

BY KEVIN VOS, CSFM

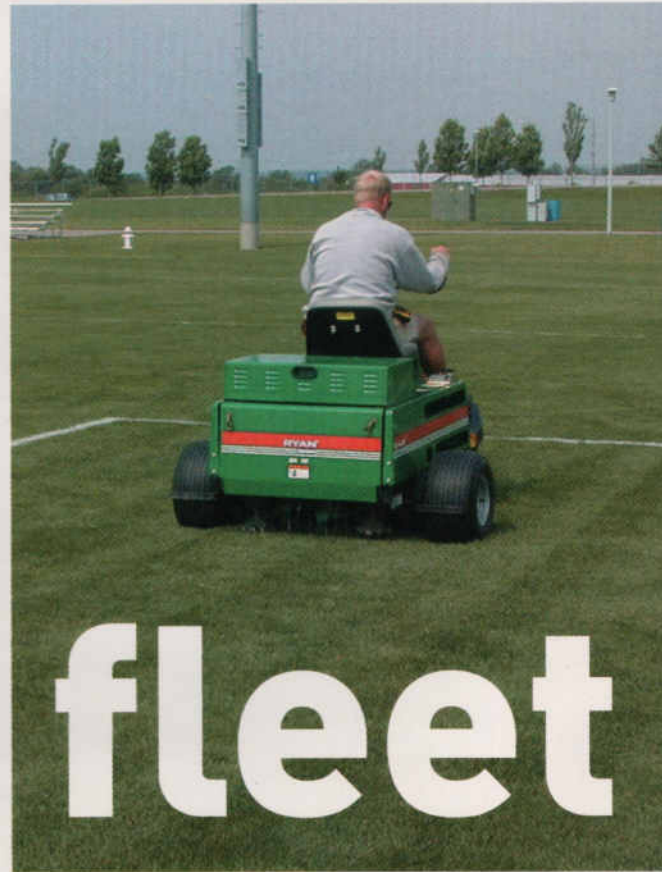
At the Muscatine Soccer Complex, Muscatine, IA, the number one goal is to maintain a safe, consistent, dense turf every day of the season. The following are just a few very important pieces of equipment in our arsenal to achieve this goal:

One of the most important pieces of equipment we use is our aerifier. We own or borrow four different types of aerifiers. Depending on what we're trying to accomplish during the season, we will use the Ryan GA30 aerifier with 1/2-inch hollow or 1/4-inch solid tines in the high use areas all season long. Solid tine aerification is used during the heavy amounts of usage to allow some additional oxygen to the roots without disruption of the surface. The Ryan Renovaire with 3/4-inch core tines is used on each field a minimum of two times per season.

Another important piece of equipment is the Land Pride overseeder. It is used extensively throughout the season to slice in heavy amounts of perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass seed. At many times of the year, we overseed with core aerification to break up cores and give some good hiding places for the seed to pop.

One of our more recent purchases has been very valuable to the overall turf management program. The John Deere TC125 collector system is used to pick up aerification cores, loose debris after the games, and for leaf pickup. It has enhanced our core removal with the sand topdressing program over the 22 acres of soccer fields.

The Jacobsen AR2500 rotary enviro decks mower is valuable for its efficient mowing time and the ability to stripe



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for aesthetics. The quality of cut is excellent and it lifts the grass upright. The soccer fields are mowed a minimum of three times per week, although during the peak growing season they are mowed almost daily. Working with a money-pinching municipal budget, our mowing hours have to be efficient.

Our three Cushman Trucksters are workhorses with a sharp turning radius, heavy cargo bed payload, and good towing capacity. They are used for spraying, running the

topdresser, hauling heavy payloads, moving materials and staff to job sites, and pulling equipment.

These are just a few of the many pieces of equipment our staff uses to maintain the playing surface of our soccer fields. **ST**
Kevin Vos, CSFM, is supervisor/athletic facilities, for the City of Muscatine, IA, Parks & Recreation department.



OVERSEEDER/ DETHATCHER

Jacobsen's Mataway overseeder and dethatcher is a 35.5-in. machine that allows you to dethatch or dethatch and overseed in one pass. The 4-cycle Kohler engine delivers 11 hp at 3,600 rpm. The unit itself has a spring loaded belt tightener for an easy clutch while the primary drive comes with a 4-L section V-belt to the front wheels connected by gear box and sealed roller chain. This combined with the triple 3-V section V-belts from engine to reel give the mower better handling.

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