

School Turf Maintenance

November 2000

Maintenance standards/Cultural practices	Zone 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Varsity fields	Zone 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">General and/or multi-purpose fieldsOther athletic fieldsPractice fieldshigh visibility grounds	Zone 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none">General and/or multi-purpose fieldspractice fieldsplayground fieldsother less visible grounds	Zone 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none">fence linesnatural areasproperty edges
Turf Quality	Uniform, relatively weed-free surface, no bare soil	Good to moderate turf density, no bare soil	Moderate to poor turf density, some bare soil	Primary vegetation not turf grasses
Weed tolerance	Weed level 15 % or <	Weed level < 30 %	Weed level may be 50 % or more	control only undesirable weeds & state required noxious weeds
Aeration <ul style="list-style-type: none">solid tine, when fields are in usehollow tine, when fields not in use	2-3 X/ year more in infield & center of football field (between hash marks)	1-2 X /year	Once every 1-2 years or as needed	never
Fertilization- applied nitrogen (N) content/ 1000 sq. feet/ year (35 – 50% slow release) (1# N / application) Phosphorus (P) & Potassium (K) as per soil test	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3-4 #s for low use fields4-5 #s for high use fieldsP&K as per soil test	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3-4 #s for low use fields4-5 #s for high use fieldsP&K as per soil test	1-2 #s.	never
Mow height & frequency (goal: 1/3 of height removed per mowing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2-2 1/2”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2.5 – 3”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3 + “	Never or some flail mowing, if needed
Use of herbicides-Pre-emergent *	Pre-emergent early spring- only as needed	Pre-emergent early spring- every other year or as needed	Pre-emergent early spring- every 2-3 years or as needed	Usually not applied
Use of herbicides-Post-emergent*	Spring or fall, only as needed	Spring or fall, every other year or only as needed	Spring or fall, every 2-3 years or only as needed	Usually not applied
	*If a healthy, dense turf is maintained, herbicides are rarely needed.			
Overseeding (best with irrigation)	As needed in early August or other seasons with bluegrass/perennial rye	As needed in early August or other season with bluegrass/perennial rye	As needed in mid-late August or other season with bluegrass/perennial rye. May also use fine fesque.	never
Topdressing	Every 1-2 years or as needed	As needed	As needed	never
Irrigation (Less frequent during cooler months)	1” water / week (includes rainfall) summer months	Only to restore damaged areas or during seeding	Usually not available	never