

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Welcome to ~~Summer~~. This abnormally hot weather while can be difficult to enjoy, it is prolonging the growing season for turf and so we are excited at the prospects of an extra week or two of growing time for remedial work. There are no signs of frost in the current or long term forecasts so it is sure to be well into October and early November that grass could be growing.

The extreme heat and lack of moisture for the last couple of weeks has actually slowed the turf growth down as it protects itself by entering into a stage of dormancy. Once the temperatures cool slightly and rain arrives, the grass will continue its growth. At this time the fields are being mowed 1–2 times a week.

On **September 19**, slice aeration was done to the seeds. We opted for the slice aeration at this time because of the weather. It is less stressful to a dormant heat exposed turf as it does not physically remove cores. But the aeration is an important part of the maintenance to help elevate compaction which restricts airflow, growth, nutrients and water from getting to turf roots. Immediately after slicing all of the fields twice, an application of seed was applied to help in the immediate re-growth to help prevent weeds.

It was decided that a scheduled Fall fertilizer application would be delayed an additional week because of the heat. However on **September 25** a large crew arrived at the fields. Tractor trailer loads of topdressing material arrived, two top dressing machines and a crew who could do some work by hand. The topdressing material was applied by contract but also for medial and repair purposes.

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Welcome to September! With the new month comes (typically) cooler temperatures, shorter days and the beginning of the Fall maintenance and remedial work at UPI! Now that tournament play has completed, Mountainview will be doing a lot of work at the fields to help recover some of the damage done by regular play, tournament play and water damage.

On **September 11**, the external manager went to the fields to turn back on the irrigation pump and system in order to mark all of the heads. It is important to mark all the irrigation heads as some of the work done to the fields is sub-surface and you do not want to hit and damage the irrigation heads. Being that this required us to turn on the irrigation pump; we were able to begin work on the repair of a broken pipe that was suspected. It was discovered that a large sub-surface rock was the culprit. Through years of thaw and freeze, the rock had settled onto the pipe, eventually breaking it. Unfortunately, with the size of the rock, heavier equipment was needed.

A larger crew arrived at the fields on **September 12** with a mini excavator to remove the rock and repair the broken irrigation line. A custom work member also arrived at the fields to apply an early Fall application of fertilizer to all of the fields. This fertilizer formula specializes in allowing slow growth through the Fall with also preparing the roots for winter. It is important in

the Fall fertilizer formula that there is not a surge of Nitrogen growth as that causes damage to the turf during time of slower growth and possible frost.

With the increase afternoon heat and sunny weather, the fields got mowed 3 times per week as there was an excess of growth.

Wednesday, August 30, 2017

On **August 29** a walk through was done at the fields to discuss remedial work like additional overseeding for the Fall of 2017. The fields were also inspected for outflow or potential tile drainage.

Although still in August, thoughts of Fall and remedial work have began. It is during this time that we focus extra work in September and October while there isn't as much traffic on the turf. This could include aggressive topdressing, aeration and seeding. The thought is that getting the turf repaired after a busy season in the Fall and then focused repair in the Spring ensures the turf is ready for play the next season.

The fields are currently being mowed 2-3 times a week depending on the weather. As the weather begins to cool down in the coming weeks, the mowing will decrease to 1-2 times a week until the end of the season.

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

This is an exciting time at the UPI fields as play continues and a national tournament graces the Ottawa region.

In the early summer, it is normal to do a deep tine aeration of all the fields. This aeration helps alleviate compaction by removing cores from the surface. This can be stressful on the plant as it is fairly aggressive and therefore is done during perfect weather conditions. The summer continued to be wet and we had to remove the deep tine aeration from the normal maintenance schedule as the wet turf and the aggressive core removal would have done excessive damage to the fields. During a walk-through of the fields on July 17, we noticed that the fields have become "lumpy" because of the soft soil. It was decided that in lieu of aeration, we would do a rolling of the fields to help smooth out the surface for the upcoming tournament.

We waited until after a small rain (softer ground) and went the next day on **August 3rd**. The operator with tractor used a 2.5 ton roller and went over all of the fields twice. This did help smooth out some uneven ground surface that had occurred from having such wet soil this season.

On **August 10**, a crew went to the fields to do some trimming to "tidy up" the fields for the upcoming national tournament. An operator was also at the fields on the same date to do a second application of summer fertilizer.

Our crew that day noticed a spot on the field that appeared to be “bubbling” under the water. Unsure of what it was they contacted Mountainview manager. An evening drive and a little investigation still didn’t make the cause clear. The only way to determine that would be to rip up that section of the turf. Knowing the tournament was just 2 days away, instead they opted to turn off the pump system and leave the investigation until after the tournament. This would leave less mess during tournament time and considering the forecast, didn’t see a need for irrigation use.

We at Mountainview hope that everyone has a wonderful and safe time during the Canadian Ultimate Championships!

Wednesday, August 2, 2017

The fields are currently in between applications at this time. A scheduled aeration that was not able to be completed because of the wet early summer has been replaced with a rolling of the fields that will take place weather dependent.

The fields were mowed 2 times during this bi-weekly time frame.

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

The unusual amount of rainfall for July has meant some altering for the “normal” program for the Ultimate fields located in Manotick Station. Although we have yet needed any irrigation (first time in 10 years!), we did take the time earlier in the Spring to assess all of the irrigation heads. It was found that a few heads were in need of repair. 14 heads were replaced at the fields on with the job finishing on **July 7**.

On **July 17** management from both OCUA and Mountainview met at the fields to walk through the fields to assess the amount of moisture at the fields and how it is affecting the Turfgrass. It was decided that field 2 would continue to be offline as some of the field had damage from previous and current standing water. Many of the fields continued to be very saturated as we experienced a heavy rainfall just a few days before. The water no longer has anywhere to go. The ground water level is full and all water that is coming from precipitation lays on the fields or in the first couple of inches of soil until it evaporates. Thankfully, the rest of the week continued to be dry which was good news for the No Borders tournament.

Also on **July 17** a crew arrived at the fields to do some final trimming before the tournament.

The fields are currently being mowed 2–3 times a week depending on the weather. We are noticing a mowing pattern because of the rain all. A rainy week means 2 mowing where as a drier week will mean more surge in growth (added sunshine) which mean’s 3 mowing are better to avoid grass clipping accumulation.

Wednesday, July 5, 2017

The ringing in of "Summer" usually means hot days. By now, the irrigation has begun its work at keeping the grass thriving. For the 2017 season, we have yet to need the watering system. This year has been the wettest summer season we have encountered since beginning to work for OCUA and with it has brought some challenges and successes.

Turf loves water and in well drained areas, the grass is very thick! With the added fertilizer, it is giving the turf surface the dark green and lush appearance you would expect from a Kentucky Bluegrass species.

However, there have been some issues with field number 2 and the laying water. This area has prevented us from properly repairing the area. The standing water remains to be an issue.

On **June 26**, according to the permit granted to OCUA by the Minister of Environment, all fields received an application of Par 3 herbicide. This systemic herbicide will kill all of the broadleaf weeds on the fields including clover and dandelion. This was granted to us by the MOE because of the very exciting upcoming tournament! This allows the playing surface to be in the best shape possible. It will not only be a safer playing surface but we will be seeing the benefits of this application for years to come!

The fields are being mowed 2-3 times a week and the driver is ensuring he gets out as soon as he seems a dry day in the forecast.

Wednesday, June 21 2017

May brought such warm yet wet temperatures that a little break in June was nice. While we had a few days of extremely warm temperatures, it did cool off.

While things have been pretty wet, we had to continue to think about the irrigation system.

While things are working well, the permit to use water was up for re-application for the first time in 10 years! We had until November 2017 to get the application in but decided to proceed in case of any hold ups at the Ministry of Environment's office. The application was completed at the Mountainview office on **June 15**.

On **June 16**, it was decided that the second application of Spring fertilizer would be applied.

This was done 1 week earlier than "normal recommendations". We had been closely monitoring the weather and the color of the turf at UPI. With the combination of wind, rain and sun, we felt as though the first application had depleted and was no longer giving nutrients. Once the turf turned the slightest color of lighter green, we knew it was time for another application despite not being a full 4 weeks since the previous application.

With the end of June approaching, the weather has been favorable for drying up the fields at UPI. The winter, sun and lessening of precipitation has dried up the fields enough that for the first time on **June 21**, we were able to fully mow all of the fields! Field 2 has brought some extra moisture and certain water logged areas have prevented us from mowing parts of the fields. With the ability to mow all of the areas, we are now able to make a plan for water damaged area's on number 2 and vacuum any excessive clippings from long turf.

Wednesday, June 7 2017

Another season has begun! Mountainview wishes to extend their thanks for allowing our team to work for OCUA for 2017.

May 15- With rubber boots, we were able to walk through all of the fields. Some areas were very wet compared to previous year. Grass was long as the moisture had prevented mowing.

May 17- Mowers were maintained and prepared for another season during the winter. On this date, they were delivered to the fields. The first mowing took place except for fields 2,3 and 4 because they were too wet.

May 20- Nice weather meant grass was growing and we wanted to get another mow in before the first lining. All of the fields were mowed but at the end a drive too close to field 2 got the mowers stuck. We were able to get the mowers out but there is a rut to repair.

May 23- Irrigation system turned on. All of the heads were inspected and it was noted that 15-20 were faulty from regular wear. It was also noted that the rain sensor was taken from the irrigation box. This is incredibly important tool that ensures effective water and was therefore replaced right away.

- Spring application of turf fertilizer was applied. We changed the formula slightly to be less fast release. The reason for this was because of the rain in the forecast and cold weather. We prefer nutrients being released over time in this extreme rain.
- A clean-up crew was sent to the fields to begin cleaning up fallen branches and other debris.
- A separate crew arrived to take down larger broken tree limbs because they were higher up and they needed proper equipment.

June 7- Wayne went for a walk through of the fields to assess field 18/19 and a way to make it more open to the other fields. He also did some adjusting to the irrigation system as some hot and dry weather is expected (finally).