

Advancing the Turfgrass Industry in New Jersey and the World



Photo: 2018 National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) plots at Rutgers Hort. Farm.



TURF TIP TIME #4 with the NJTA: **Seed Now Or Forever Hold Your Peace**

Whether you are establishing turf on a golf course, baseball field, or public park, timing is a critical component for getting healthy and thick turf cover. If you haven't seeded yet, make it your top priority. As October winds down, new seedlings will exhibit increasingly slow establishment.

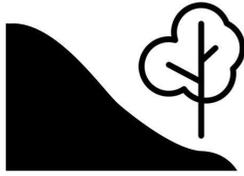
Late summer and early fall provide the most ideal conditions for turfgrass establishment and allow adequate turfgrass growth before winter. Cool evenings, moderate daytime temperatures, and more abundant rainfall are conducive to rapid seedling emergence. Additionally, many weeds (including crabgrass) are no longer germinating, thus reducing weed competition in new turfgrass plantings.

"For primary establishment, late August through September is typically ideal," said Brad Park. "If you reach Halloween without seeding, you may want to consider sodding instead."

For secondary establishment, seeding between March 15 and May 15 is your best bet. Prepare the soil during the first warm dry period as soon as soil is dry enough to work without forming clods. Preparing soil when it is too wet will compact the soil and

result in poor seedling emergence and non-vigorous root and shoot growth.

For more details, read this Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension bulletin on [Turfgrass Establishment Procedures for Sports Fields](#). Then, take advantage of what remains of October before this perfect hoodie weather turns to snow boot season.



Consider adjusting your grading and tillage.



Properly prep soil before seeding.



Select a research-backed seed variety / mix.



NJTA's TURF TIP TIME Brought to You By:
Brad Park

With a Bachelor's degree in Turfgrass Science and Master's in Agronomy from Penn State, Brad Park is an award winning turfgrass research technician. At Rutgers, he performs traffic stress research on cool-season turfgrass species and assists athletic facilities throughout the Garden State in solving problems associated with high traffic sports fields.

Brad is a member of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey Board of Directors and was the recipient of the 2016 Recognition Award presented by the New Jersey Turfgrass Association.

www.njturfgrass.org | (973) 812-6467 | execdirector@njturfgrass.org



NJ Green Expo

December 4-6, 2018

2018 Green Expo: Growing Turfgrass Together
The Borgata Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ

[Attendee Schedule of Events Brochure \(PDF\)](#)

[Attendee Registration Form \(PDF\)](#)

[Online Attendee Registration Open](#)

