

BUNKER SAND

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A wide variety of sands are used for bunkers, often determined by local availability and cost, however, problems for both the player and the greenkeeper will result from use of sands which are basically unsuited for this purpose. It is, therefore, worthwhile to consider the basic requirements for a good bunker sand.

1. The sand is primarily required to provide a satisfactory playing surface within the bunker and to do so under all weather conditions.

It must, therefore, be relatively free-draining and will usually be a washed and graded sand that is relatively clay and silt free. Very fine sands should be avoided since they tend to compact down under heavy rainfall to produce relatively hard, slow-draining surfaces and conversely under dry, sunny and windy conditions tend to suffer from wind blow. Also the very nature of a bunker shot is such that the club should bite into the sand beneath the ball, this action being difficult to achieve in a compacted, fine sand.

2. Small quantities of sand

are inevitably sprayed onto the green as bunker shots are played, therefore, it is important that the bunker sand should not contain 'large' particles of grit or small gravel which could then affect the true roll of the ball and subsequently cause damage to mower blades.

The sand should also not contain significant quantities of lime particles in order to avoid any deleterious affects to the sward on the green.

Overall consideration of the above factors leads to recommendation that a bunker sand should be washed and graded, medium-coarse, lime free sand in the preferred size range of 0.25 - 1.00 mm with no particles whatsoever above 2mm.

A further factor that is not always considered is the colour of the sand. Some people prefer the strong contrast provided by the 'white' sands, whereas others prefer the more softer tone of a buff sand, the latter being perhaps 'easier' on the eye, particularly during sunny conditions.

The last, but not least consideration is, of course, cost and the sand types recom-

mended are certainly not the cheapest grades available, however, as with turf dressing sands the long term cost effectiveness of selecting a grade meeting the requirements is well proven.

JOSEPH ARNOLD AND SONS LTD

JOSEPH Arnold & Sons Ltd, one of the last remaining independent suppliers of high quality silica sands, operates from six quarries located near Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire.

Quality control is a critical factor gaining customer satisfaction and all products are carefully monitored for consistency throughout the production stages, concentrating on the elimination of large stone and excessive fines.

Joseph Arnolds have developed a range of 3 specialised bunker sands which are washed and unwashed, NT53 (brown sand), DA 52N (yellow sand) and DA 21M (white sand), these are ideally suited for every greens environment.

Bunker sands are always available for immediate delivery on a 24 hour basis.

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MANSFIELD SAND

MANSFIELD Sand Company Limited are well established suppliers of a comprehensive range of high quality sands into the foundry and construction industries and are, therefore, accustomed to producing sands to tight specifications.

The use of such high quality sands on golf courses and other sports turf has increased significantly over the past few years in line with the increased demand for good quality sports turf. The various requirements on a golf course including bunker sand, top dressing sand, sands for slit drains and rootzone sands are all provided for.

Recent developments which should be of interest to the golf course architect and greenkeeper include both fibre stabilised and rubber modified sands and also a top dressing blend of Gypsum and sand suited particularly to heavy clay soils.

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LEISURE SANDS



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