



Spring and Fall Sports Medium Management Schedule

Management schedules are approximate “ideal” timing for specific practices. These timings will be adjusted based on weather conditions, soil type, and field use.

	Field in Use			Field Rest and Recover		Field in Use			
Operation	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	October	November
	Spring			Summer		Fall			
Mowing Keep mower blades sharp to reduce turf injury and fuel usage.	Establish mowing height appropriate for particular sport. Increase mowing frequency to increase turf density.								
Watering Base irrigation on ET, soil moisture, overseeding and field use.		Monitor rooting depth and moisture level in the root zone. Allow some moisture stress to encourage deep rooting.		Continue to monitor soil moisture level and supplement rainfall to meet ET irrigation requirement.		Maintain adequate soil moisture but keep surface dry to maximize traffic tolerance.			
Fertilizing Amount of Nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. Use soil test for potassium (K) recommendations.	Follow NYS law and do not apply fertilizer before April 1. Check your local fertilizer laws.	Apply before season starts, at green up, ½# of a 50% water soluble nitrogen source.	Apply 1# of a 50% water soluble nitrogen source in mid-late May.			Apply ½# of a 50% water soluble nitrogen source in mid-August.	Apply 1# of a 50% water soluble nitrogen source in mid-September.	Apply ½# of a 100% water soluble nitrogen source in mid-October.	Fertilizer applications may be restricted, check local fertilizer laws.
Cultivating Avoid aerifying when turf is under stress or soil is too dry or too wet.	Solid tine cultivate in multiple directions to maintain infiltration of air and water. Focus on high-use areas.					Solid tine cultivate in multiple directions to maintain infiltration of air and water. Focus on high-use areas.		Hollow tine cultivate, break up cores and overseed.	
Overseeding Focus on high-use areas.	Seed perennial rye at 2#/1,000 sq. ft. weekly in high-use areas.						Seed perennial rye at 2#/1,000 sq. ft. weekly in high-use areas.		Dormant seed when soil temp at 1” is lower than 45°.
Topdressing For leveling low spots, reducing thatch, improving seedbed.	Lightly roll high spots to level surface, check field for low spots and fill in					Lightly roll high spots to level surface, check field for low spots and fill in.			Hollow tine cultivate, break up cores to use as topdressing.