

## How Do You Do...?

### The Question -- How Do You Use Your "Slow" Time to Prepare For Your Busy Season?

Answered by Mike Hurd, Head Groundskeeper, Legends Field/New York Yankees

Our off season runs basically from September to December (right around Christmas time). So, the first thing we do is to make a list of all the projects that need doing and keep it posted so that nothing gets overlooked.

Our first project is to add clay to repair or reconstruct all of our skinned areas. These include the baseline paths, pitching mound and bullpens. Next is our preparation for our ryegrass program. We overseed in November, so before we do that, we aerify, topdress, fertilize with a high potassium fertilizer, and sometimes verticut.

We also do our safety inspections at this time. Included in this safety check is all the padding and netting in the stadium. Batting cages also are re-taped and re-netted.

In addition to the routine maintenance of our equipment throughout the year, we use the off season to do all of our major overhauls and rebuilding. This project also includes getting hydraulic kits and changing the hydraulic hoses on all of our mowers. These, along with a few other, projects pretty much take us right up to the start of the season.

Answered by Chris Conradson, Assistant Athletic Facility Manager, University of Colorado

At the University of Colorado, my "slow" time is actually pretty busy. As is the case at most institutions, I am not only the turf manager, but I'm also in charge of building maintenance for the athletic department.

During the off season, I am able to schedule larger projects in relation to building maintenance that don't normally get done during the fall. The "slow" time also allows us to tune up our equipment, the mowers, tractors, trimmers, field strippers, etc. We can also take a look at our equipment needs and see what we can fit into the next year's budget.

I also have a kind of unique situation in that most of my help comes from students. Scheduling becomes a real challenge at times, trying to fit projects in around their class schedules.

Right now, we are busy getting ready for Spring Football. This year, they are beginning drills a month earlier than in years past. We'll have to wait and see what the weather brings us in March -- it's entirely possible that my "slow" time just might turn out to be one of my busier times.

Answered by Bruce Boman, City of San Diego Parks & Rec.

Living and working in sunny San Diego doesn't provide very much "slow" time. There are just "not used as often times." San Diego is a very outdoor oriented city and our athletic fields are used by everyone. We have schools using them during the day, youth parks & recreation activities in the late afternoon and adult use during the evening hours and into the night.

Each area of turf responsibility throughout the City of San Diego is managed and directed by various supervisors. Each is responsible for coordinating turf projects during "slow" times. They also are responsible for use scheduling at their respective sites. Local area councils and community groups also contribute input into the turf maintenance needs and ways to accomplish those needs.

Our city budget includes aeration and fertilization about twice a year. Any other supplementary work (additional fertilization, aeration, pesticide applications, verticutting, topdressing, seeding, etc.) needs to be funded through creative sources and either coordinated with our city workforce or contracted out. We have many of our schools on a year around schedule, which makes "slow" time projects very precise and critical for the safety of the users. This "slow" time is also very critical to the rest and recovery of the turf. After all, alleviating heavily worn areas is all part of everyone's plan for safe, healthy and aesthetically pleasing athletic areas.

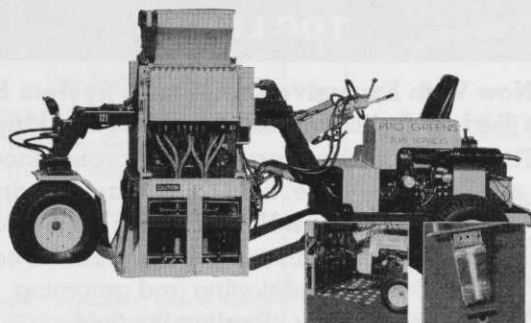
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## How Do You Do...?

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*Answered by Charles Amos, Chief Supervisor of Recreation & Sports, University of Michigan*

In my situation, we don't really have any "slow" time. We are not only in charge of field maintenance for outdoor sports, we are also snow removal, salting, and events set-up. SO -- during the winter, in addition to our outside work, we move indoors for basketball, hockey, gymnastics, track & field, etc.

As far as the outside fields go, we begin with the winterizing of our equipment in the fall. Then we do any additional servicing, repairs and/or overhauling as needed. Since the weather here is very unpredictable, we need to not only look at which type of field (football, baseball, etc.) is going to be needed first, but also which fields are going to be accessible first.

Our fiscal year begins July 1st, so we often have the problem that a lot of our major projects are going to occur towards the end of our budget year. Therefore, it is VERY important for us to set not only priorities, but NEEDS and WANTS. Our needs category would include such things as aerifying, seeding, topdressing and chemical applications -- wants, at this point, would include cosmetic improvements, new equipment, etc.

I feel that it is very important to have EVERYONE involved in the priority making discussions. This includes the coaches, students and my entire crews, as well as those that hold the purse strings. We have an outside consultant that I work with to set the spring schedules, which we can do after assessing field conditions in the fall. We have been working with #1 priority fields as well as a few that we are working with on a 5-year plan (i.e. working on them in stages to bring up to par, instead of blowing the budget on a major reconstruction project).

As with anything, communication is a top priority, and everyone involved needs to be kept up-to-date on the status of all of the fields.

STM

## NEW MEMBERS

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<b>Keith Stockford</b> Colby College Waterville, ME	<b>Henry L. Stone</b> Marriott Mgmt. Svcs. St. Petersburg, FL	<b>Justin Storm</b> Michigan State Univ. E. Lansing, MI	<b>Suntec Paint, Inc.</b> Joseph Anderson Gainesville, FL
<b>Supaturf Products</b> Demie Moore Sandy, UT	<b>John Sweet</b> Texas Christian Univ. Fl. Worth, TX	<b>William Sweeting</b> Brockport Central School Brockport, NY	<b>Gary Tanner</b> Student Bowling Green, KY
<b>John Terry</b> Rain Bird Sales Tucson, AZ	<b>David L. Thigpen</b> Millsaps College Jackson, MS	<b>Ike Thomas</b> Thomas Bros. Grass Granbury, TX	<b>Stan Thomas</b> Thomas Bros. Grass Taft, TN
<b>Paul Thorborn</b> Jensen Corp. Cupertino, CA	<b>Cindy Tonderum</b> Iowa Lakes Comm. Coll. Spencer, IA	<b>Tree Top Landscaping</b> Doug Vescio Lexington, KY	<b>Turfcon, Inc.</b> Douglas Peabody Columbus, OH
<b>Dr. A.J. Turgeon</b> Penn State Univ. University Park, PA	<b>Jeff Underwood</b> Nicholasville-Jessamine Nicholasville, KY	<b>Richard Vetstringhe</b> Gananda Central School Wallworth, NY	<b>Walter E. Wells</b> Lake City Comm. Coll. Lake City, FL

**Q: What do all of these teams have in common?**

Oakland A's  
Arizona Diamondbacks  
University of Texas Longhorns  
San Diego Chargers  
University of Southern California Trojans  
California Angels  
Arizona State University Sun Devils  
San Francisco 49'ers  
San Diego State University Aztecs  
San Francisco Giants  
San Diego Padres  
Los Angeles Dodgers  
Oakland Raiders  
Arizona Cardinals

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