

CHALKBOARD

TIPS FROM THE PROS

Base Path Edges

Lips along base paths are a top priority for Jim Anglea in his maintenance program at Ranger Stadium in Arlington, TX. Lips are ridges built up just outside the base paths in the turf. These lips develop from the base path mix being raked or kicked into the turf area.

Anglea first hooks up a hose to a quick coupler behind the pitcher's mound and sprays full force directly at the lips, pushing the base path mix back where it belongs. Then he uses a Weedeater to edge the base path. Finally, Roundup is applied to any turf growing in the base paths.

The result is a very neat edge to base paths and no lip in the turf for runners to trip over.

Reduce Mowing While Adding Color

The Howard County, MD, Park System team built a new athletic field complex last year in a wooded, scenic part of the

county. Park Maintenance Director Jeff Bourne and County Supervisor of Grounds Maintenance Mark Raab wanted to experiment with wildflowers and to avoid mowing banks and roadsides wherever possible.

"Use a seed drill, don't rototill," said Bourne from experience. "Rototilling brings up too much weed seed that you'll have to knock out with Roundup by hand."

"The funniest thing that happened the following year was we discovered residents digging up the wildflowers and taking them away in their cars," Bourne laughed. "When we asked them why, they responded they wanted to save the wildflowers before the park people mowed them down."

Hydraulic Oil Spills

In the most recent issue of *Divot News*, the official publication of the Southern California Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Bill MaGue, superintendent of Western

Hills Country Club, Chino, CA, gave the following account.

"Recently there was an hydraulic oil spill on one of our greens which sent the mower operator tearing back to the shop and returning a short time later with a bag of charcoal. His intention was to apply it to the oil spill as he had been instructed when employed at another golf course.

"Fortunately, I was in time to prevent him from doing so. I explained the effect of the charcoal on an oil spill. It was pointed out that charcoal absorbs the oil but only adds more carbon and does not break it down.

"I have found through experience that any detergent works well: Tide powder, Joy liquid, or organic penetrants (the latter giving the best results mainly due to their concentrated form.)

The application of an organic penetrant from a two gallon sprayer directly brings results. Apply it three or four days, consecutively, hosing it in with plenty of water. The ideal situation would be to wash and rinse a spill immediately." ▶

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