

WHERE TO START ON SPORTS TURF IMPROVEMENT

FIRST —

Carefully inspect the field or play area. Look for low spots that collect runoff water, have hard compacted soil and on which grass fails to grow. These indicate that a change in grade, a filling and leveling is necessary. Soil used should be the same as that already there.

SECOND —

Carefully inspect the field or play area to see that there is a slight slope to allow drainage of water from the playing surface. If this is not evident, a regrading of the field will be necessary to provide surface drainage. Specifications will need to be established and followed.

THIRD —

Carefully inspect the field or play area to see that there are no small holes or depressions that players might trip on. Those found should be filled with soil that is the same as that already on the field. Also, remove all stone and other debris that might interfere with play or cause injury if fallen on.

FOURTH —

Carefully inspect the field or play area to see that the soil drains well; i.e., that water moves

down through the soil rapidly enough to allow the surface to provide reasonably good footing following rain or irrigation. Should this not be evident, drainage tile and/or soil modification may be required. Specifications must be developed and carefully followed.

FIFTH —

Carefully inspect the field or play area to see that an irrigation system is in place that can water the turf surface evenly with a reasonable amount of water. Should this type of system not be evident, specifications must be developed and carefully followed to assure satisfactory results.

SIXTH —

Carefully inspect the field or play area to see what condition the turfgrass cover is in. If grass is thin over the entire area, replanting will be necessary. If grass is thin or non-existent in some areas but not in others, the thin or bare areas must be planted. The likelihood of grass persisting is improved as soil conditions are made more favorable for grass growth. However, on most sports fields and playgrounds use wears out the grass even where soil conditions are favorable. Thus, replanting of grass to fill in bare spots and prevent takeover by weeds is standard practice.

COOL HUMID REGION TURFGRASSES FOR SPORTS TURF AND PLAYGROUNDS

Several different types of turfgrass cover are suitable for northern football, soccer and baseball fields and playgrounds. The following may be considered:

Bluegrass blends —

— Blends of bluegrasses may be seeded.

Bluegrass – fine fescue mixtures —

— Mixtures of bluegrasses and fine fescues may be seeded.

Bluegrass – fine fescue – ryegrass mixtures —

— Mixtures of bluegrasses, fine fescues and turf

type perennial ryegrasses may be seeded.

Bluegrass – ryegrass mixtures —

— Mixtures of bluegrasses and turf type perennial ryegrasses may be seeded.

Ryegrass blends —

— Blends of turf type perennial ryegrasses may be seeded.

Tall fescue blends —

— Blends of turf type tall fescues may be seeded.

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