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Please consider the environment before printing a copy of this bulletin. The information will remain available on our web site.

GREEN GRASS



The Town of Glastonbury



INTRODUCTION



Park Maintainer Chris Shanahan runs a sod-cutter for soil inspection, along with Dr. Richard Cowles from Agricultural Experiment Station.

Providing safe, well-maintained athletic fields is one of the primary responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Department. Growing a thick, dense, green, healthy stand of turf grass requires continuous effort, specialized knowledge and constant vigilance.

GROWING ATHLETIC TURF RESPONSIBLY

Glastonbury uses the State model Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program to guide its decision-making and the selection of cultural practices used to maintain its athletic fields. Cultural practices include:

- ☞ mowing height and frequency;
- ☞ use of mulching mowers;
- ☞ aerating;
- ☞ over-seeding;
- ☞ soil sampling;
- ☞ monitoring and adjusting soil pH;
- ☞ scouting for pests;
- ☞ watering;
- ☞ fertilization;
- ☞ weed management;
- ☞ managing field use;
- ☞ altering play;
- ☞ amending the soil;
- ☞ using turf blankets to lengthen the growing season; and
- ☞ judicious use of herbicides and pesticides as may be required.

All chemical applications are completed in accordance with the requirements of State law and by personnel licensed by the State of Connecticut.

According to Gregory A. Foran, Parks Superintendent, "The best way to establish a safe, dense stand of turf is to pay attention to the cultural practices like mowing height and frequency, soil testing, watering, etc. If you maintain a thick, healthy stand of grass, you will out-compete the weeds and keep the pests at bay. By doing so, you will need little, if any, herbicides and pesticides. We pride ourselves in being good stewards of the earth and, in the case of turf grass, the soil."

GLASTONBURY'S GREEN INITIATIVES PROGRAM



Glastonbury's Green Initiatives program operates under the direction of the Town Manager. The committee is chaired by the Purchasing Agent and the Superintendent of Sanitation. Committee members from across Town departments participate and contribute ideas and suggestions committed to a "greener" community.

The committee assembles information about products and services and makes the information available to specific departments that can evaluate them and develop applications in Town projects with the approval of the Town Manager.

These "Go-Green" bulletins contain information about the results of product evaluations and other accomplishments of Town departments. We hope this information can provide you insight to the Town's green initiatives and also lead others in the community to find ways to use environmentally preferable products. Please contact us if we can help you with further information or if you have additional suggestions. ■

