

**Paying it Forward:
How to Be Helpful When
Asked for Advice**

SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION
Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

Rich Watson
Laurel Lawnmower
SFMANJ, Vice President

SportsTurf

Being Helpful

Sales Representative
Laurel Lawnmower

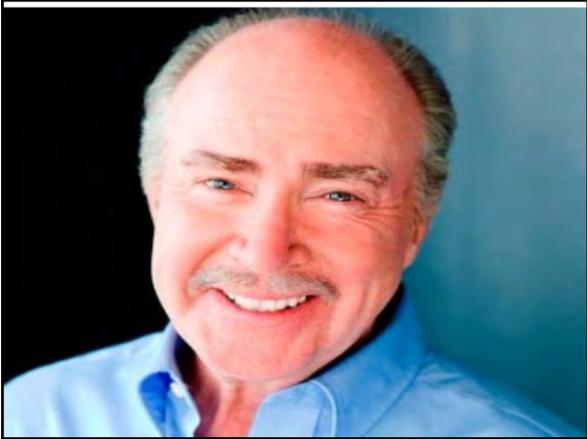


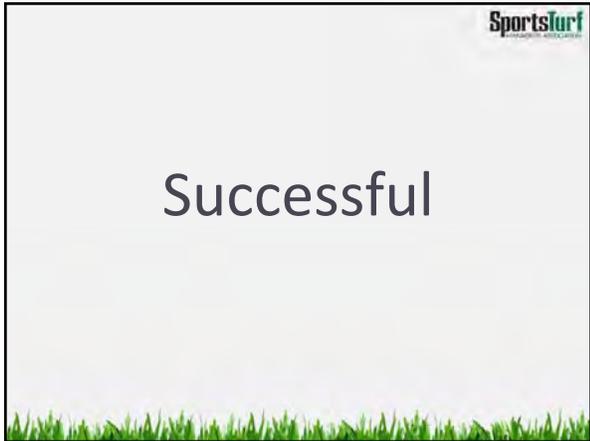
SportsTurf

Vice President

Sports Field
Managers Association of New Jersey

Dr. Henry Indyk











Is Your Facility Safe?

Scott Bills
Sports Field Solutions, LLC
2016 STMA Conference
San Diego, California
January 20, 2016

SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION
Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.



Asking for Trouble?

Not sure why everyone is complaining we have field tarps?



SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION



Why are some areas of my field so hard?

Asking for Trouble?



SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Sportsurf
ARTIFICIAL TURF

Asking For Trouble?

How High Can We Go? **12 Inches and Counting**



The left image shows a dirt path on a field. The right image shows a soil core with a depth gauge indicating 12 inches.



SportsTurf

Key People K-12 Schools

- Groundkeeper
- Grounds Supervisor
- Facility Manager
- Business Administrator
- Athletic Director
- School Board Members
- Superintendent
- Landscape Contractor
- Booster Clubs



SportsTurf

Overlapping Problems

- Athletic Field Maintenance
- Turf Quality
- Overuse of Fields
- Budgets
- Personnel Issues
- Expectations Vs. Reality
- State Regulations
- Confidence




SportsTurf

Key People Public Works/ Park & Rec

- Grounds Keeper
- Foreman
- Assistant Director
- Public Works director
- Park and Rec Director
- Council Members
- Parent Volunteers
- Landscape Contractor




SportsTurf
PROFESSORIAL ASSOCIATION

“Nobody will listen to me. I feel like I am the only one who cares around here. I am the person who takes care of the fields but I never get invited to the meetings where decisions are made. I am so frustrated.”

How can I make a difference?



SportsTurf
PROFESSORIAL ASSOCIATION

“I Need A Good Assistant”

Do You Know Anyone?



SportsTurf
PROFESSORIAL ASSOCIATION

“I Have Two Guys Taking Care of My Fields Who Have Never Worked Outside Before”

Can You Help Them?



SportsTurf
PROFESSORIAL ASSOCIATION

Things To Consider

- Type of facility
- Opportunity to connect quality turf professional with a municipal career
- Careful consideration of people that may be a good fit
- Make the job opportunity known but don't get involved in the process
- Connecting people who may not be considering each other will strengthen the sports turf industry



SportsTurf
PROFESSORIAL ASSOCIATION

Things To Consider

- Type of facility
- Level of athletics played on fields
- Expectations
- Equipment on site
- Irrigation
- Budget
- Level of interest displayed by crew
- Suggest continuing education



SportsTurf
PROFESSORIAL ASSOCIATION

“I just took a job at a local high school and it is not what I expected”

. How do I get anything done with the guys I have and the tiny budget they gave me to work with?



SportsTurf
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Things To Consider

- Previous work experience
- Workplace limitations
- Accentuate the positive
- Get involved with the STMA, local chapter
- Baby steps. Conditions and people don't change over night
- Additional funding sources
- Create a positive relationship with the financial powers to be in the district



SportsTurf
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

“ I have a bunch of turf issues and I can't keep people off my fields long enough to fix anything”

People are blaming me for all of our field problems. How can I make things better?



SportsTurf
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

“We previously had a 5 man crew. Now there are only 3 of us to maintain the same area”

How do they expect us to provide the same results?



SportsTurf
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Things To Consider

- Type of facility
- Suggest field rotations and closings
- Focus on an intense increase in cultural practices
- Look at soil profile and composition
- Get outside help from local university extension person
- Create a list of problems and possible solutions
- Work with user groups and make them part of the solution



SportsTurf
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Things To Consider

- Expectations of the facility
- Set priorities
- Focus on high priority areas to promote what can be accomplished
- Evaluate equipment for efficiency
- Request part time help
- Stay positive
- Get involved with STMA, local chapter to find people in similar situations



SportsTurf
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

“I don't know what to do. We have high profile sports programs but our fields are covered with clover. The district is afraid to do anything about it because of the environmental laws in our state”

How do we provide better field conditions and still follow the law?



SportsTurf
PROFESSIONAL TURF CARE

Things To Consider

- Get educated to gain a better understand of the law
- Educate administrators about what is allowed
- Work within the law and move forward
- Promote IPM principals if allowed by the law
- Focus on the importance of cultural practices
- Make pesticide use, if allowed, a last resort to enhance the results from the increased use of cultural practices
- Establishing quality turf should be the focus



SportsTurf
PROFESSIONAL TURF CARE

Aeration, Seeding, Proper Mowing, Fertility and Irrigation Management









Some People Want to Run Before They Walk

Always Promote The Basics!

SportsTurf
PROFESSIONAL TURF CARE

Aeration




“Our fields are terrible.
What should we be
spraying?”





SportsTurf
IMPROVING THE GAME

Seed for Football Fields 2011

Varsity Game Field	Practice Field
• 8/19- 100lbs Rye	• 8/13- 100lbs Rye
• 9/10- 50lbs Rye	• 8/30- 100lbs Rye
• 9/13- 100lbs Rye	• 9/10- 100lbs Rye
• 9/20- 100lbs Rye	• 9/20- 100lbs Rye
• 9/30- 100lbs Rye	• 10/7- 100lbs Rye
• 10/6- 100lbs Rye	• 10/22- 100lbs Rye
• 10/22- 100lbs Rye	• 11/1- 50lbs Rye
• 11/15- 100lbs Tall F	• 11/15 200lbs Tall F
• Total- 750 lbs	• Total- 850 lbs



SportsTurf
IMPROVING THE GAME

Feed Your Turf



SportsTurf
IMPROVING THE GAME

Final Game 2011




Start With a Soil Test

Final Game 2003



SportsTurf
IMPROVING THE GAME

April and November Fertility







SportsTurf
MANAGERS ASSOCIATION
Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.



SportsTurf

“Helpful”
The **KISS** Principal:

Keep It Simple Sports Turf Manager

