

TURF SEASON

Editor's note: Periodically we will ask turf managers how their "turf season" is going. Here are some responses from minor league baseball:

SHAWN MOORE, Albuquerque Isotopes

Our turf season has been very good considering it has been hotter than a \$2 pistol. We had 25 out of the 30 days in June over 90 degrees. Our *poa annua* has not responded well to this. Normally we will see summer kill in our *poa annua* around mid-August, but as of July 1 we already have several sections of *poa annua* that are gone. Growing Kentucky bluegrass in the high desert has always been tough, but along with the heat in June we have had only 2 inches of precipitation all year.

On the upside, our wear has been very minimal. We have only had to resod once

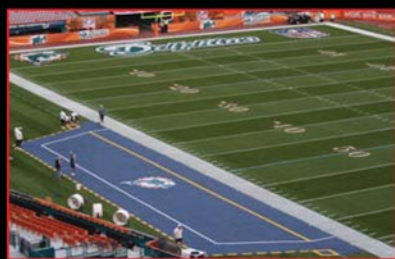
since college season ended. Our Kentucky bluegrass has responded very well to the fertilization program, which starts with a slow release nitrogen regiment. Through our suppliers, we have a schedule set with the timing of the release of nitrogen. Our nitrogen source will release .1 lbs. per week. From here we add quick release nitrogen as needed. We fertilize hard with potassium from spring till fall pushing for root development. In the past we have used phosphorus on a limited basis to try and prevent the spread of *poa annua*. Now that the amount of *poa annua* has increased so much we are increasing our P to develop healthier *poa annua*. Our spray program has been very limited this

We are hoping to finish the second half of the season strong and healthy. We are staying optimistic and learning new lessons everyday.

year due to the loss of our sprayer. We hope to re establish that program as soon as possible. We are dearly missing the micro-nutrients that we received from our spray program.

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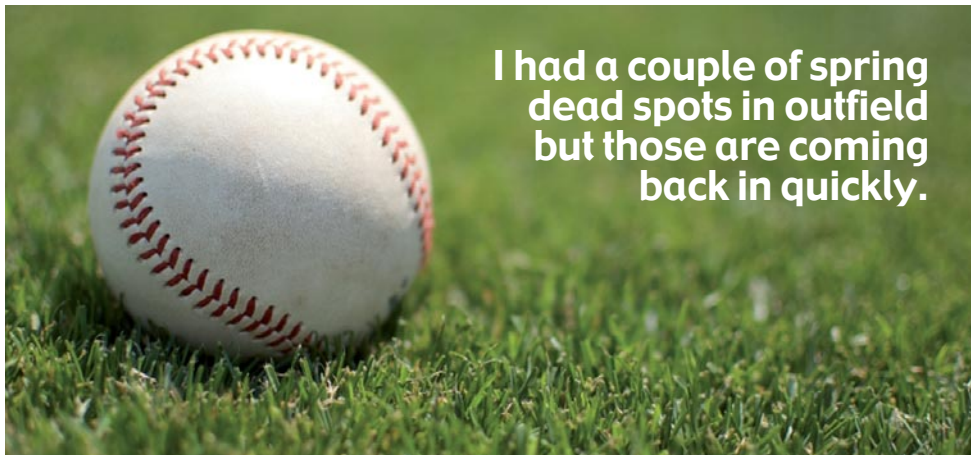
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I had a couple of spring dead spots in outfield but those are coming back in quickly.

ERIC BLANTON, **Reno Aces**

Nothing major to report. No problems that we have had. One thing that is going extremely well is that we have not had to do any resodding on field. The normal wear areas, pitchers mound front and back, shortstop and second base position

area, umpires spots, etc have held up extremely well.

BLAKE ANDERSON, **Greeneville Astros**

I am a groundskeeper that works for Southern Athletic Fields Inc. We are under contract with the Astros for the work I do

on the field. I have 419 bermuda and overseed with rye for the college baseball seasons. I started this job in December and this was the worst winter they have had here in east Tennessee in awhile. Temps were down in the teens for a long while and stayed cold until about April. Temps warmed up quickly and I think that is what helped my transition back to bermuda. I had a couple of spring dead spots in outfield but those are coming back in quickly. This is my first experience with bermuda and it is just what everyone has said about it and what I've read about. I really don't intend on doing anything special with the grass besides just spiking, ferting and a little PGR. I have just one problem and that is the visiting team walks across the grass to their dugout. I try to put down as many protectors as I can and ropes to keep those areas looking good. ■

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