Let's start by looking at the sheer aesthetic value of grass. People like seeing it, they like the feel of it and the smell of freshly cut grass whether you're mowing your own lawn, playing golf while the course is being cut, or as a greenkeeper cutting the grass as part of your job, it is one of the finest smells on earth.

Real grass makes people happy, it increases their sense of well being and reduces stress levels.

Research studies have shown that walking barefoot on grass will lower your heart rate. I cannot imagine anybody feeling the same sense of relaxation sitting in a deck chair on synthetic grass as they do when it's the real thing.

When it comes to the environment grass wins over synthetics every time. Real plants absorb Carbon Dioxide and release Oxygen.

At a time when we're all concerned about our carbon footprint it's worth remembering that statistics show that 585kg of grass – golf course, lawns, parkland, playing field or farmer’s pasture– provides enough oxygen for one person for one whole day.

Real grass is an essential part of the ecosystem, whereas the synthetic variety, made of oil based compounds is hugely energy demanding in manufacture.

Real grass is cooling during a heat wave, whereas artificial grass generates heat and natural grass surfaces absorb water allowing it to percolate into the aquifer, filtering dust and pollutants at the same time.

In cities where run-off is a problem real grass has an important part to play in sustainable urban drainage systems.

As a living eco-system, supporting a varied microbial population, real grass absorbs body fluids – spit, blood and sweat for example in sporting situations and dog urine on lawns and parks.

The offending substances will be broken down in the soil during a natural self-cleaning process that helps keep grassed areas safe for public use. Synthetics require the use of specialized deodorants to mask the smell.

The National debate on sustainability it’s no coincidence that all Premier League football matches have to be played on real grass. Athletes find natural surfaces much kinder than synthetics with less risk of injury when sliding or tackling.

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