TALK TURF

Official publication of the Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association

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STMA RELEASES PROFESSIONAL GUIDE

The STMA has released Best Management Practices for the Sports Field Manager: A Professional Guide for Sports Field Management.

The BMPs provide chapters and our membership at-large with the tools and resources to document solid environmental practices for legislators, regulators, employers and community constituents. Although members have been following excellent practices, this program validates those and positions the sports field manager as a strong steward of the environment, which will aid in educating decision makers.

The National BMP document is also being provided as a customizable template that can be edited to fit the needs for a specific region, state, or facility. STMA provides this template so that it can be customized for individuals and/or groups in need of the document.

The WSTMA will be offering assistance in helping members to use this document for their facilities. We will be doing a presentation at the summer field day and also watch the website and your email for more information.

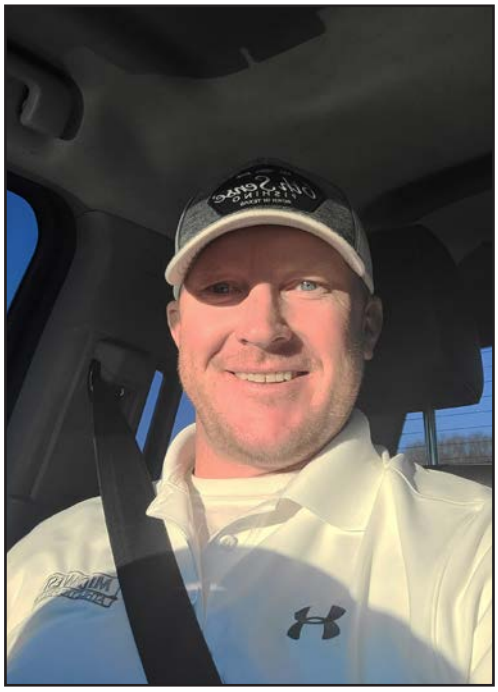
Visit wstma.org/knowledge_center/bmps/ for more information.

Wisconsin SportsTurf Managers Association

Also inside...

STMA New President Message.....Page 3
OJ Noer Update.....Page 4
Simplifying Soil Test.....Page 6
Summer Field Day Announced.....Page 13

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I'd like to start by saying thank you for the opportunity to be the new WSTMA President. I know I have some big shoes to fill as the past president, Mike Krupke, did a fantastic job as President. His leadership and passion for the organization was exceptional in many ways. His role as President will be missed, but fortunately, Mike has become the new Chapter Manager so he will be able to continue his great leadership in a new role.

I would like to thank all the members of WSTMA for continuing your membership through 2020 and now onto 2021. I would also like to thank our current board members and welcome our newly elected board members. We have a very motivated board and we assure you; it will be a little more action packed than 2020. We have begun planning a couple of upcoming events for 2021, including the summer event that will be hosted by the Wausau School District and Marathon County Parks and Recreation. There is a great lineup of speakers and demonstrations. We are very excited for the opportunity and would like to thank both organizations for work they've put into the event so far.

I'd like to say thank you to all our sponsors. They make the organization what it is today and provide us all with great support and educational opportunities with their great knowledge of the Sports Turf Industry. Any chance you have to support them in return, please don't hesitate.

Again, I'd like to thank you all for being a part of the WSTMA. We look forward to the 2021 season and all the opportunities it brings. Please check the website and emails for updates on upcoming events. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Take Care,

Josh Viet

WSTMA President

Wisconsin SportsTurf MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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NEW FOR YOU AND FROM YOU!

We want to give you some opportunities to share your talents with us and the rest of the WSTMA Membership.

Beginning this year, we are offering 3 such opportunities. One is to show off your field management prowess and the other two are to share your stories and successes.

First, we are thrilled to announce that the "Field of Excellence" Award program is returning. This gives you the opportunity to show off your field managing expertise and win prizes and recognition from your peers and those you serve. You may submit multiple fields such as a baseball field AND a football field.

Winners will have their field recognized in WSTMA publications and social media. Also, press releases will be sent to your local newspapers and TV stations. Information on criteria and application information are available in the newsletter, and on our website.

Next, we have an opportunity to share stories and articles YOU write.

First, we would like you to submit articles for the newsletter written by YOU pertaining to Sports Turf Management. It may be a process you did on your field or one you are familiar with, that would be informational to the rest of sports turf management world. Once they are submitted to the Board, they will be judged, and the winner will be published in the newsletter and links will be available on the website. Winning article authors will also win their choice of our new WSTMA apparel.

Finally, we want to have some fun with the newsletter. I am sure we all have a story about something humorous, goofy, odd, weird, good, and bad done in relation to managing sports turf. Whether this involves yourself, an employee, a field user, or the general public, I know we all have them. Seriously, the hardest I have ever laughed was when I was a golf course superintendent, and I was sitting one night with a group of other Superintendents telling stories (for hours) about things that had happened on the golf course. That evening I swore I wanted to write a book with humorous stories collected from my peers (I have not) in relation to our jobs.

So, we would love to include any offbeat stories related to managing sports fields or things that have happened during events you have in our newsletter every month. We can make it anonymous if need be as we know some of these stories may include someone screwing up or screwing around. We are confident you have shared these stories, please share them with us!!

Please submit materials by email to mkrupke.wstma@gmail.com or send by mail to WSTMA Michael Krupke N4222 Pandow Dr., Brodhead, WI 53520.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Michael Krupke, Chapter Manager

OJ NOER CENTER UPDATE

By Michael Krupke

The 2020 season finally came to the official end December 12th at the O.J. Noer. That was our second snowfall but the wet, heavy 6.5 inches never left. Due to the Covid-19 and other issues the Noer entered November way behind on the maintenance and projects placed on the fall schedule. The weather in November cooperated allowing for much of the fall work to be completed. All the fall work did not get accomplished but enough was completed to allow that sigh of relief as the snow fell.

This past year was as much of a challenge at the O.J. Noer as it was around the state. As I look back on 2020, I feel very good about the work that was completed and appearance of the Noer for most of the year. Due to Covid and other related issues the maintenance staff at the Noer was on the low side. The Noer only employed two summer staff members at 20-25 hours per week, Mid-May until Mid-August. In a previous I discussed the early departure on the O.J. Noer staff and I was getting behind on the maintenance. Audra Anderson, who was working remotely since March, offered to help. We were able to convince upper management to allow her to work one day per week on property and assist in mowing. Thankfully Mike Peter, my supervisor, was able to obtain approval. Those six hours per week made a huge difference. Without that help our greens aerification, fairway verticutting and other fall projects would not have been done.

The O.J. Noer has always been able to count of many people and companies to for its success.

As the Covid-19 pandemic exploded in the spring John Jensen and Reinders called to assure me that they would again be lending the O.J. Noer a Toro Greensmower and a Toro HD Workman with remote hydraulic to pull the trafficker for Dr. Soldat. The Noer cannot express their gratitude for these two pieces of equipment. At that time there was no way to predict that Reinders would step up one more time. Is a conversation with John Jensen in late August I mentioned the lack of labor for the fall season. I told him I was having a major labor issue and I was falling behind in mowing and much more. A day later John called and said Reinders was send a Toro 5900. 16-foot-wide mower to the Noer for the fall. This meant to 62" John Deere Lawn tractor would be replaced with a much more efficient mower. This arrival of the mower and Audra's extra work got the Noer through the fall season. FYI, once Audra was comfortable with the Toro 5900, she referred to it as her mower. She only allowed me to use it to mow in reverse to mulch leaves. If you have been here the Noer does not have many leaves!

Talking with Mike Werth, Advanced Turf, about the cancellation of the Am Fam Senior Golf Championship I ask him to price out a fairway fertilizer application. We discussed a few products, and a decision was made. A few days I was very surprised when Mike returned with my fairway fertilizer and donated the entire application. Thanks Mike and Advanced Turf.

Due to the nature of the research on putting greens the fertilizer program is normally urea. With the short staff and issues I reached out to Tony Grapsas from Jay-Mar in Plover. We talked about a few sprayable options and he offered to donate all the 20-0-0 liquid urea for the entire season. We made arrangement to me to pick it up from the plant in Plover but due to Covid-19 the university would not allow me to leave the county. When I call Tony, he offered to ship all the product to the Noer for free! Thank you, Tony you saved the day.

Once again, the Noer was in need of general fertilizer and reached out to EC Grow for some products. Joe Ernst and E.C Grow donated all the fertilizer I required for the general grounds. Thank you, Joe and E.C. Grow!

Now with no help how to spread this fertilizer. Mike Krupke and Insight FS came to the rescue with their application business. They applied all the fertilizer for us. Speedy, accurate and I never broke a sweat, all the better. Thank you, Mike and Insight FS!

In the fall I received a call from Dave Berg at Reinders and said they had broken bags of greens fertilizer in the warehouse. Dave said if I could use them, they would ship what they had to their Madison store. This fertilizer was very useful for our mid-October greens application. Reinders to the rescue one more time.

Phil Davidson and the crew at University Ridge just continue to support the O.J. Noer. Without Phil allowing me to borrow equipment there are countless projects at the O.J. Noer I would not be able to undertake or the projects would take too long to be attempted and completed.

My department at the university is the Agricultural Research Stations (ARS). Most of my counterparts are growing corn, soybeans, livestock, vegetables, etc. The nearest station is the West Madison Ag Research Station (WMARS) on Mineral Point Road. If have ever been at the O.J. Noer you have seen the huge TV tower to the north and that is on the WMARS. Janet Hedtcke is my counterpart, and she is so helpful! They plow my snow, mow down my large no mow area, fix drainage in Schwab Creek, lend me trenchers, bring over real end loaders, the list could go on forever. The O.J. Noer will be forever in her debit.

You hear every year but the O.J. Noer is successful due to the generosity of others. I am sure I have forgotten someone, and I apologize to them. The O.J. Noer is your research facility, and we appreciate any and all of your help.

Now on to 2021! If you or your property has a used piece of equipment that is in good shape, is not valued very high on trade, give me a call maybe we could use it. The O.J. Noer is not a huge property and the equipment you might not want to rely on could be perfect for us. An example would be a fairway mower. We mow two acres three days a week, 6-7 months of a total of less than 170 acres per year. If your mower mows 12 acres three times per week, your use over 3.5 month would be our entire year. This equipment like me old is but hopefully not worthless yet! OK, that can be debated.

Hopefully 2021 will bring its own challenges and changes. The Noer staff is looking forward to actually seeing many if you in person this year.

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Simplifying Soil Test Interpretations for Turf Professionals

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Turfgrass Science Program | turf.unl.edu

Many consider soil testing a cornerstone of turf fertilization. Soil tests estimate nutrient availability, drive management recommendations and provide peace of mind when making decisions about fertilization. While soil tests can be useful, their results are frequently over-analyzed and over-interpreted. Sometimes soil test results can be more confusing than helpful. It doesn't have to be so difficult. The goal of this publication is to explain which soil test values are important and which values can be ignored. It is designed to be a reference and not a comprehensive guide to soil testing.

Consistency is Key

Consistency is essential for soil test results to be useful and comparable from year to year. For example, changing soil sampling depth from 3 to 6 inches will drastically change soil test results. Four inches is good for golf turf and six inches is recommended for lawns and athletic fields. To further ensure consistency, routinely use a lab you trust Different laboratories using the same testing methods can produce different soil test results.

There are many different types of soil testing methods. Some laboratories will offer many, but others may offer just a few. Pick a laboratory that offers the methods you want to use. The Mehlich-3 soil test method is preferred for turf. It is works across a range of soil pH values (unlike the Bray-1 or Olsen). It extracts nutrients in the soil solution and on cation exchange sites, and it provides an estimate of plant available phosphorus. Some fertility consultants call these results 'total nutrients' and nutrients in a saturated paste extract (nutrients only the soil solution) 'available nutrients.' This distinction is merely a sales tactic, as the saturated paste extract method drastically underestimates nutrient availability – a great way to sell more fertilizer.

Best Practices

Pick a consistent sampling depth, lab, and soil test method.

Interpreting Soil Testing Results

A soil test report has three parts: results, interpretations and recommendations (Fig. 1).

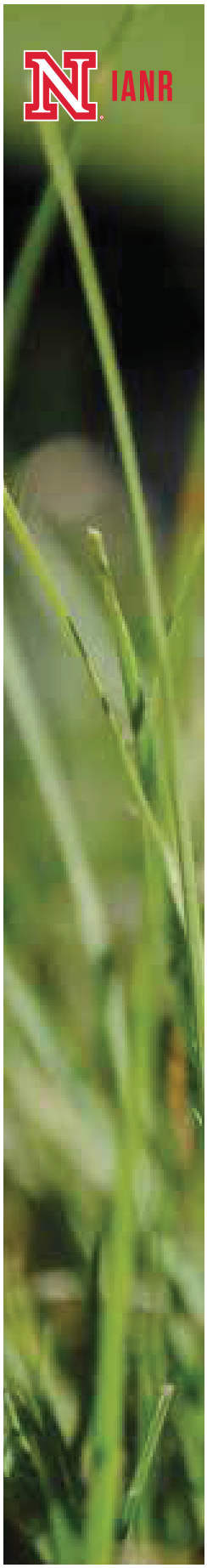
Results are the actual values produced in the laboratory. They are typically in either ppm or lbs/acre (divide lbs/acre by 2 to convert to ppm). The results express the level of plant-available nutrients in the soil. Interpretations generally define nutrients as 'Low,' 'Medium' or 'High,' and recommendations specify how much fertilizer to apply. While some interpretations and recommendations on test reports can be ignored because they are unnecessarily complex, confusing, or not science-based, some amount of interpretation is still required to make sense of test results. It takes a great deal of research to develop soil test interpretations for turf, and those findings are specific to the particular soil test method and the location of the research. While research findings are very specific, they can help generate reliable soil test interpretations. The following soil test interpretations are derived from scientific studies and are useful to turfgrass fertility management.

Phosphorus

Desired Range: 25 to 50 ppm Mehlich-3

Phosphorus (P) is an essential plant nutrient, but can also cause water quality problems by promoting eutrophication of lakes and streams. The goal of P fertilization is to supply enough to sustain healthy turfgrass growth yet minimize environmental risk. Soil test calibration studies1 and Minimum Levels for Sustainable Nutrition2 (MLSN) guidelines suggest that soil test P levels remain above 7 to 21 ppm Mehlich-3 P (Fig. 2). To ensure a margin of safety, turf managers should strive to keep soil test P levels between 25 and 50 ppm.

Turf soils below 25 ppm should receive starter fertilizer to increase soil test phosphorus levels. Turf stands with soil test P levels between 25 and 50 ppm should also receive light maintenance application of phosphorus annually (1/8 – 1/4 lb. of P_2O_5 per lb. nitrogen (N) applied annually3) Monitor soil test P levels over time and adjust the P:N fertilizer ratios to keep your soil between 25 and 50 ppm. No P is required when soil test P levels are above 50 ppm, but P may slowly decline over time due to plant uptake and soil fixation. Therefore, frequent soil testing (1 to3 years) is recommended to monitor this decline and



determine when maintenance P applications are needed.

Soil Organic Matter Content

Desired Range: No recommended range

Accumulation of organic matter in the soil is a necessary consequence of turfgrass management. Fertilization, irrigation, and sound cultural practices encourage root and shoot production which contribute to soil organic matter4. There is not a goal for soil organic matter (SOM) content because it varies with a number of factors. A new sand-based golf putting green, for example, will have very low SOM levels while a lawn soil amended with rich compost will have much greater SOM levels. Both situations are normal. SOM levels also tend to increase as a new turf stand ages. After several decades, the turf ecosystem will stabilize and SOM won't change as much.

Monitor changes in SOM from year-to-year as a way to assess your agronomic program. Rapid buildup of SOM, especially from thatch accumulation, is a sign of excessive fertilization or irrigation and infrequent cultivation. Consider measuring the thickness of the thatch and write it on the soil test report for reference. If SOM does not change or only slightly increases year-to-year, this indicates the ecosystem is stable and good agronomics are being employed. Continue to monitor thatch accumulation when taking soil samples and adjust topdressing accordingly. A large decline in SOM could be the result of aggressive cultivation during the previous year.

Potassium

Desired Range: 40 to 80 ppm Mehlich-3

Potassium (K) is a salt that is mainly used to control water content within the turf plant. Unlike P, soil test calibration studies for K are generally less conclusive. Research shows that turf can have acceptable visual quality across a wide range of soil test K levels5. This observation has been echoed in the MLSN guidelines which examined K fertility levels across thousands of soil samples2. This makes determination of a critical point challenging. Recent research has indicated that leaf tissue K greater than 2.0% can help control anthracnose in annual bluegrass but also encouraged snow mold in annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass5. Therefore, managers should apply K early in the season and then lean off K into the fall and winter.

Like P, K requirements are influenced by N fertilization. Sites with soil test K levels lower than 40 ppm should apply slightly more K than N annually. Turf sites with soil test K levels between 40 and 80 ppm should aim to apply 0.75 to 1.0 lb. of K2O per lb. N applied. Turf grown on sandy soils needs to be on the higher side of that range. If returning clippings you can be on the lower side of the range. Apply K in the spring and lightly throughout the summer. Be careful with high rates of KCl in summer (>1.0 lb.) because it has a high salt index. Avoid application of K in the fall. Turf sites with greater than 80 ppm soil test K do not require K fertilizer.

Soil pH

Desired Range: 5.5 to 8.0

Soil pH influences soil nutrient availability and soil plant and microbial communities. It is commonly measured from saturated paste extract (ratio of soil to water varies with the lab). Turfgrasses are fairly pH insensitive because they excrete chelating molecules from their roots to help extract soil nutrients that would otherwise be rendered unavailable by high or low pH. Cold or warm soils can sometimes cause root dysfunction which can lead to micronutrient deficiency in early spring and mid-summer on high pH soils6.

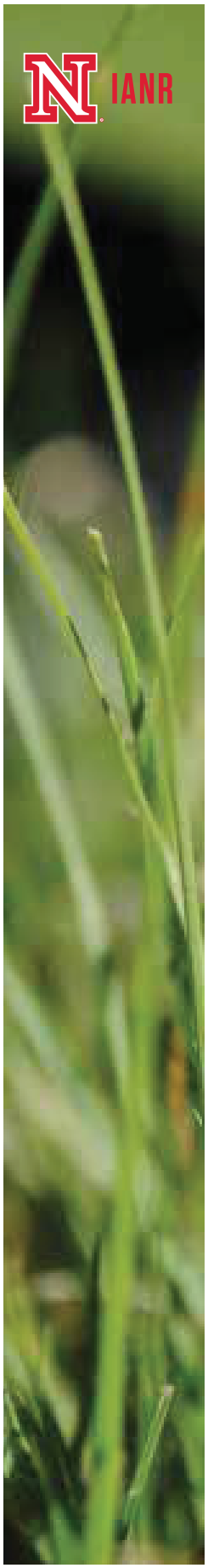
Application of lime is recommended if soil pH is less than 5.5 to optimize nutrient availability and reduce the risk of aluminum toxicity. Consult the soil test report for lime recommendations. At high soil pH, consider use of acidifying fertilizers such as ammonium sulfate or elemental sulfur to reduce soil pH. It is possible to slowly reduce soil pH in weakly buffered soils while other soils – especially calcareous sands – are highly buffered and resist pH change. Application of micronutrient fertilizers may improve turfgrass color when hot or cold soil temperatures reduce the plant's ability take up micronutrients.

Soil Salinity and Sodicity

Soil salinity: Species dependent, <3 dS/m

Exchangeable sodium percentage: <15%

Salt problems are generally more of an issue in the arid Southwestern US but problems can occur in Nebraska. Risk is greatest during dry growing seasons on turf irrigated with water high in salts. A saline soil has high amounts of salts (Na, K, Ca, Mg, etc.) which reduce the plant's ability to take up water. Salinity can be reduced by leaching salts from the soil with heavy irrigation. Addition of gypsum (CaSO4) will not improve soil salinity problems, and actually can make them worse since gypsum itself is a salt. Soil salinity is measured via electrical conductivity of the saturated paste extract (ECe). Cool-season turfgrasses can tolerate salinity up to 1.5 dS/m ECe7. Bluegrasses are more



sensitive than other Nebraska turfgrasses. They will begin to struggle when salinity exceeds 1.5 dS/m ECe. Other grasses struggle when ECe exceeds 3.07. Deep irrigation leaches salt from in the soil.

A sodic soil has a high proportion of sodium (Na) relative to other cations (Ca, Mg, and K). Sodium causes clay particles to disperse which destroys soil structure and reduces permeability. Applications of gypsum are recommended to displace Na in sodic soils. Sodicity is not a concern in sandy soils (including sand-based golf and sports turf) because they have minimal clay content and lack a well-defined soil structure. Gypsum will not improve soil physical properties on sandy soils and is not recommended. Soil sodicity is measured via exchangeable soil percentage (ESP). Some labs report sodicity as SAR of the soil saturated paste extract. However, SAR is more appropriate for water test results. Soil is classified as sodic when the exchangeable sodium percentage exceeds 15%. Fine-textured soils with ESP values approaching 15% should be treated with gypsum to displace sodium in the soil at 30 to 100 lbs. per 1000ft2. This practice is not recommended for sand-based soils which inherently lack soil structure.

Things to Ignore

Soil test reports typically have a wealth of other results, interpretations and recommendations. Typically, anything other than the factors described above can be ignored because there is little scientific proof to support those recommendations. For example, most test reports offer base cation saturation ratios (BCSR). It stems from a theory proposed in the 1940s that an 'ideal' ratio of Ca, Mg and K in the soil would promote plant growth. Since then, that theory has been consistently proven to be incorrect, including in turf (Fig. 3). Turf plants selectively take up nutrients as needed regardless of the ratio of those nutrients in the soil8. It doesn't make sense to apply nutrients that don't elicit a plant response.

Soil test values, interpretations, and recommendations for N, sulfur (S) and micronutrients should also be discounted. Nitrogen and S have complex and dynamic nutrient cycles in soil. Levels for N and S can change more rapidly than P and K. Soil test results for those nutrients likely changed between sampling and the time the soil test report was received. Micronutrients and S are also problematic because it's rare to observe deficiencies in turf. Without calibration data of turf response to a nutrient, it's impossible to accurately develop soil test interpretations. The best way to manage S and micronutrients is to be flexible and let your eyes and experience determine if they are needed. Apply a small amount of product to the turf and watch for a response. If there is no response then why apply the product?

Simplified Soil Testing

Soil testing can be both helpful and simple. The key is to know what is important and what values can be ignored. Be consistent in sampling methods, sample from similar areas each year, and use the same soil testing method/lab. The Mehlich-3 is a great method that both works across a wide range of soils and has calibration data to guide interpretations. The most useful information is found in the results section of the report. Look for phosphorus, potassium, soil organic matter and soil pH. Soil salinity/sodicity values can also be useful if there is a history with those problems. Soil testing can be a valuable decision-making tool for turf nutrient management, but it is only as useful as you make it. How you sample and what you do with the information is ultimately up to you.

Author: Bill Kreuser, Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy & Horticulture, University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Soil Testing Quick Reference Guide

Soil Sampling: 4-6" depth from representative areas of similar management
Soil Testing Lab: Exclusively use one trusted soil testing laboratory
Soil Testing Method: Mehlich-3 – pH independent method

Soil test results interpretation and recommendation

Soil Test Result	Desired Value	Soil Test Result	Annual Fertilizer Recommendation
Phosphorus (P)	25-50 ppm[a]	Less than 25	>0.25 lbs. P_2O_5 per lb. N applied[b]
		25-50	0.25 lbs. P_2O_5 per lb. N applied[b]
		Greater than 50	No P fertilizer required
Soil organic matter (SOM)	No recommended range	Much greater than previous year	Reduce inputs (nitrogen and water) Increase cultivation and topdressing
		Slightly greater or same as previous year	Some increase is normal in new turf stands - continue good management.
		Much less than previous years	Likely the result of aggressive cultivation and/or reduced inputs
Potassium (K)	40-80 ppm[a]	Less than 40 ppm[1]	>1 lb. K_2O per lb. N applied[b]
		40-80 ppm[1]	0.75 to1 lb. K_2O per lb. N applied[b]
		Greater than 80 ppm	No K_2O required
Soil pH	5.5-8.0[c]	Less than 5.5	Consider lime application
		6.0-8.0	No remediation required
		Greater than 8.0	Consider use of acidifying fertilizer; potential micronutrient limitation
Salinity	< 3 dS/m[c]	Less than 1.5 dS/m	Low salinity risk
		1.5 to 3.0 dS/m	Bluegrasses sensitive, leach soil
		Greater than 3.0 dS/m	Most turfgrasses sensitive, leach soil
Sodicity (native soils only)	< 5% ESP	Less than 5% ESP	Low sodium risk in fine-texture soil
		5-15% ESP	Consider gypsum treatment to improve permeability of native soils
		Greater than 15%	Sodic soil, treat native soils with gypsum
All other nutrients (Ca, Mg, S, N, Fe, etc.)	No reliable/science-based soil test interpretations for these nutrients		Confirm deficiency with tissue testing or small applications to turf to verify fertilizer response

[a] Mehlich-3 soil test method

[b] Demand for P and K fertilizer is affected by nitrogen fertilizer, soil type/environment, and clipping management. For example, turf on a native soil, clippings removed, and fertilized annually with 4 lbs of nitrogen/1000 ft^2 would need about 1 lb of phosphorus (P_2O_5) and 3 lbs of potassium (K_2O)/1000 ft^2 to sustain soil test levels. Returning clippings reduces those P and K requirements by 50%. These ratios are good starting values and may need to be adjusted to sustain soil test P and K levels at any particular location. More information can be found here: http://goo.gl/0wrnmB.

[c] Saturated soil paste extract method

Closing Remarks:
Outgoing President Michael Krupke

Greetings All!

Well, here it is, the end of my term as WSTMA President. It has been a true honor to serve this you and this Organization as President for the last 2 years. I have been blessed as well in working with the WSTMA Board members past and present during that time. I am excited to see where the WSTMA goes from here with the new President, Josh Viet and the new Board Members, Ryan Woodley, Lee Black, and Kyle Slaton. We have a great representation across the Sports Turf genre and should serve each one of you well no matter your level of Sports Turf management.

I want to leave you with some thoughts I believe are important in the ever-increasing expectations of those your serve and the management of your sports fields. First, one of the best tools you have in managing your ever tightening budgets is Education. There are vast amounts of turf education opportunities out there, whether it be online, Turf Conferences, hands on Field days (like we have coming up this Summer), Networking with peers, or from our Vendors we have the pleasure of working with.

Throughout my career in the turf industry, I have been a big fan of turf Research, especially University Research. It helps me to know what my turf needs to be healthy, what products work in my situation, and if I am set up to be able to use them. It has kept me from being talked in to buying products I do not need or are not able to use. It also has given me insight on how to manage what I have on a tight budget as it makes it easier set priorities on what gives me the best "bang for my buck".

I understand finding the time to do educate yourself is not always easy, but hopefully, as the WSTMA continues to move forward, we can be a convenient resource for helping you know more and keep you up to date on new products and technologies to make your turf management responsibilities more manageable, especially when it comes to budgets.

I want to touch on one other thing that I feel is especially important in not only turf education, but in managing the other things that come along with managing sports turf like expectations (and those people with expectations), employees, equipment and on and on. That thing is NETWORKING. There is a vast array of turf managers across Wisconsin and beyond (probably right down the road) who do many of the same things you do every day. Talk to them! Not just about turf management, but managing employees, communication with those you answer to, and working with the public. Again, in my career, a lot of great knowledge I ended up using day to day came from my peers. It is a free resource, unless you decide to buy lunch. People in our industry are constantly coming up with ideas to do more with less. I am confident you are one of them…share it!

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve you. I will still be around as I have taken the job of WSTMA Chapter Manager. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or the fine Board members with questions about the WSTMA. We are here for you!

May your roots be healthy!!

Michael Krupke

WSTMA Fields of Excellence Application

CRITERIA:

- ✓ Located in the state of Wisconsin.
- ✓ Resourcefulness of staff, budget, maintenance practices, challenges in the management of the athletic field.
- ✓ Condition and aesthetics of the athletic field.
- ✓ Number and type of games and/or events.
- ✓ Previous recipients may re-apply if all requirements/applications are met.

Cover page with your name, athletic facility name, address, telephone number, geographical location of site and category entered (Baseball, Softball, Football, Soccer, or Other Sporting Grounds)

1. A brief history of your field.
2. Approximate number and type of events held on the field per year.
3. Listing of the components of the facility (seating capacity, lighting, irrigation)
4. Description of how the field wears during the season. Please be honest!
5. Comments on scheduling, special maintenance challenges, uniqueness of facility, and how other events (not primary sport) held on the field impact the playing surface.
6. Please include a description of your field maintenance including of each of the following:
    a. Maintenance program: Include the types of materials and supplies used. Tellus about your successes, chemicals, timing or anything else that's useful.
    b. Equipment: Describe the equipment used to maintain the field. Is it borrowed, leased or owned?
    c. Staff: Describe the organizational chart of how your staff, volunteers, or people are organized, including the total number on the maintenance staff.
7. Ten to fifteen color photographs that illustrate the field. Photographs must at least include:
    a. For Baseball or Softball Entries:
        - Picture(s) of sideline areas, dugout & bullpens
        - Picture(s) of outfields area
        - Picture(s) of infield area
        - Picture(s) of crew working with equipment on the field
        - Picture(s) of overall field from behind home plate
    b. For Soccer, Football or Lacrosse Entries:
        - Picture(s) of sideline/bench areas
        - Picture(s) of center of field
        - Picture(s) of goal/end zone area
        - Picture(s) of crew working with equipment on the field
8. Name of person or organization(s) to be printed on the plaque if your field wins. Please include the address of the local Newspaper and TV station(s).
9. Submit entries to WSTMA Michael Krupke N4222 Pandow Dr, Brodhead, WI 53520. Deadline for entries: January 1st, 2022

WSTMA SUMMER FIELD DAY 2021

The Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association invites you to attend

Summer Field Day 2021 on Wednesday July 28th, 2021

at Wausau West High School, 1200 W Wausau Ave, Wausau, WI 54401

Check-in, coffee and bakery served.

AGENDA

Welcome and Announcements by President Josh Viet

Field Compaction Testing/Aeration Options for Releiving Compaction

Tim Gagnon Insight FS

Plant Growth Regulators on Sports Turf

Dr. Doug Soldat University of Wisconsin-Madison

Break and visit Vendors

Mound Building Workshop Brad Essary Profile/Turface

Fraze Mowing as a Turf Management Option

Josh Viet Midwest Athletic Fields

Afternoon Tours of Marathon County Parks Department Fields Eastbay Sports Complex

Athletic Park, home to the Wisconsin Woodchucks Baseball Team

Vendor Equipment Demonstrations!

Hors d' Oeuvres and Networking Happy Hour the evening before!!

Block of Hotel Rooms Available at Reduced Rates!

Questions can be directed to
Michael Krupke, Chapter Mngr,
Mkrupke.wstma@gmail.com
(920) 723-0936

NOW AVAILABLE! WSTMA APPAREL

Email mkrupke.wstma@gmail.com to order or they will be available at WSTMA Events

PRICING

Hoodie - $22.25
Full Zip Jacket - $33.35
Hats - $11.75
Pullover Jacket - $31.75
¼ Zip - $33.35

HATS

HOODIE

FULL ZIP JACKET

1/4 ZIP PULLOVER

PULLOVER JACKET


MIDWEST
ATHLETIC FIELDS
Available Services
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Construction
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Fraze Mowing
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Aeration
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Midwest Athletic Fields
323 William St. PO Box 76
Watertown, WI 53094
MIDWESTAF.COM
920-378-0650

Wisconsin SportsTurf Managers Association

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Brodhead WI 53520