Most pre-game batting practices involve multiple areas of activity, and many of those activities go on simultaneously. One section of the field that creates a tremendous amount of turf stress is the fungo hitter's area.

Here are some ways groundskeepers have solved this problem:

- Double, turf-covered circles six-foot in diameter allow four hitters to go at the same time.
- An oblong, ovular fungo area allows hitters and fielders to stay in the same area without turf tear-out.

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by Floyd Perry

Double, turf-covered circles six-foot in diameter allow four hitters to go at the same time.
A large, six-foot by 10-foot clay rectangle creates sufficient area for two people to alternate hitting directions.

A six-foot, octagonal artificial surface gives a neat appearance and sufficient hitting surface.

A full artificial hitting square along the baseline aids in fungo hitting, and avoids turf tear-out around home plate.

Floyd Perry is author of three books: The Pictorial Guides to Quality Groundskeeping: I - Covering the Bases; II - There Ain't No Rules; and III - Maintain It Easy, Keep It Safe. He also produces two videos: The ABC's of Grounds Maintenance: Vol. 1, Softball; and Vol. 2, Baseball. For more information, call: (800) 227-9381, or visit his web site: http://gms.simplenet.com.