

Football pitch IPM control methods worksheet

Control group	Examples of a specific control method
Cultural	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The use of harder wearing grass cultivars helps to retain better ground cover, thereby helping to reduce the thin or bare area available for weed invasion. 2. The use of fertilisers which produce an acidic reaction thereby reducing the surface pH conditions that are more suitable to undesirable annual meadow and many turfgrass diseases. 3. Irrigation management: Applying water quantities based on evapo-transpiration rates and soil moisture deficit calculations. 4. Utilise the one-third mowing rule to manage the mowing regime. 5. Seed when germination rates are optimal, thereby reducing time when some areas will typically be thin or bare during renovation.
Physical	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hand weeding of a surface to reduce weed content. 2. The use of traps to control moles and their damage from mole runs and excavation soil mounds. 3. Drag brush to remove dew from leaves, thereby reducing moisture availability for disease spread.
Mechanical	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scarification to reduce and remove trailing weeds, as well as for reducing thatch which may harbour disease spores as well as retains moisture for a softer more disease susceptible surface. 2. Aeration to improve air flow, root growth, surface drainage: all outcomes that lead to a healthier, less stressed turf. 3. Ensure mower blades are well sharpened and set uniformly to produce a clean and even cut; this will also reduce potential disease infection areas.
Biological	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The use of nematodes for chafer grub or leatherjacket control. 2. The use of biostimulants which contain beneficial micro-organisms that improve rootzone quality and plant health. 3. A biological control could even be occasional use of birds of prey to scare off pigeons and other birds, especially around overseeding time.
Chemical	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The use of a selective herbicide to control a weed infestation. 2. The use of a fungicide to control a turfgrass disease. 3. The use of an insecticide to control eggs and grubs of insect pests.