

# UPDATE Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey

Summer 2012  
Vol. 12, No. 2

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

## RUTGERS

**LAWN, LANDSCAPE AND SPORTSTURF FIELD DAY:**  
Including Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey-Sponsored  
**Trade Show & Equipment Demos**  
at Rutgers Adelpia Research Farm

By Brad Park, Rutgers University

In what has become an annual tradition, the New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA), Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ), and Rutgers University will once again collaborate to hold the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day at the Rutgers Adelpia Turfgrass Research Farm in Adelpia, NJ on **Wednesday, August 1, 2012.**



Large crowds are always on hand to take-in turfgrass education, network, and observe SFMANJ-sponsored equipment demonstrations at the annual Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day at Rutgers Adelpia Research Farm, Adelpia, NJ.



Early morning fog covers a National Turfgrass Evaluation Program trial at the Rutgers Adelpia Research Farm prior to the Summer Field Day.

The schedule of events and format for integrating educational talks and commercial equipment demonstrations has evolved into a win-win half-day program for both attendees and Green Industry vendors. Field day participant totals at Adelpia have ranged from 317 to 408 during the past five years.

The trade show is sponsored and administered by SFMANJ and is open to all vendors who sell products and services to the Green Industry. Coffee, bagels, Danish pastries, etc. will be served during the trade show. The trade show provides a great opportunity for attendees to network with other Green Industry professionals and examine the latest product offerings from Industry-supporting vendors.

After opening remarks from Rutgers University representatives, the education and equipment demonstration portion of the program will begin at 9:00 am. Attendees will be divided into three groups – the Red group, White group, and Blue group. Attendees will be asked to follow a group leader carrying either a Red, White, or Blue flag for the remainder of the morning program.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Wednesday,**  
**August 1, 2012**

Groups will rotate between three 17-minute tour stops per hour. Two stops will consist of turfgrass education and one stop will consist of equipment demonstrations. There will be four 3-stop rotations between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.

The Adelpia Research Farm is home to the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science Turf Breeding Program. The primary focus of work performed at the farm is the development of new varieties of Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass and fine fescues. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear Rutgers Turf Center faculty describe large field trials consisting of commercially-available varieties and new experimental selections of the major cool-season turfgrass species.

Turfgrass fungicide and herbicide trials are annually conducted by Rutgers Faculty at the Adelpia Farm and are typically included as educational tour stops. Stark contrasts between effective and ineffective treatments are often visually apparent in these trials providing attendees with useful information on product selection, application timings, and application rates.

Green Industry vendors who market turfgrass and landscape equipment or who provide equipment-based contract services are invited to demonstrate their equipment and/or services during a demonstration

*Continued on page 8*

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# Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 198 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.

Joe Bassolino	Florham Park Recreation
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Craig Tolley	County College of Morris
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## Save the Dates!

**Rutgers Lawn,  
Landscape and  
Sports Turf Field Day  
at Adelphia**

**Wednesday, August 1**

**SFMANJ Fall Field Day  
Thursday, November 8**

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### 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:

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*This newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the  
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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

Spring has come and gone and we are off to another great start. We're starting to see the positive results of our off-season preparation efforts and the results of applying newly acquired ideas and field maintenance concepts to our facilities. As the dog days of summer are rapidly approaching, we'll be prepared to adjust our maintenance programs accordingly.

The adjustment of a field maintenance program is a regular practice of a sports field manager. However, there are basic cultural practices that all field managers center their fine-tuning around. This was the theme of the recently held SFMANJ annual Spring Field Day on April 19, 2012. Members of the Association gathered this year at Ginty Field in Morris Township to collaborate on the concepts of regular mowing, aeration, topdressing, overseeding and pest control. After a quick breakfast sponsored by Green Pro Materials and the Viersma Companies, the field day began with an introduction and background presentation of the Ginty Field facility by host Bill Foelsch. Bill shared the site-specific turf maintenance and pest control challenges faced by his field managers with attendees.

Once everyone had become familiar with the facility and its needs, the field day program kicked into action with equipment demonstrations by Storr Tractor Company, Wilfred MacDonald and The Viersma Companies/TurfTime Equipment. Attendees had the opportunity to see some of their options for the high quality equipment that is available to them to perform regular infield skin maintenance. After the demonstrations, there was plenty of time to take a closer look at the equipment and speak with the professional representatives of each company.

After infield skin maintenance options were explored, the focus shifted to pest control. Tech Terra Environmental introduced attendees to a new mechanical form of broadleaf weed control as an alternative to traditional broad leaf weed herbicides. As we all know, some turf pests can be controlled simply by regular mowing. This gave TrimaLawn from Staten Island, NY an opportunity to introduce their Ventrac equipment to NJ sports field managers and demonstrate the versatile tractor/mower options available to them. During this segment, Wilfred MacDonald also demonstrated the Smithco Sweepstar 60 as an effective option for removing any kind of debris from playing areas in order to maintain a safe and healthy turf grass.

A safe and healthy natural playing surface begins with good soil. The next segment of the SFMANJ Spring Field Day program focused on educating attendees on soil properties and how to interpret soil analysis reports. Attendees had an opportunity to hear from Brad Park from Rutgers University and Scott Bills

CSFM from Green Pro Materials. Their thorough soil analysis presentation was followed by a presentation from Professor Craig Tolley from the County College of Morris. Craig reiterated some of the concepts introduced by the other speakers, stressed the importance of good cultural practices and explained how to apply them to a successful IPM program.

Once attendees had digested the theory behind maintaining a healthy turf grass, the commercial members in attendance again assisted in demonstrating some of the best equipment on the market to help field managers implement their turf maintenance programs. Storr Tractor, TrimaLawn, and The Viersma Companies/TurfTime Equipment demonstrated aeration equipment that can be used to fracture the soil or pull cores which will improve air flow and drainage to the root systems of the turf. The cores that remained on the turf after the aeration equipment was demonstrated provided a great opportunity for Wilfred MacDonald to show-off the Sweepstar 60 once again. The machine removed the debris and prepared for the next step in the renovation project. The final segment of demonstrations included top-dressing equipment from both Storr Tractor Company and The Viersma Companies/TurfTime Equipment. The two machines effectively spread the top-dressing donated by Green Pro Materials.

Once the project was completed, attendees and vendors gathered for lunch and were provided with some timely legislative updates from the New Jersey Green Industry Council. After lunch, the educational program continued with an injury-risk assessment

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# "SAFE PLAYING FIELDS":

What does it really mean?

## Part 1

By Rich Watson

Over the course of the past year, anyone involved in New Jersey's turf industry has heard the term "Safe Playing Fields" used by a variety of people in regards to the safety of our children. The sports field manager has been portrayed as someone who is trained only to apply pesticides on a schedule to deal with pests and is not aware about safer alternatives that prevent these problems long term. I have heard terms like careless, uninformed and misguided to describe sports field managers who apply pesticides on athletic fields. These types of statements are what led me to stand up and try to bring some clarity to the conversation about safe playing fields. Lost in this conversation are the dedication, time and energy that sports turf managers put into their craft. Most people don't see the pre-dawn irrigation checks, the weekend visits on site, and the amount of time spent at home researching, plotting and planning updates to their turf plan. The first thing considered at all times is the safety of the athletes that use our facilities. With that being said, let's look at what a safe playing field really is.

I don't know if there is one true definition for a safe playing field. However, turf quality is a good place to start the discussion. If a field has a smooth, well rooted and groomed surface it is more than likely to provide a safe playing surface for just about any sport. The key ingredients for quality sports turf are fertility, proper seeding, good cultural practices and responsible pest management (IPM).

New Jersey's fertilizer law is in full swing these days. After passing the certification test, don't let the law scare you from keeping fertility up on your fields. The law in regards to sports fields is fair and can be adapted to fulfill your field's needs. It will take some thought and close monitoring though. Consistent fertility applications throughout the year are very important to maintain quality turf. Spring turf requirements call for moderate amounts of nitrogen (my choice is ammonium sulfate), while summer stress can be dealt with by introducing an organic or

*Continued on page 12*

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# Field Renovation with Sod is a Natural Fit on this Busy Sports Field



by Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Someone once described Salesianum School in Wilmington Delaware as a sports program with a high school attached. With over 117 State Championship banners hanging in our gym, this private college preparatory school for young men trains very hard. The 8.5 acre outdoor athletic field complex features two native soil, cool-season multipurpose sports fields. Primarily a practice facility, 6 of the 14 sports programs offered by the school call these fields home. Baseball, soccer and lacrosse teams (at all 3 levels) play their home games here, as do the freshman and junior varsity football teams. The Varsity football team plays their home games offsite.

This location hosts over 850 events annually which include practices, games, camps, winter intramurals and physical education. On any afternoon in the spring or fall, there are 6 teams outside practicing on the fields. High trafficked areas get worn out and damaged. But safety and playability are important at this school. Post season usually means renovation, and renovation means new sod. Truck loads of new sod!

Our decision to re-sod is a matter of necessity. For example, in late November when the football season is over, the roughly 2.5 acre upper field practice football area is worn down to bare soil from our three football teams that practice on it daily. In the spring, this area will transform to a baseball infield and outfield with a lacrosse field configured on it. We need the quick turn-around that sod provides.

The lower field has just over 5 acres of multipurpose sports turf. In the springtime, the field is configured with a varsity baseball infield, the outfield serving 2 lacrosse fields in both right and left field. We re-sod the worn lacrosse goal creases just after Memorial Day as these areas also serve as a soccer pitch in the fall. Depending upon the amount of wear, we might install up to an acre of sod on the lower field. In a school with a successful soccer program, a smooth turfgrass surface means better ball handling!


Sports field renovation requires specialized equipment and people with the know-how to get the job done, especially when timelines are tight. Soil preparation begins by stripping off the worn surface and hauling off the debris. Next, the area is laser graded to plane off the high spots and fill in the low spots. Often, additional soil is brought in to improve the grade. The surface is decompacted and fertilized to enhance rooting. The trucks arrive with sod and a crew skillfully installs it. The size and shape

of the area determines whether we use big rolls or slabs. Freshly cut sod is perishable so it must be installed quickly whether it is the first week of December or the first week of June. For these reasons, we hire an experienced sports field construction contractor to renovate our fields. Sean Connell, owner of Georgia Golf Construction of Woodbine New Jersey has been our renovation contractor since 2006.

We choose a turf type tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass mixture sod because it adapts well to our site. We oversee with Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass around Labor Day through late October, skipping the completely bare, heavily worn areas that result from teams constantly running drills in the same spots (there really is nowhere for teams to move around to). Completely worn areas usually require additional topsoil and laser grading at the end of the playing season as the soil has become displaced and the surface is uneven.

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equipment and/or services during a demonstration stop at Adelphia. In previous years, vendors have demonstrated mowers, aerification equipment, debris collection machines, line painting tools, drill-and-fill and slice-and-fill machines, and turf removal and sodding methods.

Demonstrations will be available to potential sponsors for purchase from SFMANJ in 5-minute periods per piece of equipment demonstrated. Vendors who wish to demonstrate equipment must purchase a trade show booth. Three demonstrations will occur per tour stop; thus, vendors will have the opportunity to show their equipment to the Red, White, and Blue attendee groups per 1 hour rotation.

A total of twelve demonstrations are available. The first twelve vendors to reserve a demonstration will be allocated 5 minutes of demonstration time per piece of equipment. If all twelve equipment demonstrations are not sold within two weeks of the Field Day, the first vendor to reserve a demonstration will be provided the opportunity to purchase an additional demonstration.

Following the turfgrass education and demonstration period, a fine lunch will be served to all of those in attendance. The trade show will also be open during this time. Following lunch, New Jersey DEP pesticide recertification credits, and credits from neighboring states

per approval, will be available to attendees. Attendees will also have the option to remain onsite and attend an NJ DEP Core credit session after lunch.

## See you on August 1!

### Please note the following:

Attendees may register online by visiting the NJTA website: [www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org); (o) 973.812.6467; (email) [execdirector@njturfgrass.org](mailto:execdirector@njturfgrass.org)

Those vendors interested in reserving a trade show booth or a trade show booth and demonstration are encouraged to contact SFMANJ for more information and appropriate paperwork (website) [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org); (o) 856.514.3179; (email) [mail@sfmanj.org](mailto:mail@sfmanj.org)

### The schedule for August 1 is as follows:

6:30 am	Vendors may arrive
7:30 am	Registration & Trade Show Opening
9:00 am	Research Tours & Equipment Demos
1:00 pm	Lunch & Open Trade Show
2:00 pm	Optional CORE Pesticide Credit Session
2:30 pm	Conclusion

Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers University; Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors since 2003.



## 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

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Deadline for the Fall issue is August 10



# A Message from the President

Continued from page 4

presentation by Dr. Neil Dougherty from Rutgers University. Dr. Dougherty identified some of the many other non-turf related safety hazards to athletes that we need to be aware of as sports field managers. The theme of safety continued into our final presentation of the program as Brad Park from Rutgers addressed the proper criteria for interpreting a pesticide label. At the end of the program, attendees were awarded NJ pesticide recertification credits for all of the education that they had received throughout the day.

The 2012 SFMANJ Spring Field Day proved to be a great success as we received a great deal of positive feedback from the event. Our sincere thanks to all of our commercial members who made the Ginty Field renovation project a huge success, our professional guest speakers who took the time to address and educate our membership and most importantly, the hard-working administration, staff and grounds crew in Morris Township that hosted the event. Our thanks to Geese Chasers, Cover Sports, Levitt's and Grass Roots for their support in the trade show portion of the program. For those of you who were able to attend, we thank you for your feedback on the day of the event. Please contact us and keep us updated on the challenges you're facing and/or any specific training that you may need. As always, feel free to contact me or any other SFMANJ board members directly. Our contact information is available on the SFMANJ website at [www.sfmanj.org](http://www.sfmanj.org).

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

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# Vendor re-cap of Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey Spring Field Day 2012



# Ginty Park, Morris Township, NJ, April 19, 2012

By Brad Park, Rutgers University



# "SAFE PLAYING FIELDS": What does it really mean? Part 1

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slow release product. Fall should be reserved for higher amounts of nitrogen to ensure your fields will survive the demands of the season and falling soil temperatures. This is a very important point that is often overlooked. Fall fertility serves two purposes. First, nitrogen (again, ammonium sulfate is my choice) availability is crucial to establish new seed and also for recovery from fall sports damage. Secondly, it allows turf growth to extend into the end of the fall sports season. Too often fall fields are allowed to stop growing when temps drop but field use continues. Starting early in the spring and continuing all the way through the fall season will give you maximum results for your fertilizer dollar and provide a dense, consistent turf cover for the entire year.

Dr. Dave Minner from Iowa State University and I talk often about how difficult it is to overcome the amount of seedheads produced by crabgrass. Having large amounts of seed introduced into the soil and then worked in by the athletes seems like a tough thing to deal with. Crabgrass technology can be used by the sports field manager in the same manner. From August through November we live by the motto "If you see brown, throw it down". This means introducing perennial ryegrass seed any time you see bare soil. The broadcasting of seed during the fall sports season is the key to keeping turf coverage all year long. A common perception is that you are wasting money if you seed during field activity. I disagree. Due to unpredictable weather in the spring and hot/humid conditions in the summer, fall is the season of choice for overseeding. Unfortunately, this is when athletic fields absorb the most abuse and wear. I take a nothing ventured, nothing gained approach. If you don't seed during the fall, you will end up with a good deal of bare soil at the end of the season. I believe that it is easier to grow turf from seed during moderate fall weather conditions than any other time of year. Perennial ryegrass is my choice for use during this timeframe due to its wear tolerance even as seedlings. As the season winds down, we start to introduce turf-type tall fescue into the fields. This is done later because

tall fescue doesn't hold up to traffic upon emergence as well as perennial ryegrass does. Tall fescue however, has displayed more disease resistance on our fields. It is not a common mix, but it has been working for us. My friend Scott Bills who is a Certified Sports Field Manager also points out that overseeding regularly allows for the introduction of multiple generations of seeds, including newer varieties. The amount of seed planted in the fall allows our fields to emerge from winter with almost full turf cover. This gives us a better chance of fighting off pests and stress as we enter the height of the growing season.

*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 Team include, Greg Bunting, Bill Loftus, Tom Crosby, and Carmelo Anguilla.*



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**Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, & Sports Turf Field Day**  
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**SFMANJ Fall Field Day**  
November 8, 2012

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**NJ State League of Municipalities**  
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**New Jersey Green Expo**  
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**STMA Annual Conference**  
January 15-19, 2013

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## HAVE YOU CHECKED-OUT OUR WEB SITE LATELY?

- ☑ Check our Events page for upcoming events and pictures of past SFMANJ functions.
- ☑ Check our Resources page for past issues of our Newsletter Update, Minutes from past Board Meetings, links to useful information and job postings.
- ☑ Check our Contact Us page for direct links to all of the Board of Directors. Call us with any questions or comments.
- ☑ Check our Vendor page for interactive links to our advertising vendors' web sites and a complete list of all our vendors. Call them first! They are happy to answer any questions.



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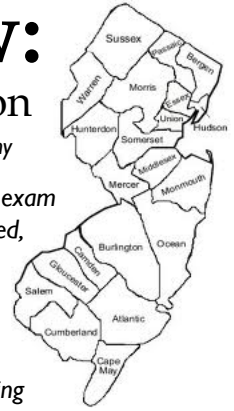
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# The New Jersey Fertilizer Law:

## Update on Certification, Enforcement, Penalties and Preemption

Dr. Jim Murphy



The Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification and Training (ProFACT) program was developed by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection, in response to the New Jersey Act, P.L. 2010, c. 112 (<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2010/Bills/PL10/112.PDF>). This law addresses the application, sale, and use of fertilizer for both professional and retail applications to turf.

The ProFACT program is an internet based certification program (<http://profact.rutgers.edu>) that provides professional fertilizer applicators with training and education in five subject areas as outlined by the law: i) proper use and calibration of fertilizer equipment; ii) correct interpretation of fertilizer labeling; iii) best management practices for nutrient management in turf; iv) hazards of excess nutrients to the State's water bodies; and v) applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Approximately 3,000 professionals have registered with the ProFACT program as of 22 May 2012 and more than 1,400 of those professionals have become certified and more than 700 have registered as trained fertilizer applicators.

A **"professional fertilizer applicator"** is any individual who applies fertilizer for hire, including any employee of a government entity who applies fertilizer within the scope of employment. No professional fertilizer applicator may apply fertilizer to turf without first obtaining a fertilizer application certification, or training if applying fertilizer under the direct supervision of a certified professional fertilizer applicator.

**Certified Fertilizer Applicators (CFAs)** are those professionals responsible for decision-making regarding fertilizer application and use. Professionals must have received

training and pass an exam to become certified, which can currently be done through an online program (<http://profact.rutgers.edu>). Training for CFAs is more extensive than for trained fertilizer applicators.

**Trained Fertilizer Applicators (TFAs)** are professionals that may apply fertilizer under the direct supervision of a CFA. Direct supervision means that the CFA provides the TFA with written instructions regarding the fertilize application and maintains immediate voice communication (radio or mobile phone). Trained fertilizer applicators must be trained but do not need to take an exam.

Continued on page 17

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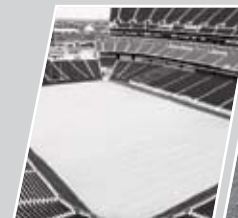
wrote **Dann Daly**, Park Maintenance Supervisor,  
**Parks & Recr. Dept.**, North Smithfield, RI

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# The New Jersey Fertilizer Law:

## Update on Certification, Enforcement, Penalties and Preemption

Continued from page 15

More details on the certification and training program are available on the "instructions" page at <http://ProFACT.rutgers.edu/Pages/instructions.aspx>.

The law requires Rutgers NJAES to publish a list of professional fertilizer applicators on its internet website. The listings will be enhanced for sorting in the future and currently provide names in alphabetical (last name) order. Links to the lists are provided below.

Certified Fertilizer Applicators:

<http://ProFACT.rutgers.edu/Pages/Certified-Applicators.aspx>

Trained Fertilizer Applicators:

<http://profact.rutgers.edu/Pages/Trained-Applicators-List.aspx>

For general inquiries about the certification and training program, contact the ProFACT administration team at:

**Email:** [profact@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:profact@aesop.rutgers.edu)

**Mailing Address:**

### ProFACT

Department of Plant Biology and Pathology  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
59 Dudley Road  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8520

**Phone:** 848-932-6373

### Enforcement of the Law

As more people become aware of this new law, the issue of enforcement is an increasingly common question.

This law may be enforced by any municipality, county, local soil conservation district or local health agency. A local soil conservation district may institute a civil action for injunctive relief in Superior Court to enforce this law and to prohibit and prevent a violation of this law and the court may proceed in the action in a summary manner.

Thus, enforcement will occur at the local government level using the prohibitions, restrictions and penalties established by the law. You should direct your inquiries or requests for enforcement to local officials in municipal and county government or local soil conservation districts (<http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/anr/nrc/conservdistricts.html>).

### Violations and Penalties

Any professional fertilizer applicator who violates the New Jersey Fertilizer Law is subject to a civil penalty of \$500 for the first offense and up to \$1,000 for the second and each subsequent offense, to be collected in a civil action by a summary proceeding under the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," P.L. 1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.).

If the violation is of a continuing nature, each day during which it continues shall constitute an additional, separate and distinct offense. The Superior Court and the municipal court shall have jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999".

### Preemption

The provisions of the law preempt any ordinance or resolution of a municipality, county or local health agency concerning the application of fertilizer to turf, except that municipalities are allowed to establish penalties for persons other than a professional fertilizer applicator or person who sells retail fertilizer (in other works, homeowners that use fertilizers). Yes, there are restrictions on homeowner use of fertilizers as well that can result in penalties from a local government.

Any person, other than a professional fertilizer applicator or person who sells fertilizer at retail, who violates this act, or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, may be subject to a penalty, as established by municipal ordinance, to be collected in a civil action by a summary proceeding under the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," P.L. 1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.). The municipal court shall have jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999".

Dr. Jim Murphy is Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Rutgers University; and SFMANJ Advisor

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## Field Renovation with Sod is a Natural Fit on this Busy Sports Field

Continued from page 6

To some, the thought of using sod may seem like an expensive luxury. Compared to growing a sod quality stand of turf from seed, the cost of "purchased" sod is reasonable. For one thing, how many of us work at a facility which has available space for an in-house sod nursery? I would guess very few. Then, there is the problem of time; sod farms can produce a crop of marketable turf in 12-18 months. During that "grow in" time, no sports team is trying to use the sod farm for a warm up, practice or a game. Consider all of the components- seed, irrigation, fertilizer, pesticides (to optimize plant health) as well as frequent mowing, harvest and delivery. All of these material, equipment and labor inputs cost money; the sod farms have a better economy of scale, and a lower unit cost. If you want to produce sod farm quality turfgrass, you have to do what the sod farms do. For most of us this is impractical. But, if you decide that sod might be a strong option, please be aware that you must consider the aftercare. Freshly installed sod requires water, the sooner the better. I always have a hose and a sprinkler ready to go during and after the installation.

Renovating sports fields with sod keeps our student athletes healthy and promotes better playability on the field. Did I mention that it also looks great to our spectators and guests?

*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.*



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

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# Speaker re-cap of SFMANJ Spring Field Day 2012

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