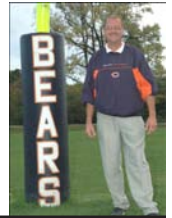




FALL PREPARATION AND FIELD MANAGEMENT



Surface Athletics works closely with other industry professionals to provide relevant information to organizations like the *Sports Turf Managers Association of New Jersey*. If you're just getting started on your fall turf maintenance program, we have a few tips to share, courtesy of Ken Mrock, head groundskeeper of the Chicago Bears. The complete list of turf tips is available at <http://www.turfaced.com/howto/fall-preparation-and-field-management>.

Tip #3: Establish a seed bank

Begin overseeding your turf prior to the start of the season. Overseed weekly, but at lighter rates (as opposed to a heavy overseeding only once or twice a season). This allows for the establishment of a 'seed bank', through which you always have new germination to take the place of turf that is damaged from foot traffic.

Tip #4: Aeration is the key to quality turfgrass



Soil compaction is one of the most common causes of weak turf on athletic fields. It is caused by soil particles being squeezed together by high traffic. Compaction reduces the rate at which water moves through the soil, and decreases air space. This prevents grass roots from functioning normally, so they become shallow and eventually die. The result is weak turf with little density and is more subject to injury. Aeration on a regular basis will help combat such problems.

Tip #6: Topdress with Field & Fairway

On fields where you have existing turf and your grade is what you desire, core aerify in 3 to 4 directions to bring up as much growing medium as possible. Then, apply Field & Fairway at a rate of 750 lbs./1000 ft² across the entire area. Use a chain link drag, broom,



or mat drag to break up soil cores and to move your conditioner into the aeration holes. Field & Fairway is an ideal amendment because it doesn't break down over time, providing long-term benefit to your root zone. By aerifying and topdressing regularly, the Field & Fairway will allow the cores to break up much easier after each aeration, keeping the growing medium friable, and allowing it to effectively store nutrients and water.

Tip #7: Sharpen mower blades or reels



Poorly sharpened mower blades can be extremely damaging to the turf, causing the grass to be ripped instead of being sheered. Be sure to establish a mowing routine that keeps the grass at a manageable and playable height, while never removing more than 1/3 of the leaf blade. If 2" is the desired height, mow before the grass reaches 3".

Tip #9: Promote effective turf repair and recovery

Spot treat worn or muddy areas by dumping and raking Field & Fairway Emerald. The green coloring of the product provides aesthetic benefit, while the ceramic particles effectively soak up moisture and provide solid footing even through heavy rains. This is ideal treatment for high traffic areas between the hashes on a football field, or in a soccer goal mouth.

Submitted by Surface Athletics (800-207-6457)

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