

UPDATE

Sports Field

Managers Association of New Jersey



Fall 2013

Vol. 13, No. 3

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



EXPO 2013: December 10-12, Atlantic City

By Brad Park, Rutgers University

(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 2013. The New Jersey Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference will be held at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ during December 10-12, 2013. 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 2013 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 2013 and a copy of the education agenda. This edition of *SFMANJ Update* provides the Sports Field Managers Program for Expo 2013.

Pinpoint specific sessions you plan to attend, and tie their relevance to your sports facility. In what has become an annual tradition, as part of the Sports Field Managers Program in 2013, the entire Tuesday, December 10 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.



An SFMANJ-sponsored trade show was part of the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day at Rutgers Hort. Farm II on July 31, 2013. Pictured (l to r): Debbie Savard, SFMANJ Executive Secretary; The Rutgers Scarlet Knight; Brad Park, Rutgers University and Editor, SFMANJ Update.

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 2013, 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 2013 will feature online registration at www.njturfgrass.org

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.

See you in AC!

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

See page 6 for schedule

The tools for all your grounds maintenance needs.



©2012 The Toro Company. All rights reserved.

Providing quality turf equipment since 1914.

Toro is committed to creating the most durable and reliable equipment to help turf professionals work more efficiently. With a wide range of innovative, high-quality products to choose from, Toro has the right turf equipment and irrigation solution for your job.

Storr Tractor Company
Branchburg, NJ 908-722-9830

TORO

Count on it.

Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members

Currently we have 224 new & renewed members. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey mailed invoices for 2013 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.

Anthony Amiano	Berkeley Heights BOE
Bob Beutel	Borough of Tenafly
Scott Bills, CSFM	Dura Edge
Chris Carlson	Bergen Community College
Ray Cipperly	Middlesex County Technical High School
Tim Cutler	Student, County College of Morris
Bill Deacon	New York Mets
Steven Delellis	Manalapan Twp DPW
Jim Dickinson	Sherwin Williams
Bruce Furstenburg	Power Place, Inc.
John Helander	Aquarius Supply Co.
James Hermann	Total Control, Inc.
Jeff Jacobus	High Point Regional High School
Hugh Knowlton	Bergen Community College
Collin F. MacDonnell III	Ramapo College of NJ
Steve Magno	Jesco, Inc.
Samantha Merrick	Genesis Turfgrass
Joe Olden	City of Linwood
Matthew Pinkerton	Student, County College of Morris
Nick Prusakowski	Manalapan Twp DPW
Mike Reissner	East Brunswick Parks and Rec
Steve Sansone	MetLife Stadium
Brent J Sliker	Twp of Mansfield

Save the Date
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2013
SFMANJ Fall Field Day
featuring Minor and Major
League Grounds Managers



**Do we have your
e-mail address.**

**Send a note to
mail@sfmanj.org
to make sure we have it
or to make a change.**

2013 SFMANJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President Matt Olivi, Piscataway BOE
Vice President..... Fred Castenschiold, Storr Tractor Co.
Secretary..... Scott Bills, CSFM, Sports Field Consultant
Treasurer..... Sean Connell, Georgia Golf Construction

DIRECTORS

Ray Cipperly..... Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools
Brad Park Rutgers University
Matt Pinkerton..... Byram Township
Don Savard, CSFM, CGM Salesianum School
Kevin Shipman..... Kingsway Regional High School
Craig Tolley County College of Morris
Mike Viersma The Viersma Companies
Rich Watson Pine Hills Public Schools
Advisor Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers University
Executive Secretary Debbie Savard

MISSION STATEMENT

Committed to enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers by improving the safety, playability and appearance of athletic fields at all levels through seminars, field days, publications and networking with those in the sports turf industry.

Contact us at:

PO Box 205 • Pennsville, NJ 08070

Web site: www.sfmanj.org

Email: mail@sfmanj.org • Phone/Fax: 856-514-3179

National Organization

Sports Turf Managers Association

www.stma.org

Email: stmainfo@stma.org • Phone: 800-323-3875

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Expo 2013: December 10-12, Atlantic City	Cover
New and Renewed SFMANJ Members	3
2013 Board of Directors	3
A Message from The President.	4
Tall Fescue Varieties for New Jersey Sports Fields.	5
Announcing a New Password Protected Area on our Web Site!	6
What Manual?	7
2013 Calendar of Events.	8
Volunteering at the 2013 Major League Baseball All Star Game . . .	9
Photo Recap: Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day	10
Football Field Maintenance For Natural Turf Fields Above the Transition Zone: Part 2	12
Run the Lines	15
Things I Wish I Knew Earlier	18

*This newsletter is the official quarterly 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 (848) 932-6327
Editor: Brad Park, Rutgers University, Email: park@aesop.rutgers.edu
Layout and Design: Debra Savard, Email: debbiesavard@aol.com*

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



A Message from The President . . . Looking forward to our fall events

by Matt Olivi

We are now approaching the home stretch of 2013. After another successful summer tradeshow at the Rutgers Research Field Day, SFMANJ is now focusing on the upcoming Fall Field Day on Thursday November 7. Last Fall Hurricane Sandy forced us to cancel what was shaping-up to be a great Field Day Event at East Brunswick Vo-Tech High School (EBVTHS). When EBVTHS athletic director Ray Cipperly made the suggestion to re-run the program this year, the SFMANJ Board of Directors jumped at the idea. Over the past few years, our professional facility members have been very supportive of SFMANJ educational programs and they are clearly continuing that tradition this year. Field Managers from the Somerset Patriots, Lakewood BlueClaws, Trenton Thunder, Lehigh Valley IronPigs and the New York Mets, will all be in attendance to demonstrate effective Baseball Field Maintenance Strategies and share their perspectives. The Event will follow a clinic-style format where attendees will be able to focus on one specific area of the field at a time. A tradeshow complete with equipment demonstrations will be incorporated into the educational program so attendees

will be able to see what's on the market to help them achieve their maintenance goals. Admission to the event will be free to all SFMANJ members so don't miss this great opportunity to learn from the pros. Be on the lookout for detailed program brochures and registration information. Please contact the SFMANJ office for event details, sponsorship opportunities and program information.

It's never too early to look ahead to December and the annual NJ Green Expo in Atlantic City. Expo will be held December 10-12, 2013 at the Trump Taj Mahal. It's a great opportunity to expand your technical knowledge and gain a new perspective on field management and maintenance. As always, attendees will have an opportunity to load-up on pesticide recertification credits at any of the sports field management sessions throughout the conference. Come for the education and stay for the annual trade show to catch-up with old friends and colleagues. I hope to see you there.

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

Go to www.sfmanj.org to download SFMANJ registration information

High Quality Bluegrass & Tall Fescue

Sand Sod grown on Hammonton sandy, loam-type soil designed for today's specialized modern athletic fields

Visit us on our web site: **www.ttfarms.com**

Our completely irrigated 700-acre farm allows production and deliveries to parts of Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York and all of New Jersey.

Labor Saving Big Rolls, please call for custom installation prices:

800-222-0591



609-561-7184
Fax 609-561-0296
401 Myrtle Ave. • P.O. Box 148
Hammonton, NJ 08037



Tuckahoe Turf Farms

TALL FESCUE Varieties for New Jersey Sports Fields

By Brad Park and Dr. James Murphy

Editor's Note: This article was derived from the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet with the same name. The full Fact Sheet, as well as a list of varieties, can be found at <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/lfs/1186/tall-fescue-varieties-for-nj-sports-fields.asp>

Use of tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea* Schreb.) as a forage and conservation grass increased in the United States with the release of 'Alta' and 'Kentucky 31' in 1940. It has long been used for control of soil erosion along right-of-ways such as highway roadsides. By the 1960s, 'Kentucky 31' became more widely recognized as a useful turfgrass in the transition zone (boundary between the temperate and subtropical climates) of the United States due to its good heat tolerance and adaptation to a wide range of soil (pH, fertility and moisture) and light conditions.

'Rebel', released in 1979, was the first turf-type tall fescue variety with a reduced vertical growth habit, finer leaf texture and darker green color compared to Kentucky 31 and Alta. Continued turfgrass breeding efforts have provided retail consumers and turfgrass professionals with many choices of improved, turf-type varieties, which has increased the use of tall fescue.

Turf-type tall fescue is a good choice for school grounds, sports fields, and parks in New Jersey and other regions where the mowing height is 2-inches or taller and nitrogen fertilizer and irrigation inputs are minimal. Improved, lower-growing varieties of tall fescue reduce the need for frequent mowing as well as improve turfgrass quality and longevity. Lower irrigation and fertilization requirements of tall fescue compared to Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis* L.) and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L.) make it possible to maintain

moderate to high quality sports fields utilizing fewer inputs. Meeting the challenges of lower input turf management strategies is important for municipal governments and school districts operating with limited budgets.

Properly established tall fescue exhibits a deep root system, helping it tolerate drought stress and white grub feeding. Additionally, most improved varieties of tall fescue are endophyte-enhanced, which improves resistance to surface feeding insects; however, endophyte-enhanced tall fescue varieties should not be established where livestock grazing is anticipated.

Selecting Varieties

Selection of tall fescue varieties for sports fields should be based on the characteristics of traffic tolerance, turfgrass quality, and susceptibility to brown patch disease (caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*). Traffic tolerant varieties are more persistent under the combined stresses of wear and compaction, which are very common on sports turfs.

Turfgrass quality is a visual evaluation of a turf's color, density, uniformity, texture (fineness of leaf blades), and freedom from pest and environmental stress damage; these data are available for multiple National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) test locations.

Continued on page 8



Commitment that's more than skin deep.

50th TURFACE ATHLETICS™

Turface Athletics' involvement in the game has run deep for the last 50 years. We've teamed up with grounds crews across the nation over the decades to provide safe and playable fields at every level of play. We are dedicated to providing meaningful industry support focused on responsible field education and consistently delivering the best products in the industry.

Celebrate with us and you can win all year long! Visit www.turface.com/50years.

Find us on Facebook
[facebook.com/turface](https://www.facebook.com/turface)

TURFACE ATHLETICS™

The #1 Conditioner on America's Most Playable Fields

**New Jersey Green Expo
Turf & Landscape Conference
Trump Taj Mahal Casino-Resort, Atlantic City, NJ**

**2013 SPORTS FIELD MANAGERS
EXPO PROGRAM**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2013

Afternoon Session

- 1:00 – 1:45** Implementing Sound Cultural Practices That Reduce Turfgrass Pest Pressure In Morris Township
Bill Foelsch, Morris Township, NJ Parks & Recreation
- 1:45 – 2:15** Weed Control Using Fewer Pesticides On School Sports Fields & Grounds
Tom Serensits, Penn State University
- 2:15 – 2:45** Cultural Strategies To Reduce Turfgrass Diseases On School Sports Fields & Grounds
Rich Buckley, Rutgers University
- 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
Tim Boyle, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection, Pesticide Control Program
- 4:00-8:00** Trade Show
- 5:00 - 5:30** Core on the Floor
Dr. John Grande, Rutgers
- 5:45-6:15** Being A Major League Baseball Head Groundskeeper
Nicole McFadyen, Baltimore Orioles

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2013

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** Update on Synthetic Turf Research
Tom Serensits, Penn State University
- 10:15 - 11:00** Management Of Turfgrass And Skin Surfaces At Camden Yards
Nicole McFadyen, Baltimore Orioles
- 11:00-11:30** Sports Field Management At Salem Board of Education
Fred Kendall, Salem BOE

Afternoon Session

- 2:30 – 3:15** Sports Field Management At The New York Red Bulls
Dan Shemesh, New York Red Bulls
- 3:15 – 4:15** IPM Methods To Control White Grubs And Other Insect Pests On School Sports Fields & Grounds
Dr. Ben McGraw, SUNY Delhi
- 4:15 – 5:00** Vision For Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) From The President-Elect
David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP, Town of Lexington, Massachusetts

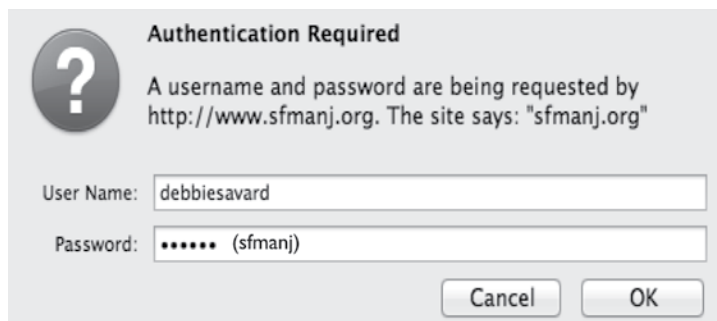
**Announcing a new password
protected area on our
web site!**

By Debbie Savard

It is a new Members Only section that will be password protected and only accessible by other SFMANJ members. Within the Members Only section you will be able to access a full roster of our membership as well as the Minutes of our Board Meetings.

To use this Members Only feature you will need to use a **User Name and a Password.**

The user name for SFMANJ members will be their *first and last name* as it appears in the directory, using *all lower case letters* with no spaces. Use only the first and last name with no prefixes, suffixes or middle initials. Please check the Membership Directory, that you should have recently received in the mail, to see how your first name was entered.



For example, in the Directory my name is entered as Debbie Savard, not Debra Savard. I would enter it on the user line as: **debbiesavard.**

In lower case letters on the password line everyone will enter: **sfmanj.**

Check out this new feature! If you have a smart phone or tablet, you will always have access to the addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of other members.

(Please call 856-514-3179 if your user name doesn't work.)

**ATTENTION
SPORTS FIELD MANAGERS!**
*Have you sent in your entry for SFMANJ
2013 Field of the Year*

**Deadline Oct. 31, 2013
EASY TO ENTER!**

Just call 856-514-3179
or go to www.sfmanj.org - resources tab
for easy instructions and/or
a downloadable entry form.

WHAT MANUAL?

By Fred Castenschiold

I have been selling quality turf care equipment for over thirty years. I am still amazed how so few customers refer to their owners/operator manuals until it is too late or not at all. These manuals are a great source of information for the supervisor, operator and mechanic.

When taking in a trade on equipment, I try to always recover the original manuals from the account to pass on to the new owner. Often the condition of these manuals condition indicates that they have not been referred-to much! It is a good idea to always record the model and serial number of the equipment on the cover of the manual for quick reference when discussing the need for service or parts. It also a good idea to make sure you read and understand the operators' manual for your machine before operating or servicing it. Become familiar with all safety signs (decals) on the machine. Some manufacturers provide operator training videos which help demonstrate procedures for safe operation and daily maintenance.

Preventative maintenance of your equipment will help you to get the most out of your investment. If you do not have a preventative maintenance program it would be good to start one soon. Sometimes we go long stretches between those rainy day opportunities. Doing scheduled maintenance and adjustments will prolong the life of your equipment, help prevent expensive downtime and give the best possible quality of cut and performance. Experience has shown that a high percentage of problems have developed over a period of time and could have been prevented by adjustment, lubrication, or other required maintenance.

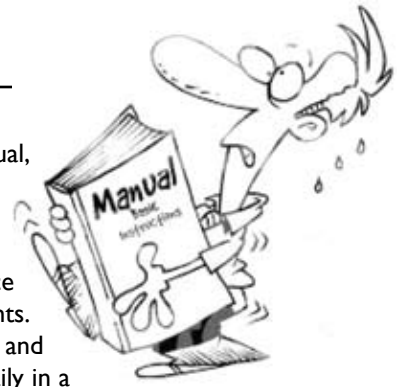
When referring to the manual, take into consideration how harsh your conditions are and remember that manufacturer recommendations for service are the minimum requirements.

If we have a long dry spell and your equipment is working daily in a particularly dusty environment you may wish to consider oil and air filter changes more often.

Some of my customers have come-up with great maintenance schedules which they live by. Keeping records for each machine insures that maintenance procedures are being performed at the proper time. These records could also help you predict parts to have on hand. By keeping blades, belts, filters, etc. on-hand, you will not be caught in a situation where important maintenance was not performed on-schedule because of a lack of parts.

Know what is contained in your manufacturer's warranty. Most warranties are two years in the commercial field. When talking to a service manager regarding a possible warranty issue you will need to refer to those model and serial numbers. Remember? ... The model and serial numbers you wrote down on the front cover of your manual!

*Fred Castenschiold is Sales Representative,
Storr Tractor Company and SFMANJ Vice President.*



Georgia Golf Construction, Inc.
Athletic Field and Track Specialists



- ◆ Native soil athletic field construction
- ◆ Synthetic track repair and installation
- ◆ Synthetic field base construction
- ◆ Sodding and seeding
- ◆ Laser grading
- ◆ Infield laser grading
- ◆ Pitcher's mound building
- ◆ Aerification services

Georgia Golf Construction, Inc., 1441 Route 50, Woodbine, NJ 08270
www.georgia.golfconstruction.com/609-628-2597/404-216-4445

NATIONAL SEED PROFESSIONAL TURF PRODUCTS

Specializing in Quality Grass Seed
to Meet All Your
Turf Performance Standards

Call for a Catalog

800-828-5856

Carrying a full line of quality mixtures especially formulated for:

SPORTS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS

LOW MAINTENANCE AREAS
GENERAL GROUNDS
GOLF, LAWN AND RECLAMATION

**Technical Agronomic Support and
Custom Blending Available**

2013

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SFMANJ Fall Field Day

November 7, 2013
East Brunswick Vo-Tech High School
East Brunswick, NJ
856.514.3179
www.sfmanj.org

New Jersey State League of Municipalities

November 19-21, 2013
Atlantic City Convention Center
Atlantic City, NJ
609.695.3481
www.njslom.org

New Jersey Green Expo

December 10-12, 2013
Trump Taj Mahal
Atlantic City, NJ
973.812.6467
www.njturfgrass.org

STMA Conference & Exhibition

January 21-24, 2014
San Antonio, TX
800.323.3875
www.stma.org

2014 Rutgers NJAES OCPE Courses Organic Turfgrass Management

January 28, 2014

Two-Day Athletic Field Maintenance

February 12-13, 2014

Reducing Pesticide Inputs & Exploring Organic Options for Sports Turf

February 18, 2014

Baseball & Softball Skin Surface Selection & Management

February 25, 2014

Rutgers Cook Campus

New Brunswick, NJ

732.932.9271

www.cpe.rutgers.edu732.932.9271

www.cpe.rutgers.edu

Continued from page 5

TALL FESCUE Varieties for New Jersey Sports Fields

Brown patch disease is capable of producing large (1 to 2-ft diameter) circular patches of damaged turf during periods of warm, humid weather and is the most problematic disease affecting tall fescue. Varieties and experimental selections are routinely evaluated for susceptibility to brown patch disease in NTEP trials.

Research conducted at Rutgers University on the 2006 National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) Tall Fescue Test has identified tall fescue varieties with better traffic tolerance, turfgrass quality, and lower brown patch susceptibility (<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/fs1186/tall-fescue-varieties-for-nj-sports-fields.asp>).

Purchasing Seed

Purchasing certified seed of tall fescue is strongly suggested. Certified seed is grown in fields inspected by a state-certifying agency for genetic purity and also meets standards for germination (viability) and freedom from weeds and other crop seeds.

Identifying the variety of seed in the container allows the buyer to select improved varieties having the genetic traits that are most important for high quality sports field playing surfaces. Conversely, use of poorly adapted varieties can result in extensive turf failure, which increases the likelihood of field downtime and costly repairs. Seed labels that do not identify varieties or report varieties as variety-not-stated (VNS) present a risk to the buyer because the turf quality of the seed is unknown.

Establishment of Tall Fescue

Tall fescue grows well in moderately well-drained and fertile soil of slight acidity (optimum pH of 6.5 to 6.7). Tall fescue is an excellent choice for low to medium maintenance sports fields where irrigation is either limited or not available. Drought tolerance of tall fescue depends on the turf being well-established, especially after the development of a deep extensive root system, which may take a full growing season. Good rooting will be achieved by proper soil preparation before seeding or sodding and adequate nitrogen fertilization and irrigation during the establishment year. Construction practices and other efforts that limit compaction of the soil will ensure drought tolerance of tall fescue.

Tall fescue lacks abundant rhizomes, which are necessary for aggressive lateral spreading; thus, Kentucky bluegrass is commonly mixed with tall fescue to increase the ability of the turf to spread laterally. The rhizomes of Kentucky bluegrass provide sod strength and facilitate a suitable harvest. Sod of tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass is readily available in New Jersey. Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass seed mixtures should consist of two or more traffic tolerant turf type tall fescue varieties in combination with one or more Kentucky bluegrass varieties with the following standards (percentage by weight): 80-95% Tall fescue; 5-20% Kentucky bluegrass.

Because the seed size of Kentucky bluegrass is much smaller than tall fescue, mixtures that contain 90% tall fescue and 10% Kentucky bluegrass (by weight) have approximately an equal number of tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass seeds. Seed mixtures that are 80% tall fescue and 20% Kentucky bluegrass (by weight) are approximately 70% Kentucky bluegrass and 30% tall fescue (by seed count).

Continued on page 14

Volunteering at the 2013

Major League Baseball

All-Star Game

by Matt Olivi



This past July, the MLB All-Star Game was held at nearby Citi Field in Flushing, New York. Members of the SFMANJ Board of Directors, including myself, Scott Bills (SFMANJ Secretary), and Brad Park (Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter) were afforded an opportunity to assist the Citi Field grounds crew with maintenance operations throughout the three day event. Kenny MacNish, Rutgers undergraduate student and Kevin Rundstrom, recent Rutgers graduate also volunteered, both of whom were past participants in the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Student Challenge.

All-Star festivities started with the Celebrity and Legends game on Sunday, July 14, the Home Run Derby competition on Monday, July 15 and ended with the 2013 All-Star Game on Tuesday, July 16. Despite the added challenges of extreme hot weather, concert performances, ceremonial rehearsals, photo shoots and an overall increased media presence, the professional field management staff accomplished every task on the demanding maintenance schedule.

Throughout the three-day event, the large number of additional media personnel and all of their additional equipment had to be accommodated. Every effort is made to preserve the turfgrass on the field through traffic management and by using protective covers when possible. Protecting sensitive areas on the playing surface is standard operating procedure for managing traffic such as batting practice; however, for the All-Star Event, these efforts had to be intensified. Extra grounds crewmen were utilized accordingly to set-up extra turf mats on the high traffic areas. While the warning track areas behind home plate and in front of the dug-outs seemed to be prime real estate for the media, there was still a great deal of encroachment onto the turf along those areas. The



Grounds staff set-up temporary fences around the turf surrounding the home plate, field logos and other sensitive areas. Not only did the turf require protection, but so did the media crews. Extra turf mats and screens were set-up to protect MLB Network Analysts who were broadcasting from a temporary stage that was set-up just behind third base.

Working as a public employee, I haven't had much experience incorporating advertising and a national television production into game day preparation. At the Major League level, each event provides separate sponsorship opportunities and corresponding signage and visual displays that need to be set-up. For the All-Star events, the grounds staff had specific tasks and instructions for sign

Continued on page 13



Photo Recap: Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day

By Debbie Savard



OUR REPUTATION...

The Viersma Companies are family owned and operated and we stand behind our reputation for quality workmanship with every job we do. We have been in business for over 45 years and believe that service and reliability are key to our success. We are more than willing to accommodate to meet your needs!

*Family owned and operated
since 1965*



VISIT: www.viersma.com

CALL: (908) 852-0552

OUR SERVICES...

- Aerification
- Overseeding
- Topdressing
- Laser Grading
- Waterwick® Turf Drainage System
- Drainage Installation & Repair
- Infield Renovations & Construction
- Field Renovations & Construction



Rutgers Hort Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ

July 31, 2013



Avoid Costly Rainouts...

COVERMASTER™ RAINCOVERS

The COVERMASTER® Advantage...

- Lighter weight, superior strength, easier to handle
- Shield Tek™ coating technology for greater durability
- Outstanding heat reflective properties
- Raincover graphics available
- Largest choice of weights and colors



TARP MACHINE VIDEO!

Call, fax or e-mail for a free video, material samples and a brochure.



Covers for football and soccer fields are also readily available.



TARP MACHINE™ lets you roll the cover on and off in minutes.



TARPMATE™ roller comes in 3 lengths with safety end caps.

COVERMASTER™

AHEAD OF THE GAME

Call Toll Free: 1-800-387-5808
 Intl: +1-416-745-1811 • FAX: 416-742-6837
 E-mail: info@covermaster.com
www.covermaster.com

© 2013 Covermaster Inc.



covermaster.com/read/

FOOTBALL FIELD MAINTENANCE FOR NATURAL TURF FIELDS ABOVE THE TRANSITION ZONE: PART 2

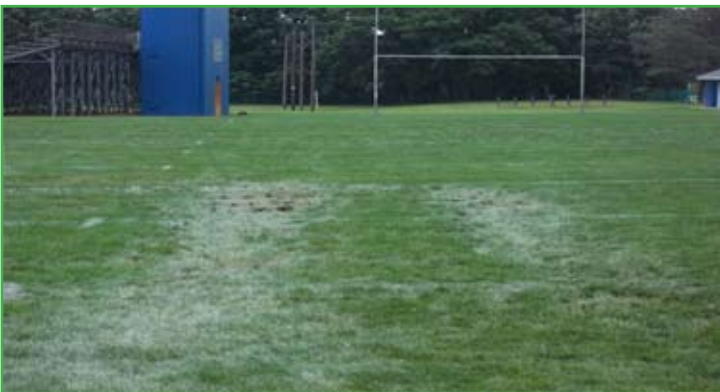
By Rich Watson

With football season in full swing right now, let's look back at how it got started in August. Football season at Overbrook starts around the middle of the month but it actually begins for us around August 1. This is when the fields are laid out. Before the fields are painted we cut in a football pattern consisting of end zones cut in the same direction and every five yards cut in the opposite direction. This is done to burn the pattern in without having to waste paint before field use begins.



Consistent mowing throughout the season is very important. Mowing the same pattern for three months or longer may not be the best thing for the health of your turf. We try to cut a different pattern at least once a week usually before painting with the hope that this will serve as a clean-up cut by keeping the grass blades from laying over and not standing back up. With the pattern burned in, it's time to paint and get ready for practice.

The weather has been pretty unpredictable over the past couple of years. We have had wet weather that causes a lot of damage due to the repetitive nature of football practice. Our coaches do a great job of moving around but sometimes damage is inevitable.



After a wet practice we will sometimes use a light roller to push down damaged turf and broadcast perennial rye seed. This process is used in wet or dry conditions in order to keep up with field damage. Seed is the great equalizer in this equation. It allows us to

keep some turf cover. Summer camp is different from our regular practices during the school year. Practices are longer and are held six days a week for around three weeks. In addition to seeding, managing moisture is probably the key to surviving this time of the season. During warm weather irrigation is run just after practice to help the turf recover and allow plenty of time to dry before the next practice. A wet field can be ruined in a single practice. Monitoring your field during this period is very important. Your practice field is going to be used all year long. If no maintenance is done, it will be a very long and bare season.

Game On: Game prep and repair

It always amazes me how much more energy and time we spend on our game fields. The team spends much more time on the practice field but the game field garners all of the attention. At Overbrook we have a very good situation when it comes to our stadium field. One of the reasons the field holds up as well as it does is the fact that it really is just a football field for games. Our coaching staff has even volunteered to move their Friday practices to the practice field in order to preserve conditions on the game field. The Overbrook marching band has their own practice area at the back of our school that allows them to practice whenever they want. They do however practice on the game field for longer periods of times than I would

Continued on page 16

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.
- ✓ Check our New [MEMBERS ONLY](#) Section on the Home Page for Membership Directory and Minutes

All-Star Game

Continued from page 9

placement on the field, the cleaning of outfield walls in preparation for sponsorship decal placement, and the changing of full wall pads when necessary. Even the drag mats used between innings can be a great opportunity for sponsors to advertise. During the All-Star



Game on Tuesday night, all three base pads were changed every couple of innings or so. This was not done for aesthetics alone. Each base pad had a built-in wireless microphone to pick-up game sounds for the television broadcast. Each time

a pad was changed, so was the microphone and transmitter. Again, these were all new experiences for me.

The warm temperatures may have been the greatest challenge to field operations. Crews had to keep themselves hydrated and in turn had to do the same for the playing surface.

The turfgrass, infield skin and warning track seemed like they couldn't take enough water over the three day period. I was amazed by the irrigation requirements of the entire playing surface. As mentioned earlier, the itineraries of news crews, broadcast network operations and concert rehearsals limited maintenance and irrigation time. On the day of the All-Star Game, temperatures climbed steadily throughout the day and hovered around 100 degrees just before game time. Despite the weather conditions and a tight maintenance schedule, the grounds crew kept the grass green and the infield skin perfectly playable.



The additional challenges of hosting such a world-class event were managed through careful planning and being able to adapt to changing demands throughout the day. The increased man-power seemed to come easily through the helpful nature of industry professionals who volunteered to assist. Grounds managers from other professional ball parks, material suppliers, and Sports Turf Managers Organization of New York (STMONY) members all jumped at the opportunity to help. I'm always impressed by the willingness of our industry partners to help each other. From the MLB All-Star Game to a local Little League Game, we all have a common vested interest in the success of any event played on sports fields. It was a pleasure to work with Bill Deacon (Director of Field Operations at Citi-Field) and Staff who flawlessly managed every aspect of this year's Event. Their professionalism and dedication was an example to all who were part of making the 2013 MLB All-Star a huge success.

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

Grass Roots Turf Products

A company focused on Service, Technical Support and Quality Products.



We carry a variety of products to fit your needs.

(We carry many products, this is just a sample. See our website and catalog for full line.)

- Fertilizers
- Field Conditioners
- Guideline
- Pesticides
- Mound Clay
- Spreaders
- Soil Amendments
- Stripping Paint
- Tools



Address: 4 Middlebury Blvd.
Suite 14
Randolph, NJ 07869

Phone: 973-252-5455
Fax: 973-252-2881
Website: www.griturf.com



Visit our web site:
www.sfmanj.org



P.O. Box 525
Nutley, NJ 07110

Phone: (973) 320-2730
Fax: (973)-667-6599
visit us at njsoil.com
info@njsoil.com



**Mound Clay
Infield Mix
and
Amendments**

YOUR HOME & FIELD ADVANTAGE

Call Sean Connell

404-216-4445 seanmconnell@comcast.net
www.georgiagolfconstruction.com

TALL FESCUE Varieties for New Jersey Sports Fields

Continued from page 8

Over time, the composition of tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass turf mixtures can gradually shift to a population of primarily Kentucky bluegrass. This is more likely under lower mowing heights, greater nitrogen fertility, more frequent irrigation, and other management practices that favor Kentucky bluegrass. Choosing a seed mixture that minimizes the quantity of Kentucky bluegrass and maintaining the turf to favor tall fescue development should delay this transition.

Perennial ryegrass is often mixed with tall fescue to hasten seedling emergence and turf establishment and provide a darker green turf. Unfortunately, the aggressiveness of perennial ryegrass can result in turf stands consisting of 90% or greater perennial ryegrass when as little as 5% perennial ryegrass (by weight) was included in the seed mixture. Many improved tall fescue varieties have a darker green color; hence, there is less of a need to include perennial ryegrass for color enhancement. Perennial ryegrass can be excluded from a seed mixture when tall fescue is seeded before September 15 and there is adequate time to establish the turf. As a general rule, tall fescue turf will reach a mature condition once it grows through two "cool seasons"; that is, a fall and spring or spring and fall periods.

Tall fescue seedings are typically more successful when seeded at 8 to 10 pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet (350 to 440 pounds per acre) of turf area. A tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass mixture should also be seeded at 8 to 10 pounds of seed per 1000 square feet (350 to 440 pounds per acre). Seeding tall fescue at lower rates can be successful under ideal conditions; however, lower seeding

rates have greater risk of forming a clumpy, sparse turf cover, especially when soil preparation is less than ideal.

Emergence of tall fescue should occur within 5 to 7 days when seeded into warm moist soil. The rate of tillering (primary lateral shoots arising from the crown) and establishment of tall fescue is slower than perennial ryegrass but more rapid than Kentucky bluegrass. Tall fescue has a bunch-type growth habit (tillers from a central crown) although short rhizomes are observed on some plants. Extensive tillering and rhizome development are spreading traits that turfgrass breeders are continuing to work on to improve tall fescue varieties.

A well-established, mature tall fescue turf will exhibit good to excellent traffic tolerance. Ideally, intense foot traffic (use) should be withheld for one year on newly seeded tall fescue sports fields to ensure the establishment and development of a traffic tolerant turfgrass stand; however, in some cases, earlier field use may be achievable. Additional details on establishment of sports field surfaces can be found in the Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Bulletin E300 Turfgrass Establishment Procedures for Sports Fields (<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=E300>).

Recovery from traffic damage occurs from re-growth of meristems located on the crowns of plants, which are approximately one-third (1/3) of an inch below the soil surface. Recovery is not possible if crowns are destroyed; re-seeding or sodding will be necessary to repair this type of damage.

Continued on page 17



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
(848) 932-6295, ext. 331; or clarke@aesop.rutgers.edu or*

SPOTLIGHT on our ADVERTISERS

Our newsletter advertisers are invited to submit articles to Update profiling themselves, their company, their services or their products.

Entitled "Spotlight on our Advertisers", these 1/2 page articles can include your local salespersons' names, phone numbers, and email addresses along with any local events you are sponsoring.

It can run next to your company's ad or be in a separate area of the newsletter.

AND IT'S FREE!

Run the lines

By Bernard Luongo

When I was a young man many sports seasons ago our household had a subscription to Readers Digest. While there was many a good serious article with excellent content there was also small columns about humor in life. One that always caught my attention was the Humor in Uniform column. Now there is a serious profession with dedicated people, a lot of training, in charge of a lot of territory, and they wear a uniform. Sound familiar? If they can find humor in what they do, what do we have?

Now, don't get the wrong impression, I don't want to turn our newsletter into an Alfred E. Newman Mad Magazine rag. But, I know we have better stuff than that. We as professional Turfmeisters have stories to tell. Heck, it happens several times a day. One that I know we all share and I liken it to the running of the bulls in Spain. It is what I like to call the running of the lines. Whether it's lacrosse in the spring, or field hockey or soccer in the fall, the rallying cry that is heard at the start of every practice throughout the state is RUN THE LINES. Like the bulls in Spain, don't get in their way. They don't stop. Even on the hardwood floor in the winter time. RUN THE LINES. I am beginning to wonder with all the running of the lines that coaches in previous lives must have been fishing captains.

If you are a new Turfmeister and never witnessed this phenomenon of nature you are in for a treat. This event would make any 5th grade

geometry teacher proud. A herd, running in unison, following a parallel line and cutting the most perfect 90-degree angle on a beautiful green plane. Now folks, if that is not geometry, I don't know what is. I am most tempted just to humor myself to prove a point (sometimes explaining to coaches in layman terms the consequences of 'running the lines' just doesn't sink in). So maybe a visual is worth a thousand words.



Sometime this fall, after the players have been running the lines for two weeks, I am going to extend the perimeter line by 50 feet (geometry again), sit back and watch them run the lines. If the experiment goes to plan they will run right off the grid. I wonder if they run out of line if the ones out front will stop and all the others will run into them. It would be quite a sight. I will let you know how it turns out in the next issue. Keep on turfing.

Bernard Luongo is Lead Groundsperson, Northern Burlington County Regional School District, Columbus, NJ, and SFMANJ member.

We know you work hard.
Let us work harder.

Lean on us for some of your business demands - we know we can work harder for you. This is why we've implemented the Partners Program and Business Solutions, and the Px3 Maintenance Package.

Px3 helps you with the planning process by providing customized bids for each project. We can accurately estimate the square footage of any property.

Customers who join our Partners Program earn points on every John Deere Landscapes purchase and redeem those points at an online store, for various industry events, or for cash on account. Program members are also eligible for our Business Solutions, which can help reduce your day-to-day business expenses.

Please contact your local branch to learn more about these opportunities. We are eager to help you with as many of your business challenges as possible!



JOHN DEERE
LANDSCAPES

800-347-4272
www.JohnDeereLandscapes.com

FOOTBALL FIELD MAINTENANCE FOR NATURAL TURF FIELDS ABOVE THE TRANSITION ZONE: **PART 2**

like during the competition portion of their season. It does force us to aerate more and keep an extra eye on the area of the field that they practice on over and over again. I guess the best advice is to have a good relationship with your coaches and administrators to make your life easier.

Cooperation is great but you need a good plan going in to the week of a football game. Start by looking at the weather forecast to set up a painting and mowing schedule. Typically we will cut Monday, Wednesday and Friday for a Saturday game with painting reserved for Thursday and Friday. Our cutting height is a little higher than most fields (2.5 to 3.0 inches). We counter that by using a light roller on game day to provide a smooth flat surface. In order to keep our sidelines straight, they are cut a quarter inch shorter that morning before rolling. As the season progresses we begin to broadcast perennial ryegrass seed before our games. This allows the athletes to work the seed in with their cleats. This year we have purchased a Woods seeder that we will use to renovate the center of the field throughout the season. The combination of all of these things is what allows us to provide the best surface possible on a tight budget.



Post-game repairs and rest are what really holds the field together from week to week. In the beginning of the season when it is hot, we will irrigate the field as soon as everyone is off after a game. This helps the recuperation process begin. We may also lightly roll the field to push down any loose turf. This allows that turf to re-root if given enough moisture. In addition, we also remove all loose divots that are not still attached. The divots then are filled with a pre-made divot mix consisting of mushroom compost soil and seed. Sometimes this doesn't happen until Monday depending on manpower and time of the game. However, it is better to get as much repair work done as soon as possible to give the field as much time as possible to recover.

Putting Your Field to Bed

As one season ends another begins. After our last home game of the year, we get ready for the following year. Seeding throughout the season definitely helps this process. Our goal at the end of the year is to fully repair the entire field and have as little bare soil as possible exposed. We start by topdressing all divots and low spots and then seed the entire field with tall fescue seed. Over the past few seasons we have been trying to incorporate more tall fescue into all of our fields because they seem to do a better job resisting disease damage in the summer than perennial ryegrass. The perennial ryegrass serves its purpose during the season by being durable and germinating under difficult circumstances but the addition of the tall fescue gives us more cover going into the season. After the field is topdressed and seeded, we roll one more time and put the final application of ammonium sulfate out. I recommend that you do whatever it takes to keep any type of play off of your field at this time because it is almost at the point of dormancy and any wear will be difficult to repair. A couple of pick-up games can cause a lot of unnecessary damage that will need to be repaired in the spring.

Football in New Jersey is a long season. It starts with heat and humidity and finishes with a mix of cold unpredictable weather. The best way to survive is to have a plan that you can communicate to coaches and administrators in order to provide the best possible playing surface for the athletes to use and enjoy.



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



The Turf Trade
517 Franklinville Road
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062
856-478-6704
Steven Segui 302-354-7209
Michael Nicotra 856-472-2733
Brian Robinson 484-886-0021
www.theturftrade.com

Your #1 Turf Supplier
Fertilizers/Seed
Plant-Protectants
Soils/Sands



William Mast
Steve Thompson
Office: 610-327-3390
Fax: 610-327-0581

1486 S. Hanover St.
Pottstown, PA 19465
www.aer-core.com
office@aer-core.com

Turfgrass Services
Equipment Sales

TALL FESCUE Varieties for New Jersey Sports Fields

Continued from page 14

Maintenance of Tall Fescue for Sports Turf

Mowing heights as low as 1.5 to 2 inches may be used when turf-type tall fescue is maintained with moderate fertilization and irrigation is available. However, tall fescue turfs are more prone to weed invasion at mowing heights less than 2 inches.

Annual nitrogen fertilization rates depend on the soil organic matter content, desired turf quality, need for turfgrass recovery after field use/play, and the age of the turf. Recommended annual nitrogen rates range from 1 to 4 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of turf area. Fertilization of turfgrass in New Jersey must be performed in accordance with the 2011 New Jersey Fertilizer Law (New Jersey Act, P.L. 2010, c. 112 (C.58:10A-64). Four pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet per year may be appropriate for establishing turf or promoting turfgrass recovery on intensively trafficked turf sports fields. Older turfgrass stands where soil organic matter content is adequate will require less nitrogen fertilization. The timing of N fertilization for tall fescue fields should be matched with usage. For example, more nitrogen fertilizer should be applied in late summer and early fall if this is also the season of primary use. Conversely, spring applications of N fertilizer should be emphasized when the field use is greatest during the spring. For more information on fertilization of sports fields see Rutgers Cooperative Extension publication FS105 Maintaining Athletic Fields (<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=fs105>).

Irrigation of tall fescue sports fields is necessary under severe drought conditions to maintain healthy vigorous growth during play. However, a healthy, well-established tall fescue turf needs less frequent irrigation and is capable of surviving drought for many weeks by going dormant. Tall fescue will survive drought conditions best when traffic is withheld while the field is dormant. Insect or disease activity will reduce the survival of drought stressed and dormant turf. Tall fescue turf grown on shallow or unhealthy soil will have a limited root system and, therefore, less persistence under severe drought stress.

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

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



**PLANT
FOOD
COMPANY, INC.**

Perfectionists Like You

Cranbury, New Jersey

Toll Free: (800) 562-1291

Fax: (609) 443-8038

www.plantfoodco.com

E-mail: pfc@plantfoodco.com

Liquid & Dry Products for your Professional Needs



AdamsEarth® - Biostimulant

The Original Holistic Health Product for your Plants & Soil

impulse™ - Biostimulant

Reduce Wilt, Strengthen Cell Walls, Increase NPK Uptake

Phosphite 30 - Potassium Polyphosphite

Activate Natural Defenses, Systemic Mobility & Longevity

20-0-3 25%SRN - Liquid Fertilizer

Triazone SRN, Maintain Health, Vigor & Color Longer

16-0-8 50%SRN - Liquid Fertilizer

EDTA Chelate Micronutrients w/ Sulfur, Foliar & Root Feed

25-0-5 .5% Iron - Dry Fertilizer

25%XCU, Less Applications Needed, Sulfur Coated

pHusion Lime - Soil Amendment

Reacted w/ Organic Acid, Active 4 Times Faster



Clean, Safe Products Manufactured For The Ultimate Plant Health Perfectionist.

Things I Wish I Knew Earlier

by Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

Remember how you worked so hard to get your field in great shape during the off-season? You endured the weather extremes and scrounged for tools and resources to get the results you were looking for. Diseases, weeds and insects showed-up, but you nursed the turf back to health each time. No matter what problem you encountered, whether it was machine breakdowns, someone on your crew not showing up for some reason or your boss assigning you an extra project you didn't see coming, you stayed the course. Why you even checked up on the field nights and weekends on your own time just to be sure everything was all right.

You never gave up.

Now, the team has begun their season and they are starting to systematically destroy everything you worked hard to build. Why it seems as though the coaches are having the players wear out parts of the field on purpose, for spite! And to add insult to injury, they are leaving trash around, not even using those new trash cans you provided (Plastic bottles everywhere- no respect!). You feel a range of emotions; anger, frustration and negativity (and maybe some self pity mixed in).

Sound familiar?

I used to dread pre-season because I thought my fields were being abused. I was taking it personally! In our business, we can't let that get us down. A mentor, much wiser than I, took me aside once and explained to me (in simple terms) some essential things I needed to learn.

Field wear and tear is a given.

Sports fields are meant to be used. Our job is to create and maintain safe, playable sports surfaces. Expert sports turf management is all about reacting effectively to field use (and overuse). Traffic from players causes surface wear, such as abrasion to the plant tissues, soil compaction and divoting. Even synthetic surfaces are not immune from wear - infill becomes displaced, fibers break down and seams tear. Fortunately, the science of sports field management is expanding and there are more new tools, techniques and technologies to help us do our jobs better.

The best strategy is a well thought out management plan and good site specific cultural practices. These include proper mowing; a nutrient management plan based on soil test results, soil aeration, irrigation, overseeding (or sodding) with improved turfgrasses and appropriate control methods to manage weeds insect and diseases. If resources are scarce, take pictures and document what is happening to show the owners. This will help to make a case for better tools and materials.

Getting mad doesn't make it better, and can make it worse.

Someone once told me that an expectation is a resentment waiting to happen. Don't expect others to care about your field like you do. A sports field manager carrying resentment



can easily become a target for ridicule and will have a hard time commanding respect and credibility. Don't let that happen. Relax! Take care of yourself. Are you eating right, getting enough exercise and sleep? Make time to recharge and heal the body, mind and spirit. Sometimes the negativity doesn't go away easily. Don't let it eat away at you. Vent! Otherwise you risk taking it out on your family, friends or co-workers. Try to find a trusted advisor, perhaps another sports field manager and talk it out. Damage to your field is going to happen, the question is when. When it does happen, deal with it like a professional.



Pride is one of the seven deadly sins.

It is good to feel good about the work that you do. Taking the feel good to the extreme can be unhealthy. Avoid letting your work define you. You are more than just your job. When your work distracts you from your family and friends it can make you dull. Having other interests keeps your mind sharp. There is more to life than your or my sports field. Yep, it's true. Really!

Unless you paid for it, you don't get to make the rules.

Acceptance of what you have to work with gives you power because you don't have to waste time dwelling on what is wrong (it is what it is). Instead, you can now focus on doing the next right thing. The only thing that you own and control is your personal "brand". Your brand is how your skill set, knowledge and personal style define the overall results that others perceive. Take any two sports field managers, put them on the same site with the identical resources and conditions and you will likely see some differences in the operations and end results. While you might be powerless over certain aspects of the job, you still have control over your brand, quality of work, attitude and finding opportunities for personal growth.

Grass is more forgiving than people.

In spite of your best field management practices, things beyond your control happen. One time, I was informed that my field was going to be used as a parking lot for an event! Whether or not there is rational thinking behind an owner's decision, what will be remembered most, is how well you as the sports field manager dealt with the news. Which response do you think is the best - An outright "Oh hell no!" followed by sulking or "Let me think about it and get back to you- oh yes, we can do this but here are the costs and potential consequences?" Either way, in the end you will have to deal with the aftermath. And the "can do" sports field manager will always come out ahead because he or she makes things happen and give the owners what they want again and again.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.



Actual photo – not retouched.

Your grass will be greener and thicker, sooner with **CoverSports FieldSaver® Winter Turf Blankets/ Growth Covers.**

We've got you covered all year long! Protect turf from harsh winter conditions! Promote faster spring growth and green-up!

- 8 Year Limited Warranty
- Heavy 100% woven polypro fabric
- Reinforced hems and grommets all edges



PPL Park, home of the Philadelphia Union, MLS



Stakes keep covers in place in brass grommets at 5' intervals.

"The results were incredible..."
Paul Heron, Grounds Supervisor,
Unionville-Chadds Ford School District, PA



For price quotes, sizes and fabric specs, visit www.CoverSports.com • sales@coversports.com • 800-445-6680
We make covers for all athletic surfaces: Rain Covers, Sideline Tarps, Track Protectors



Humphrys CoverSports
Industrial and Athletic Fabric Products Since 1874



Double 'D' Turf, LLC

Dennis DeSanctis, Sr.
Monroe Twp., NJ
dennisdturf@aol.com

Drill & Fill
Deep Tine Aeration
Galaxy Turf Tires
Athletic Field Aeration

732-241-7378



P.O. Box 205
Pennsville, NJ 08070



Or Current Occupant

SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

Moving Ahead To Serve You Better

TORO
A Toro Partner

YOUR FRIENDS AT...
TURF EQUIPMENT
AND SUPPLY COMPANY

888-384-8676 • www.turf-equipment.com

The advertisement features a large background image of two Toro riding mowers on a baseball field. One mower is in the foreground on the left, and another is further back on the right. In the background, there is a chain-link fence, a scoreboard, and stadium seating. The text "Moving Ahead To Serve You Better" is written in large blue letters at the top. The Toro logo and "A Toro Partner" text are on the right. At the bottom left, the text "YOUR FRIENDS AT..." is followed by the "TURF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY COMPANY" logo and contact information. A smaller inset image at the bottom right shows a Toro mower on a baseball field with stadium seating in the background.