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School Integrated Pest Management: Turfgrass Maintenance Recommendations

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Mowing:

- Minimally, once per week during the active growing season (every 2 in the winter)
- Twice per week in the spring and fall on sports fields
- Maintain the turf at a 2 to 3" height
- Return the grass clipping using mulching blades

Fertilization:

- 4 to 6 lbs N per 1,000 sq ft annually
- Fertilizer containing high nitrogen and low phosphorus ratios (e.g. 24-2-12)
- Fertilize 4 times per year, twice in the spring (May and June) and twice in the fall (Sept. and Oct.)
- Returning grass clipping will maximize the applied fertilizer

Irrigation:

- Start irrigation in mid-May and conclude in mid-September.
- Make sure irrigation heads are operational in April, prior to drought stress
- Apply ¼" of water 3 to 5 times per week (east of the Cascades will require daily irrigation)
- Use a rain gauge to determine the runtime required to apply ¼" of water

Cultivation and Inter-seeding:

- Aerify sports field with hollow tine core cultivation in the fall or spring
- Inter-seed thin turfgrass areas in the spring and fall
- Use Perennial ryegrass west of the Cascades
- A mixture of Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass east of the Cascades

Weed Management:

- Apply broadleaf herbicides in October
- For control of dandelion, plantain and thistle apply products with 2,4-D
- For control of clover, chickweed and daisy apply products with triclopyr
- Do not apply triclopyr in hot weather or when trees and shrubs are leaving out.
- For summer annuals apply pre-emergent herbicides in the (April)

For Questions Contact:

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