

How Do You Do...?

The Question -- How Do You Maintain/Repair Soccer Goal Mouths?

Answered by Kevin Vos, Muscatine (IA) Soccer Complex

The Muscatine Soccer Complex consists of eight fields. We try to do a lot of preventive maintenance so as not to have to repair the goal mouths. In the spring, we use the slicing tines on the entire fields in the direction of play. We also use a riding aerifier throughout the season using the solid tines so as not to interrupt play. When the schedule and weather permit, we will use coring tines on the riding aerifier. We then drag the plugs and sweep up the remaining material. We slit-seed or overseed with a combination of pre-germinated Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass, irrigate and topdress as needed. If needed, we will apply a small rate of fertilizer on the goal mouths.

Because we have a large turf playing surface and overall field layout, we are also able to "move" the entire field after about 15-20 games to spread wear.

Answered by James Boynton, City of Birmingham (AL), Legion Field

Since our soccer season begins in the late fall, after football, the easiest way for us to repair worn goal mouths is to use a pre-germinated ryegrass mix with topdressing. Then we'll add a starter fertilizer, keep it well irrigated, and be ready for play in three to four days.

Luckily our goal mouths fall off the field of play for football, and we're sand-based, so normal maintenance is just the basics we use for the rest of the field.

If for some reason we're playing in the summer, on our Bermudagrass, and damage occurs, we'll cut out the worn areas and replace them with new sod from our own on-site nursery.

Answered by Orval Reed, Parks & Facilities Supervisor, City of Lacey (WA)

We don't have any official city soccer competition on our fields, though we do hold soccer camps and offer recreational soccer. The local Soccer Clubs run their own self-structured leagues, using both our fields and those of the city's schools.

All who use the fields for soccer mark the goal areas with a grouping of "orange cones." The teams are responsible for bringing their own cones and setting them out at the proper distances and spacing.

Prior to settling on the "cone" marking system, the soccer leagues had installed in-ground goal "sleeves." U-shaped pipe sections were fitted together and into these sleeves to form the goal. These piping sections were removed after play and chained to the field's chain link fencing between games. While the pre-set goal area did cause additional field wear, the real problem was the

"attractive nuisance" and potential liability hazard created by the hanging pipes.

We've found the cone method eliminates this attractive nuisance and offers very high flexibility in field layout. Because we've built a good relationship with the field users over the years, and they respect the facilities, they do an excellent job of rotating goal areas to avoid turf damage.

Our basic maintenance needs only extra irrigation, a good aeration program and fertilization to keep the fields in good shape for practices and play.

Answered by Darian Daily, City of Brentwood (TN) Parks & Rec.

Actually, we just finished our season and re-sprigged the goal mouths. Being Parks & Recreation, we don't have the time to seed, someone always wants to get right out on the field for **something**. So, as soon as the season is over, we aerify and sprig with Bermudagrass, add a starter fertilizer and irrigate.

If wear is too excessive, we'll take out the worn areas and re-sod.

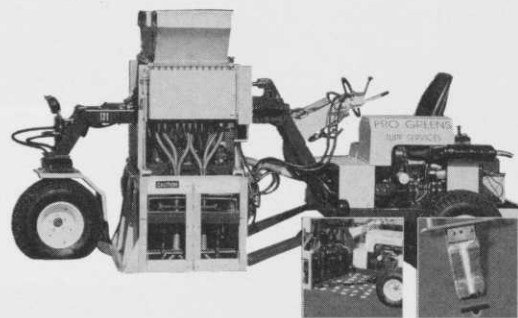
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