

the key. Moderate nitrogen and control thatch on turf. As for soil, perform no late corings and do not leave holes open. Adjust your fall irrigation to maintain adequate soil moisture to avoid winter drought, saturated soil, or standing water, and reduce thatch accumulation.

Conclusion

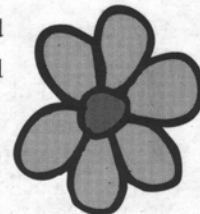
It is the wise sports turf manager who will increase vigilance on his/her fields following this article. In areas where there is a lack of snow cover, increasing freeze-thaw cycles, or little rainfall, desiccation may become a problem. Conversely, areas of high winter traffic, i.e. outdoor ice rinks, may have to be located away from sports fields. A little preventative maintenance can result in a field or fields that are ready for play after surviving a harsh winter relatively unscathed. Have you filled in those low areas where water may accumulate? Have you raised your cutting heights? These and other issues may be particularly important when groups are asking or demanding to be allowed on the fields earlier in spring. Begin planning now! ♦

References

- ♦ Pam Charbonneau, OMAFRA Turf Specialist, GTI Advisor, February 17, 1998.
- ♦ J.B. Beard, Ontario Turfgrass Symposium - notes, Winter Turf Problems, January 1997.
- ♦ J.M. Roberts, University of New Hampshire, Golf Course Management, October 1993.

Communities in Bloom

YOUR ASSOCIATION was well represented at the Communities in Bloom First Annual Symposium on Parks, Grounds, and Open Spaces on September 24th and 25th in Winnipeg, Manitoba. STA member/director Dr. Bob Sheard represented the Association, addressing the topic *Design and Construction of Sports Turf Fields*. STA member Vic Hergott was also on the speaker roster with a presentation entitled *It's Time to Stop Playing Around*. ♦



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