

Compost Use for Improved Soil

Compost Use on Turf

Top dressing improves seed establishment and turf quality

September 27, 2017: Due to shading and tree roots, the front lawn of this building on Cornell University's campus has trouble growing grass. Both pieces of lawn (sidewalk in between) were core aerated. The background lawn had ½" of compost spread and raked on it, while the foreground did not.

September 19, 2018: The plot where compost had been applied has less bare spots and is greener than the plot with none



Benefits of Using Compost on Turf

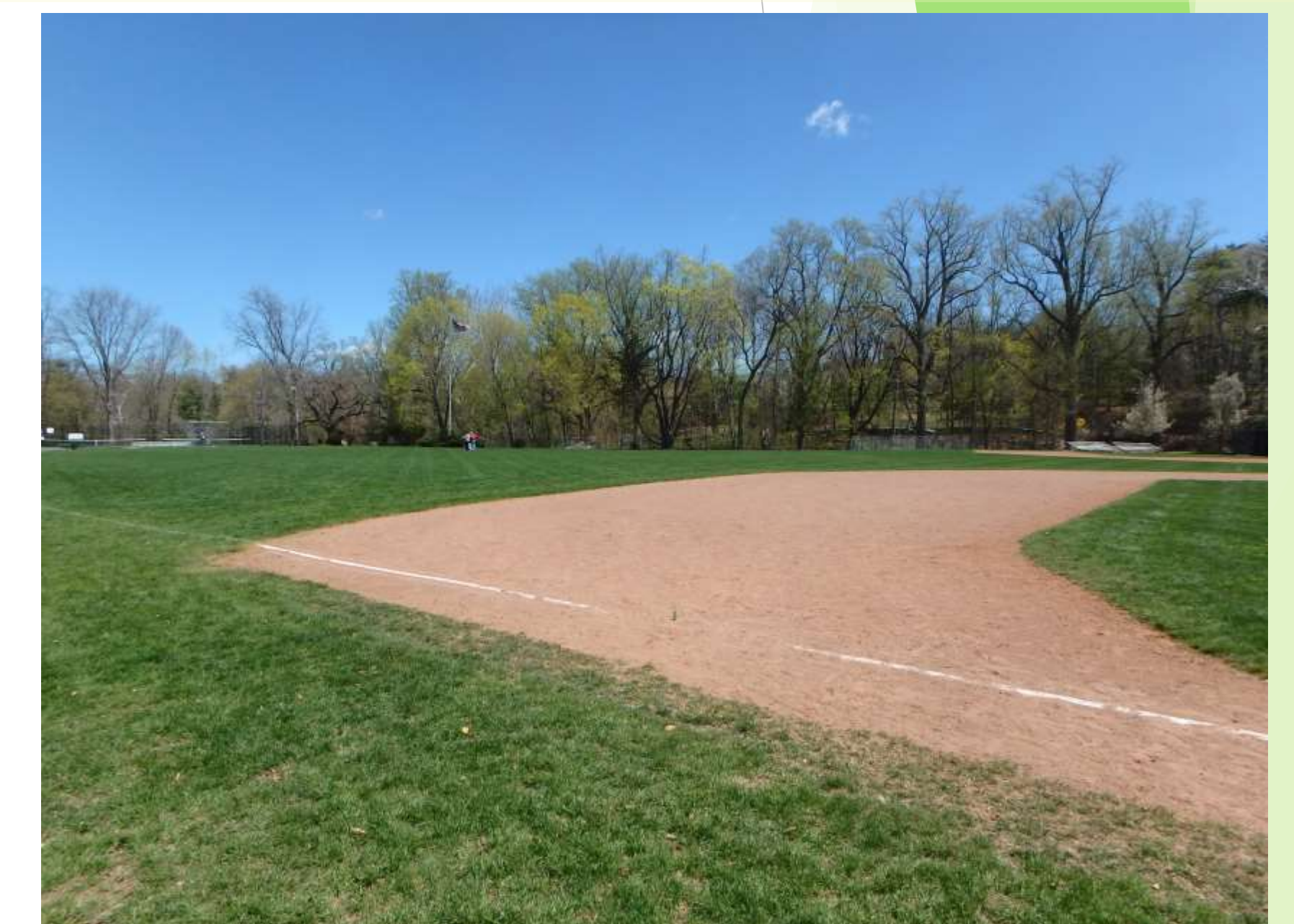
- **Visual Properties:** Turfgrass quality improves over time; increased grass (vs. weed) coverage and earlier spring green-up
- **Physical Properties:** The addition of compost improves the physical structure of soil (reduces bulk density increases aggregate stability and water infiltration), which in turn, promotes root development and heightens the turf's resistance to stress.
- **Chemical Properties:** increases organic matter, brings the pH of the soil closer to neutral allowing better availability of both manganese (suppression of leaf and root diseases) and iron (plays a role in spring green-up).

Find your compost here: <http://compost.css.cornell.edu/maps.html>

Top dressing improves playability on athletic fields



May 24, 2018: Although birds may have consumed much of the seeds, the turf established. The site showed improved water retention and no pooling of water.



Athletic fields are prone to compaction due to heavy traffic, use of fields when wet, and weight of vehicles on the fields. Wet and/or hard surfaces can cause injury to the turf and players.

Compost Improves Highly Compacted Soils

