

DeForest Area School District Guiding Principles for Turf Management

In order to maintain a safety conscious and environmentally responsible school environment the following efforts and considerations may be made with regards to landscaping and turf management.

- Use sound turf management practices which may include:
 - Over-seeding
 - Mowing
 - Aerate
 - Irrigate
 - Varying methods based on use
 - Fertilization
 - Use of data driven decision making to attempt the reduction of pesticide applications.
 - Rotation of areas to minimize overuse

- Clearly communicate pesticide applications which may include:
 - Highly visible signs, large and in many locations
 - Email communication to interested/affected parties
 - Posting a notice on District website
 - Electronic posting of IPM

- Explore innovative, sustainable methods that may include:
 - Newer grasses, higher density, newer blends
 - Investigate chemical alternatives
 - Compost- use natural fertilizer
 - Natural lawn care methods used for schools
 - Test plots for multiple products
 - Alternate green space options
 - Promote professional development opportunities

- Encourage partnerships with clubs, surrounding villages and towns to promote joint efforts in:
 - Turf management
 - Communication
 - Explore innovative, sustainable methods

The following considerations may be used in making decisions:

- Avoid mixtures with no higher than “caution” labels
- Spray only when necessary
- Ensure cost effectiveness, sustainability and financial impact on community
- Consider staffing capacity
- Current IPM
- Areas of overuse
- Soil drainage
- Consider alternative surfaces for future facility expansions
- Alternate funding sources/grants

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