

Show off your best field!

If you manage more than one playing field, make one of them into your 'showcase' field, that really shows what you can do.

by DAVID D. MINNER, PH.D.

Your reputation as a field manager will be built on the quality of your best field, with less attention to resources or number of fields under your care.

Be sure to allocate enough resources to at least one field so that you can show your ability to produce a high quality sports

field. Sacrifice resources used on other fields that are not producing a noticeable improvement. Document additional resources needed to produce a quality field and use the information when requesting future resources to improve inadequate fields. You should be able to define minimal inputs required for a desired level of field quality.



A photographic record of the work that your ground crew does—and, of course, the finished product—develops a sense of pride in a job well done. It also documents the importance of your efforts.

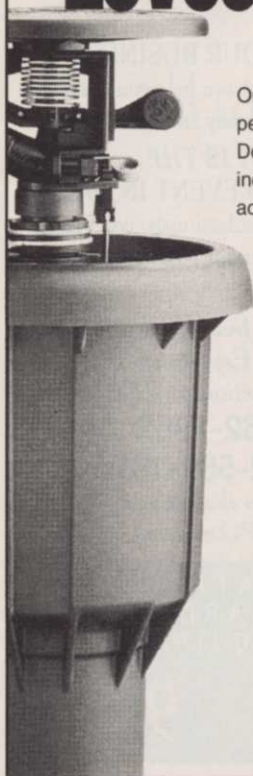
Pick a moderate-use field

Select a field with moderate to light traffic to "showcase". Additional resources may not produce a better field if excessive traffic is the major problem. Buy and use a camera. It's the best way to show the changes that occurred on the facility under your direction. Pictures of construction projects are also a valuable record of what is buried under the facility. Underground irrigation,

drainage, and utilities may need to be accessed and photos are often more accurate than drawings. A photographic record of the grounds crew and their activities can also develop a sense of pride in a job well done. **LM**

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Why a safety checklist

Develop a one- or two-page safety checklist that is reviewed each year and approved by your boss. include field areas such as bases, mound, and irrigation heads among other areas. Also list non-field areas such as bleachers, fences, dugouts, warning signs, etc. List the priority of each item and indicate those that are dangerous and need immediate attention. Make a column on the checklist for "proposed work completed." Sign and date each item that has been completed and approved. A checklist will document your awareness of problems and that you are taking measures to improve safety of the facility. At first, funding may be directed towards non-field-related items, but eventually resources will be required for field maintenance as indicated by the safety checklist.

D.M.