

DEVENS ATHLETIC FIELDS

Devens, MA

Mike Cabral, assistant public works manager at Mass Development in Devens, MA has been topdressing 40 acres of athletic field for the past 3 years with 1/2" minus AGRESOIL COMPOST™ made in Ipswich, MA. To prepare the field he core aerates in four directions then spreads 1,000 cubic yards at rate of 25 cubic yards per acre. When asked what are the benefits of topdressing every fall he responded; money, durability, and labor. In 2001 Mike spent \$75,000 for fertilizers and chemicals, his water usage was 3 million gallons per year and he over seeded 3-4 times per season. In 2004 his fertilizer and chemicals expense dropped to \$28,000, water to 0.6 million gallons and he reduced the over seeding by two thirds.

“We experienced a \$38,000 saving in our budget from previous years by incorporating a topdressing program. We still apply our pre-emergent and broad left controls in the spring and our grub control in the summer but because of the quality of the fields we are considering reducing or altogether dropping our chemical applications which will be another huge cost saving. The fields at Devens are heavily used and have never looked better. ”

