

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT WINS WITH ZERO CHEMICALS ON THEIR SPORTS TURF

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Hoosick Falls Central School Wins



Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee could not ruin this field. (Picture taken 11/29/11)

Hoosick Falls Central Schools made a concerted effort to go achieve “zero chemical applications” to their turf in 2010, a year ahead of the legislative

requirement.

Hoosick Falls Central School Administrators used 2010 as a time to experiment with new turf solutions eliminating the use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides to all turf in the School District.

The first step in the plan's implementation was the acquisition of a turf aerator / over-seeder to help bring oxygen, water and nutrients to the turf. A First Products three point mounted Aeravator accomplished this by fracturing up to 3” of soil and dropping seed into a perfect seed bed. This tractor mounted aerator can be used upwards to ten times during the growing season and can be used with or

without seed.

The next step in the process was to choose seed varieties and types. A choice was made of fine leaf tall fescue and perennial ryegrass seed mixtures. These seed mixtures were quick to establish and took a tremendous amount of wear from sporting events.

Use of fine leaf tall fescue turf seed strongly mirrors latest research out of Cornell University for “zero pesticide” athletic field maintenance.

BENEFITS

- ♦ No Chemicals
- ♦ No Phosphorous
- ♦ Reduced labor
- ♦ Proven results in a local School District
- ♦ No Pesticide Applicators License required
- ♦ Safe & Playable Athletic Fields



THE TURF PROGRAM

SEED

A choice was made of fine leaf tall fescue and perennial ryegrass seed blends. These seed mixtures were quick to establish and took a tremendous amount of wear from sporting events. An additional benefit was that these blends require less water and nutrient to thrive. Initially 7 pounds per thousand square feet was chosen in 2010 and increased to around 10 pounds per thousand square feet in 2011.

FERTILIZER

A high quality slow release (90%) zero phosphorous turf fertilizer was chosen in 2011, a full year ahead of the new zero phosphorous regulations which went into effect in January 2012.

This turf fertilizer was applied at the rate of 1.5 pounds of nitrogen per one thousand square feet in April and September. This application twice during the growing season gave fantastic results. This plan has an additional benefit in that it conforms with the new fertilizer regulations and application dates.

COSTS

Although yearly costs are a bit more than older, non compliant programs, this plan yields a good turf canopy for all sporting activities.

This program, if you choose, will include free PH testing and results advice as well up to 5 visits per year to check on the progress of your athletic fields.

BOTTOM LINE FOR YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Safe

Playable

Athletic Fields



PAUL BAKER, SUPT B&G WITH FIRST PRODUCTS TRACTOR MOUNTED AERAVATOR

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