

Sports Turf Manager

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Heavy Rains A Clear Argument for Drainage

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This evening there was a headline in the local paper that read “Wet weather spoils sports in city.” Murray Cameron, Guelph’s General Manager of Parks Maintenance and Development and a former member of the STA Board of Directors, states: “We have sports fields we can’t even cut right now because they are so wet.”

ity of sports fields, but only comes to the public’s attention when the parks manager says, “There will be no play today.” Can this problem be avoided, or at least minimized?

The answer is a resounding YES! The basic problem is poor drainage. Most athletic facilities that were constructed more than a decade ago have no drainage system

This spring’s heavy rains have highlighted a problem that exists on the majority of sports fields, but only comes to the public’s attention when the parks manager says, “Sorry, no play today.”

The twice-normal rainfall during the month of May has turned baseball infields into mush and normal grooming cannot take place. Even exercise classes on the fields are frowned on by Cameron as jumping and other actions can harm the turf under such wet conditions.

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or an inadequately designed system. Not only does the lack of drainage influence the use of the field, it also contributes to the deterioration of the turf through encouraging compaction of the root zone, the encroachment of knotweed and other weed species and reduced infiltration of water.



DRAINAGE...
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with little space left for air – which the roots vitally need for normal growth and function. In a well-drained soil, excess water flows rapidly out of the large pores due to the pull of gravity to a point where only water held in the micro pores remains.



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