

Traffic Management

Unfortunately on any field that is overused, it is going to fail no matter what. It is important to manage the amount of traffic on the field in order to maintain a safe, playable surface. Traffic causes soil compaction, is abrasive to turf plant tissue and can prevent plant recovery. When a field is actively growing, recovery takes place more quickly. Recovery can be a problem for plants that have slowed or stopped growing during cooler weather at the beginning or end of a growing season. Therefore, sports turf managers have tried to extend the growing season by keeping the soil profile warmer. Methods include adding crumb rubber to the rootzone, using covers and also lowering the mowing height. Field traffic is often concentrated to certain areas of a field such as the goal mouth. Rotating the field can help prevent constant wear in these areas.

References: The information for Traffic Management was taken from “Components of an Effective Organic Fertility Program for Cool Season Sports Fields” by Mary Owen – University of Massachusetts, and “Minimizing Pesticides – Innovative Solutions for Intensely Trafficked Fields” By Frank Rossi PhD – Cornell University