

SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT

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There are over 10,000 sports fields in the state of Michigan on which thousands participate annually. These sports fields serve a variety of functions, from hosting sporting events to sites of community gatherings. At a minimum, these sports fields should be safe and playable. The major issue is that a high majority of these sports fields are overused and abused, and this problem is compounded by these sports fields having inadequate funding for routine maintenance and turfgrass reestablishment. Ultimately, the goal is to educate decision makers on the inputs required to maintain these sports fields. In the meantime, research practices must be explored to evaluate management practices by reducing costs, and increase the turn around time for a sports field to be ready for play again. The following experiments were initiated to evaluate management practices from a low to medium management perspective.

Management Practices Experiment

The objective of the study was to synthesize previous research and management practices conducted towards sports fields and provide a strategy or strategies for managing of sports fields. Furthermore, this study will ascertain the best interactions for study in the future.

Factors	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
A) Grass Mixtures	50% PR/50% KB	50% Common Berm./50% Supina
B) Fertility	"Lean out" thru the year	"Pump up" throughout the season
C) Irrigation	None	Yes—50% ET
D) Reseeding	None	Yes— (50% or 67% reduced rate)
E) Core Cultivation	None	Yes—2x/year
F) Crumb Rubber	None	Yes—0.5"

Systems	<u>1(Control)</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
Grass Mixture	0	0	0	1	1	1
Fertility	0	1	0	0	1	0
Irrigation	0	1	1	0	1	0
Reseeding	1	1	0	1	0	0
Core Cultiv.	0	1	1	0	1	1
Crumb Rubber	0	0	1	0	1	1

Seed and Walk Away Experiment

The objective of this study was to evaluate grasses and mixtures for sports fields which could potentially be used for low maintenance sports fields. Furthermore, to evaluate the interaction of crumb rubber with these grasses and mixtures. Even though upfront costs may seem prohibitive, long term costs could be reduced by “not” reseeding high traffic areas.

Treatments

- 1) Tall Fescue - 8#/M
- 2) Hybrid bluegrass, Light - 2#/M
- 3) Hybrid bluegrass, Dark - 2#/M
- 4) Bermudagrass - 1.5#/M
- 5) Supina bluegrass - 1.5#/M
- 6) 34:66 (CB:S) - 1.5#/M
- 7) 66:34 (CB:S) - 1.5#/M
- 8) 25:25:25:25 (CB:S:PR:Cov.) - 3#/M
- 9) 25:25:25:25 (CB:S:PR:HB129) - 3#/M
- 10) 25:25:25:25 (CB:S:PR:HB328) - 3#/M
- 11) 10:10:60:20 (CB:S:PR:Cov.) - 3#/M
- 12) 10:10:40:40 (CB:S:PR:Cov.) - 3#/M