

Advancing the Turfgrass Industry in New Jersey and the World



TURF TIP TIME #6 with the NJTA: **Take Cover**

In the bitter cold of raw winter mornings, when it is tempting to sleep in and hide under your cozy comforter, remember to consider turf covers for your athletic fields and golf course greens. Like your bedroom blanket, turf covers help trap in heat. These specially designed tarps create a greenhouse effect and retain a beneficial amount of warmth and moisture around the grass beneath them. Engineered to provide a protective barrier, turf covers also keep Mother Nature's harmful elements away from the turf.



"For me, turf covers are mandatory on any new establishment project," said professional turfgrass research scientist Steve Langlois. "The balance of maintaining uniform moisture at the soil surface while also protecting the area from heavy rains and erosion is a must." He explains that turf covers allow for a lower amount of irrigation during the germination phase. "The covers should be removed immediately following germination, usually after a period of 7 to 21 days."

For established plots, covers are great for protecting turf from winter's icy wrath. "To protect turf from winter injury, greenskeepers can install turf covers for much longer periods of time."

The benefits of placing a seasonal jacket over your fields and greens include:

- Reducing the risk of winter kill (desiccation and low temperatures),
- Earlier spring greening for earlier openings, and
- Faster germination.



Bonus: Using covers may result in a greener hue to your grass.

“My advice to professional turf managers is to use turf covers,” said Steve Langlois. Even though it can be a sizable financial investment and an annoyance to players/members who are temporarily forced off the property, the benefits are tried and true.



Quick Tip:

Timing is crucial. Carefully monitor soil temperature and grass conditions to determine the best time for installation and removal of green covers.



**NJTA's TURF TIP TIME Brought to You By:
Steven Langlois**

Steven Langlois is the owner of Langlois Enterprises in Pitman, New Jersey. Steven obtained his B.S. from Rutgers University and M.S. in Agronomy from Penn State. Steven has worked with NexGen Turf Research testing grasses in New Jersey since 1988. His research focus is on cool season grasses.

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