Sports&Turf

understanding top dressing



What is top dressing?

It is the application of a sand or blend of sand, silt, clay and compost to an established lawn or playing surface.*

The exact composition of the dressing will depend on the purpose and the type of surface on which it is to be used.

10 reasons why we top dress

- To restore a level surface
- To protect newly seeded areas and to encourage germination
- To increase soil aeration
- To improve grass health
- To change the texture of the soil, especially the particle size distribution
- To improve drought tolerance
- To improve drainage
- To control and reduce the amount of thatch (OM) in the rootzone
- To repair divots
- To fill in joints on newly laid turf

* Source: **Sports Turf & Amenity Grassland Management,** Stewart Brown 2005

Mechanical top dresser

The pitch of the rotors applying the dressing can be set to ensure the dressing reaches the base of the grass sward, dispensing with the need to 'brush in' post-application.

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Selecting the right topdressing

When selecting a topdressing you should consider the following:

Why are you top dressing?

Do you want to improve the health of the turf?

Do you want to primarily improve drainage?

Choose a dressing that is compatible with the existing soil type.

Types of Topdressing:

- Pure sand dressings are primarily used to improve drainage
- Remember sand itself is inert and contains no nutrients
- Combined sand/soil dressings will improve drainage but offer the added benefits of delivering nutrients and reducing turf stress by improving drought tolerance

"For best results topdressing should be applied as part of a routine maintenance programme during and at the end of the season"

A good maintenance programme should include fertilizer application, aeration and over-seeding.

Further advice on maintenance plans is available from the GMA or STRI.

Sports&Turf is a blend of **90%** medium to coarse sub angular sand with **10%** **British Sugar TOPSOIL**

Sports&Turf is ideal for use as a dressing on soil-based winter sports pitches.

In randomised and replicated pot trials, conducted by the STRI, Sports&Turf demonstrated benefits for the turf grown on them in terms of their natural nutrient content and water-holding capabilities when compared to pure sand dressings.

