



Fall Sports High 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 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.	Mow at the highest recommended cutting height for the grass species growing that minimizes mowing.					Reduce mowing gradually at ~½” per week until desired height attained. 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.			Apply at least ¼” to ½” every 4 weeks to avoid dormancy. Limit traffic.		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 local fertilizer laws.		Apply 1# of a 50% water soluble nitrogen source in mid-late May.			Apply 1# 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 when fields are in use 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.			Hollow tine cultivate, break up cores to use as topdressing.