not apply a preemergence herbicide as most preemergence herbicides will also inhibit the establishment of new seedings. If turf cover is deemed sufficient, and documentation has been generated indicating that the field has a history of crabgrass encroachment, the application of a preemergence herbicide is justifiable.

Note that the New Jersey School IPM Act requires consideration of low-impact pesticide options when solving pest problems. Corn gluten meal is a low-impact pesticide that can provide some preemergence control of crabgrass. However, limited product efficacy should be expected where crabgrass populations have been severe and where application rates are limited by the 2011 NJ Fertilizer Law.

Additional resources on the School IPM Act include: Rutgers Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office, (o) 848.932.9801; and New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection Pesticide Control Program, (o) 609.984.6507

I hope this helps to clarify this often confusing issue. - bsp

**Q:** I understand that an organic program is not only environmentally correct but fast becoming a politically correct direction to move with athletic field fertility. If a person has been in diligent in his fertilizer program and to date has balanced P & K in the soil to where there is little or none required, it would seem an organic fertilizer cannot be utilized since there are none (to my knowledge) that do not include P & K in their composition.

**A:** There are not many organic fertilizers that do not contain P and/or K but there are some including: Blood Meal is made from dried slaughterhouse waste and is one of the highest non-synthetic sources of nitrogen. If over-applied, it can burn plants with excessive ammonia.

Feather Meal is sourced from poultry slaughter and meal has fairly high nitrogen levels but is slow to release the nitrogen

Corn gluten meal materials have a high percentage of nitrogen. It carries a warning to allow 1 to 4 months of decomposition in the soil prior to seeding. Allelopathic properties will inhibit the germination of seeds. However, there is no danger to established or transplanted plants. This product is also marketed as a pre-emergent weed control for annual grasses in lawns.

See <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/mg/gardennotes/234.html#alfalfa> for more examples of organic fertilizers.

Note that NJ law allows certified and trained professionals to apply organic fertilizers containing available phosphate as long as the application rate is no more than 0.25 pounds of available phosphate per 1,000 square feet, which, for many organic fertilizers, greatly restricts how much nitrogen can be applied with that product. See [https://profact.rutgers.edu/Pages/training\\_module.aspx?CID=48](https://profact.rutgers.edu/Pages/training_module.aspx?CID=48) for more details on phosphate restrictions in NJ. – JAM

**Q:** I was hoping I could ask you for your opinion on the following. We are going to be having our soccer/lacrosse game field scalped, mix in some sand without topsoil as the field is tilled about 6 inches down. We have good draining soil and a

*Continued on page 9*

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# Making Plans for NEXT YEAR

by Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

How well did your sports field do this past year? Did it look and play as you expected it to? Are you satisfied with the results? Many sports field managers' review the past year and make plans (and budgets) now for the upcoming year. It is time to take an honest, hard look at how well the 2012 program worked so that you will know what to keep and what to change. Not sure where to start? Here's a hint: Ask your crew, your owners and user groups for their thoughts. Their answers might surprise you.

Were there any injuries on your fields? Safety is always a good place to start. Even if you were fortunate that nobody had an injury, there may be problems out there waiting to happen. You probably have walked by these potential accidents so many times that you don't notice them anymore. Ask a qualified third party (such as a trusted fellow sports field manager from another facility) to bring fresh eyes to your site. You will be amazed at what someone else will find questionable at your facility. Be sure to document every deficiency with a digital camera, then correct and document again after the corrections are made.

Do your fields play well? Are the surfaces fast or slow enough for the level of play? Do balls roll or bounce with expected predictability? Coaches and players (including those from visiting teams) can give you important feedback. You won't know unless you ask! Drastic changes like buying new mowing equipment might make a big improvement, but, so can subtle changes like adjusting mowing heights or mowing frequency.

Many of us have to schedule our cultural practices around the field users. Do we have the flexibility to adjust our schedules so that we don't have to mow grass when it covered with dew? Can early morning, evening or weekend work schedules be used to safely perform tasks that would otherwise not have time to be done?

How effective is your irrigation? The goal here is to provide enough water to the turf when it needs it, factoring in the amount of natural rainfall and the normal moisture loss due to

*Continued on page 13*



## 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  
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# Question & Answer

Continued from page 6

## with Rutgers University

nice sand based silt reading on our tests. My questions to you: What would you recommend as a mixture for our turf? We are going to be getting sod laid down and this is probably going to be in mid to late august, so any advice on thickness of the sod would also be great. We do have an irrigation system in place and will remain through this construction.

Background information this is our first year of women's lacrosse so it is the first time our field will be used in the spring. We have two soccer teams in the fall, we do have a second practice field that is heavily used by all three teams during both fall and spring.

**A:** Based on your comments, I'm not necessarily sold on the incorporation of sand into the existing topsoil, particularly if it is already well-drained. Depending on soil test results you may be better served with ensuring that the surface is laser-graded prior to sod installation and there is a 1.5% crown in-place.

On the issue of sod, I'd lean towards 100% Kentucky bluegrass - particularly if you have irrigation available. If play is scheduled for the field until Spring 2013, I suggest a 'normal' thickness of cut (approximately 0.25 to 0.5-inch soil).

Be sure to spec non-netted sod!

As soccer and lacrosse are traffic-intensive sports, budget for a rigorous perennial ryegrass overseeding program following opening of the field as field centers and goal creases will wear-out. - bsp

*Brad Park (bsp) is Sports Turf Education and Research Coordinator, Rutgers University; Editor, SFMANJ Update Newsletter; and member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.*

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

## Deadline Extended to Oct 31 for the SFMANJ Field of the Year?

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# Vendor re-cap of Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day 2012, August 1, 2012



# Trade show and vendor demos sponsored by SFMANJ Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, Adelphia, NJ

By Debbie Savard, SFMANJ and Brad Park, Rutgers University



# 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 clumped 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.

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### 2012 Sports Field Managers Expo Program

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2012**

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

**1:00 – 1:45** **Establishing pest threshold levels on school grounds**

*Don Savard, CSFM, CGM, Salesianum School, Wilmington, DE*

**1:45 – 2:15** **Turf selection to minimize pesticide inputs on school sports fields and grounds**

*Vickie Wallace, University of Connecticut*

**2:15 – 2:45** **Cultural strategies to reduce weed encroachment on school sports fields and grounds**

*Dr. Roch Gaussoin, University of Nebraska*

**2:45 – 3:00** **SFMANJ Field of the Year Presentation**

**3:00 – 4:00** **The NJ School IPM Law: What you need to know to comply**

*Dr. Roy Meyer and Tim Boyle, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection, Pesticide Control Program*

**4:00 – 7:00** **Trade show**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5, 2012**

#### MORNING SESSION

**7:30 - 8:30** **Early bird sports field managers**

*Networking roundtable*

**8:30 – 9:00** **Annual Business Meeting**

**9:00 – 9:30** **The year in review**

*Brad Park, Rutgers University*

**9:30 – 10:15** **Sports field management at Hammonton High School**

*Frank LoSasso, Hammonton BOE*

**10:15-11:00** **Best management practices for high traffic sports fields**

*Vickie Wallace, University of Connecticut*

**11:00-11:30** **Cultivation practices for sports fields**

*Dr. Doug Karcher, University of Arkansas*

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

**2:30 – 3:00** **Management of sports fields & grounds in Monroe Township, NJ**

*Virgil Caputo, Monroe Township, NJ*

**3:30 – 5:00** **Tales from the Minor Leagues**

*Ryan Hills, Trenton Thunder  
Will Reardon, Newark Bears  
Dan Purner, Somerset Patriots*



## Making Plans for NEXT YEAR

*Continued from page 8*

evaporation and plant transpiration (evapotranspiration). Does your soil absorb the water being delivered, or is there runoff and puddling? Is the distribution uniform or are there both saturated and dry spots? Does the time of day that you irrigate promote plant health or plant disease? An irrigation audit is a useful tool to measure how efficiently your irrigation system and watering program is working. For information on how to conduct an irrigation audit, visit the Irrigation Association website: [www.irrigation.org](http://www.irrigation.org). Not only does smart irrigation promote better turfgrass health, it saves money and does not waste your time.

Fertilizer certification and School IPM laws have been getting plenty of attention in New Jersey (and elsewhere) lately. Take the time to read and completely understand what is being asked of you. While there are some new guidelines to follow, you will still be allowed to perform the tasks of feeding turf and managing weeds, insects and diseases. Regularly scheduled soil tests and scouting for problems allows you customize your program to your environmental conditions. Based on my sports field's soil test results, I have been able to eliminate Phosphorus and Potassium from some fertilizer applications without sacrificing quality and saving lots of money. "P" and "K" are expensive. Why buy it if you don't need it?

The end of the year is a good time to ask yourself how well you interacted with and treated the people around you. These include your family, coworkers, bosses, user groups and the people who sell to you and provide you with services. If your relationships with any or all of those people are damaged, look inward and try to find some understanding of the problem and what part you might have played. I can attest (from firsthand experience) that some of my damaged relationships improved when I reached out and made amends.

Lastly, what have you done for yourself lately in terms of personal and professional development? Have you taken a class, or read a book lately. Personal development keeps you sharp and competitive. It energizes you and gives you personal power. Remember, if you are not pedaling, you are coasting, and if you coast long enough, you are headed downhill.

*Don Savard, CSFM, CGM is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM); Certified Grounds Manager (CGM), Sports Turf Manager, Salesianum School, Wilmington Delaware; Past-President, SFMANJ; and current member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.*



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# 2012-2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Turf Trade-Sponsored Field Day  
September 26, 2012  
Kingsway Regional High School  
Woolwich Township, NJ  
856.478.6704

SFMANJ Fall Field Day  
November 8, 2012  
Middlesex County Vo-Tech High School  
East Brunswick, NJ  
856.514.3179  
www.sfmanj.org

NJ State League of Municipalities  
November 13-15, 2012  
Atlantic City Convention Center  
Atlantic City, NJ  
609.695.3481  
www.njslom.org

New Jersey Green Expo  
December 4-6, 2012  
Trump Taj Mahal  
Atlantic City, NJ  
973.812.6467  
www.njturfgrass.org

STMA Annual Conference  
January 15-19, 2013  
Daytona Beach, FL  
800.323.3875  
www.stma.org

2013 Rutgers NJAES OCPE Courses  
Organic Turfgrass Management  
January 29, 2013

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Sports Turf

February 12, 2013

Baseball & Softball Skin Surface Selection & Management

February 20, 2013

Two-Day Athletic Field Maintenance

February 21-22, 2013

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*In Loving Memory of*

**KARL A. "CHUCKIE" SINGER, JR.**

SFMANJ member and former member of our Board of Directors passed away on Saturday, September 8, 2012 at the Bayonne Medical Center at the age of 54.

Chuckie was the Coordinator of Maintenance Services for the Bayonne Department of Public Works. He had also served his country proudly in the United States Army.

Chuckie was very active in the Bayonne Little League and the Bayonne PAL, both as a coach and manager. He was a NJ State Official for baseball and basket-ball and was also a member of the Screen Actors Guild of NYC.

Chuckie was laid to rest on September 14, 2012 at the Holy Cross Cemetery in Bayonne, NJ.

*Our hearts go out to Chuckie's family  
in this time of sorrow.*



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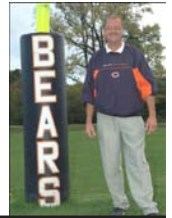
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# FALL PREPARATION AND FIELD MANAGEMENT



**Surface Athletics** works closely with other industry professionals to provide relevant information to organizations like the *Sports Turf Managers Association of New Jersey*. If you're just getting started on your fall turf maintenance program, we have a few tips to share, courtesy of Ken Mrock, head groundskeeper of the Chicago Bears. The complete list of turf tips is available at <http://www.turfaced.com/howto/fall-preparation-and-field-management>.

### Tip #3: Establish a seed bank

Begin overseeding your turf prior to the start of the season. Overseed weekly, but at lighter rates (as opposed to a heavy overseeding only once or twice a season). This allows for the establishment of a 'seed bank', through which you always have new germination to take the place of turf that is damaged from foot traffic.

### Tip #4: Aeration is the key to quality turfgrass



Soil compaction is one of the most common causes of weak turf on athletic fields. It is caused by soil particles being squeezed together by high traffic. Compaction reduces the rate at which water moves through the soil, and decreases air space. This prevents grass roots from functioning normally, so they become shallow and eventually die. The result is weak turf with little density and is more subject to injury. Aeration on a regular basis will help combat such problems.

### Tip #6: Topdress with Field & Fairway

On fields where you have existing turf and your grade is what you desire, core aerify in 3 to 4 directions to bring up as much growing medium as possible. Then, apply Field & Fairway at a rate of 750 lbs./1000 ft<sup>2</sup> across the entire area. Use a chain link drag, broom,



or mat drag to break up soil cores and to move your conditioner into the aeration holes. Field & Fairway is an ideal amendment because it doesn't break down over time, providing long-term benefit to your root zone. By aerifying and topdressing regularly, the Field & Fairway will allow the cores to break up much easier after each aeration, keeping the growing medium friable, and allowing it to effectively store nutrients and water.

### Tip #7: Sharpen mower blades or reels



Poorly sharpened mower blades can be extremely damaging to the turf, causing the grass to be ripped instead of being sheered. Be sure to establish a mowing routine that keeps the grass at a manageable and playable height, while never removing more than 1/3 of the leaf blade. If 2" is the desired height, mow before the grass reaches 3".

### Tip #9: Promote effective turf repair and recovery

Spot treat worn or muddy areas by dumping and raking Field & Fairway Emerald. The green coloring of the product provides aesthetic benefit, while the ceramic particles effectively soak up moisture and provide solid footing even through heavy rains. This is ideal treatment for high traffic areas between the hashes on a football field, or in a soccer goal mouth.

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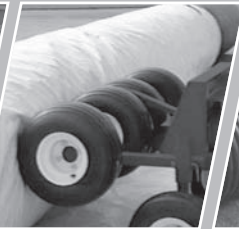
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# "SAFE PLAYING FIELDS":

## What does it really mean?

Continued from page 5

## Part 2

The educated field manager is moving away from blanket spray applications and beginning to treat the field within the field. Every field is different with its own needs and requirements. They need to be treated accordingly. Having a field history report for each field is a great help. In fact it is part of the law for schools. Having a hard copy pest sighting log is too. This is a portion of the law where I have fallen short in the past. Having a field's history in my head or in a notebook does not fulfill the requirements of the School IPM Law.

Moving forward, I have created field log binders for all of our sports fields. It will allow me to track problems and make decisions with all of the information right in front of me. It has taken a long time to get to this point and it wasn't always easy. IPM is a twelve month process that may take some time to implement. A large part of our turf management plan for this

year is based on what took place last year. Sometime you need to look back to move forward. This process may seem like a lot of work to some, but the truth of the matter is Integrated Pest Management is here to stay. For some of us it is the law.

As I see it, the most important product or tool in providing quality turf isn't something you can buy. It rides on a mower, monitors pests, checks soil conditions and usually is the first one in and the last one done every day. Sports turf managers around the state and the country are getting educated and doing whatever it takes to provide truly SAFE PLAYING FIELDS.

*Rich Watson is Sports Field Manager, Pine Hill Public Schools, Pine Hill, NJ and member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.*

*Other members of the Pine Hill Public Schools Sports Field and Grounds staff include, Greg Bunting, Bill Loftus, Tom Crosby, and Carmelo Anguilla.*

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## APPLYING GYPSUM - when is it really needed?

*Continued from page 12*

Removing Na<sup>+</sup> and replacing Ca<sup>++</sup> 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 Na<sup>+</sup>.

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 Na<sup>+</sup>. A Na<sup>+</sup> 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 Na<sup>+</sup>; 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 (CaSO<sub>4</sub>) can be used to supply Ca.** When pH is above 6.7 and Ca is deficient, gypsum instead of lime (CaCO<sub>3</sub>), 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 Na<sup>+</sup>. Sand based systems irrigated with high Na<sup>+</sup> water may have excessive Na<sup>+</sup> on the exchange complex. Since sands do not deflocculate, the high Na<sup>+</sup> 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 Na<sup>+</sup> irrigation water can easily displace Ca<sup>++</sup> and make it deficient in sandy soils with low CEC. Gypsum can be used in this case as a source of Ca<sup>++</sup>. Testing both soil and plants associated with sand based sports turf has revealed that apparently adequate levels of Ca<sup>++</sup> in the rootzone have produced apparently deficient levels of Ca<sup>++</sup> 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 (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 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; and past Board Member, Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA).*



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