

Sports Turf Topic: Spring Conditioning

Cool-season turfgrass plants initiate large amounts of cell growth in the spring. Root growth begins first, as root cell development can occur at lower temperatures than top-growth.

If you followed proper fertility and cultural practices last fall, you will reap the benefits this spring. Cool-season turfgrasses develop roots in both the fall and spring. With cooler temperatures in the fall, you can make higher applications of nitrogen allowing the plant to grow roots and store additional carbohydrates without producing unwanted top-growth. In the spring, the turf will green up earlier and continue developing roots without large amounts of additional nitrogen.

Recent research has shown that the addition of biostimulants such as Launch® and Focus® during root development will enhance fertilizer activity.

Following summer stress, or the stress of activity on the sport fields, turf plants respond to the addition of plant hormones such as cytokinins and soil additives such as humic and fulvic acids. Stress recovery is aided and the plants are better able to store energy for the winter.

If you have a fall fertility program, the addition of biostimulants in the spring can help avoid flush growth and enhance root development. Refrain from making heavy applications of quick-release nitrogen in the spring. This can cause the plant to initiate a flush of leaf tissue, using energy needed for root development. Biostimulant application, combined with proper fertility practices, will allow turf plants to withstand the stresses of spring activities while still producing the root mass needed during the upcoming summer months.

**Condition your turf with Launch® and Focus® Turf Biostimulants.
For tough turf that won't buckle under. Even after the game.**



"I put Launch® up against another biostimulant I was using and the first thing I noticed was an extra two inches of root growth. Recently, the team held a grueling two-hour practice with the offense really pounding a concentrated area. Afterwards, I checked the turf and couldn't even see where they practiced."

**Dale Wysocki
Minnesota Vikings**

Always read and follow label directions.



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