

Best Management Practices for Sports Turfgrass Management in the Mid-Atlantic



Abundant water resources and the proximity of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries contribute to the quality of life we all enjoy in the Mid-Atlantic region. The region's sports turf managers who professionally manage hundreds of thousands of acres understand their role in not only ensuring safe and playable athletic fields, but also ensuring that the management of sports fields protects the water quality of nearby streams, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater.

Therefore, the members of the Mid-Atlantic Sports Turf Managers Association (MASTMA) have partnered with turf scientists to develop research-based best management practices (BMPs) specifically for our region. These voluntary guidelines, in addition to local, state and federal nutrient and pesticide regulations, will not only protect natural resources, they will also afford the opportunity for sports turf managers to be recognized by athletes, the public, and state officials as environmental stewards.

Based on the latest science and drawing upon the experience of the region's sports turf managers, the BMPs developed by this project will focus on protecting water resources by covering the following topics:

- Design and construction of sports fields
- Irrigation
- Water management
- Nutrient management
- Integrated pest management
- Pesticide management
- Cultural practices
- Maintenance operations
- Synthetic turf

This project represents the first of its kind focus on developing region-specific BMPs for sports turf. MASTMA looks forward to working with stakeholders in developing these BMPs and communicating the role of professional sports turf managers in natural resource protection. For more information, please contact MASTMA at MASTMA.info@gmail.com.

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