

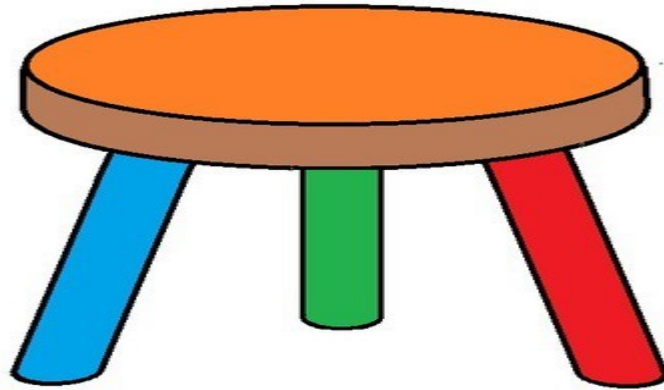
Improving Newton's Athletic Fields

► Fall 2021



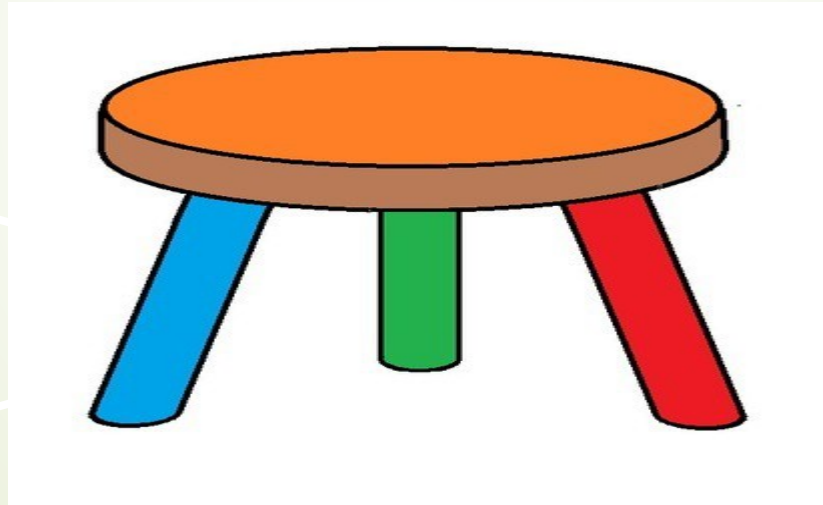
How do we
improve
our
athletic
fields?

A great athletic field
is like a three
legged stool!



Turf management:

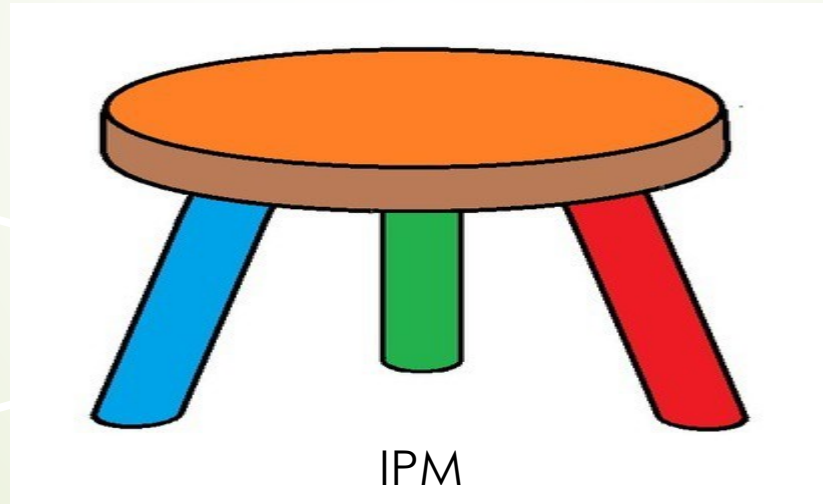
- *increased mowing
- *aeration
- *fertilizer/lime
- *slice seeding
- *topdressing
- *soil testing



Turf Management

Integrated Pest Management:

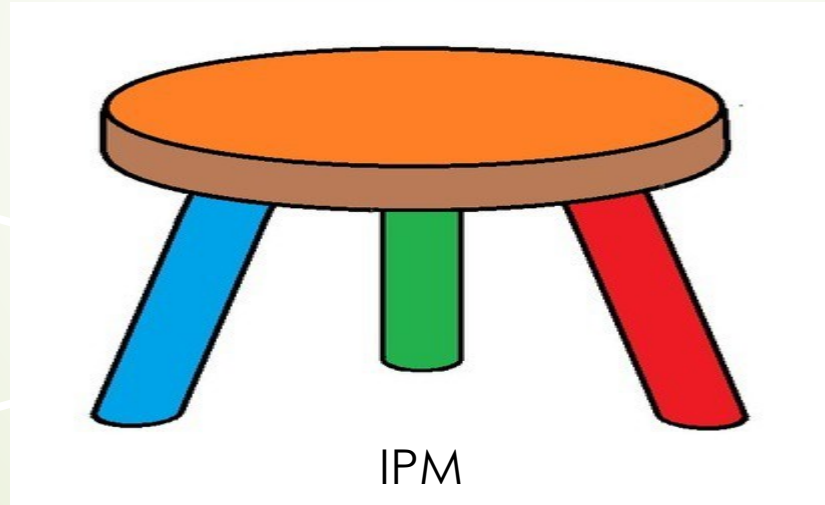
- *monitoring
- *pest identification
- *using herbicides & insecticides



Turf Management

Resting Fields:

- *monitoring usage hours
- *reducing the number of field overlays
- *resting fields with wear issues & after herbicide applications
- *agreeing on when to close fields due to precipitation

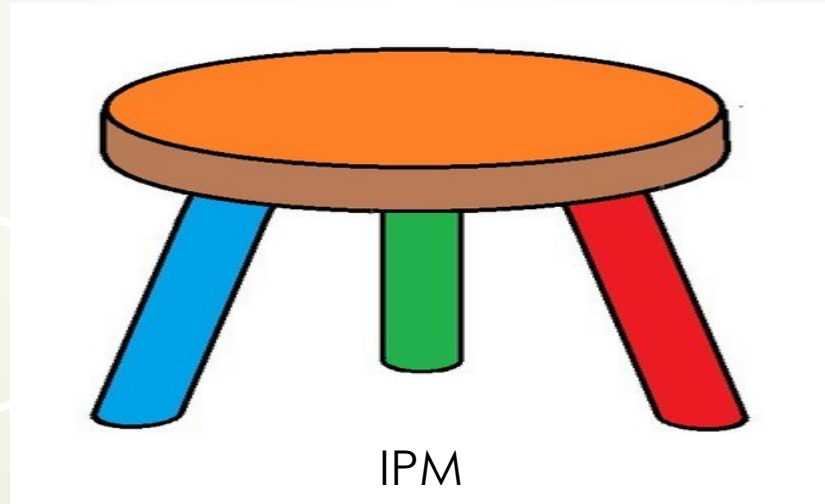


Turf Management

Resting Fields

What happens when we don't follow through with?

- *turf management
- *ipm
- *resting fields



Turf Management

Resting Fields

What happens when we don't follow through with?

- *turf management
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IPM

Turf Management

Resting Fields

What happens when we don't follow through with?

- *turf management
- *ipm
- *resting fields

We all lose!



IPM

Turf Management

Resting Fields

How do we achieve better fields?

We must follow our turf management plan

This requires:

- *understanding our common goals
- *open and continued dialogue
- *compromise



Success?
It depends on you!



Three Take a ways:

- ▶ Our turf management budget has increased from \$75,000 to \$250,000. This significantly increases our cultural practices.
- ▶ Our IPM program has completed year one of its three-year program.
- ▶ Our next greatest approach to improve athletic fields is resting fields.

Next Steps:



Parks, Recreation & Culture Maintenance Division

- Continue monitoring athletic fields to document conditions.
- Reconvene the Field Sub-Community Group.
- Document field usage hours per season. Compare with industry standards for athletic fields in the Northeast and local municipalities.
- Post-season fee-use report (to implement our field improvement plan).