



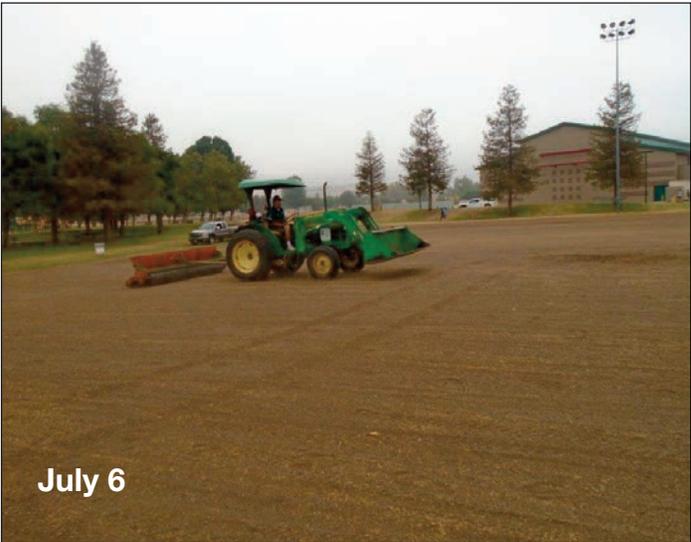
“Whittet” Kikuyugrass quickly revitalizes Simi sportsfield prior to AYSO soccer championship

Located at the base of the foothills in Simi Valley, The Rancho Santa Susana Community Center is one of the well-traveled parks in the Rancho Simi Park District. With the busy calendar of its Community Center and regulation sports fields, it hosts many events from weddings to soccer championships.



When Simi Parks and Recreation supervisor Jim Keppler called Stover Seed’s Sales Manager Jim Culley in May, he communicated that he needed to renovate the soccer field in time for the California State AYSO Soccer Championships to be held Labor Day weekend. As fields usually require more than 2 months to prepare, Rancho Santa Susana not only needed fast-growing grass, but with California’s serious drought, one that was drought tolerant/low water use, and would recover quickly from the turf damage of repeated soccer matches.

The two Jims (of Simi Parks district and Stover Seed) chose Stover’s “Whittet” Kikuyugrass, a vigorous, hearty, warm-season grass. Kikuyugrass is low maintenance, withstands traffic and grows where most other grass will not. “Whittet” was also selected because other applications in the Rancho Simi Park District had seen successful results including a large dog park.





Over the fourth of July weekend, the existing turf on the soccer field was removed and the ground prepped for planting, and on July 6th, the field was seeded with Whittet Kikuyugrass, using a seed ratio of 2 pounds per 1000 square feet. Warm temperatures and proper irrigation allowed the grass to grow quickly; it germinated in 6 days, the field filled in within a month, and was playable in 6 weeks! This was advantageous since they had to stop watering 5 days before the tournaments so the field would be dry and not slippery.

Supervisor Jim Keppler and the Simi Parks Board of Directors were impressed throughout the whole process.

The supervisor called weekly to report progress and Jim Culley visited several times during the grow in. Not only was the field ready to be played a month early, but when they checked the field after the tournaments and practice use, there was minimal wear, and the wear areas recovered and filled in quickly after being irrigated.

With its high visibility (it's the first field you see when you enter the Park) the soccer field's renewed look is even more impressive.



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