

BUYERS' GUIDE



Dealing with grass wear problems

Improvements in seed and fertiliser have reduced grass wear on golf courses and other active grassed play areas, but there are still problem areas that require assistance, particularly pathways, standing areas, goal mouths and tees.

A recognised treatment for pathways is Crown III, a patent particulate rubber crumb, that is either tined into the sward using a verti-drain or mixed into the root zone prior to seeding or turfing. This improves the grass life by at least three times providing that at least 6 kilo s/sq/m is employed. At a cost of £2 per square metre the compaction is reduced and the aeration and drainage is improved giving the increase in grass life.

Where there are wet areas that take time to dry out leading to muddy conditions, or a high degree of erosion due to a stony substrate or excessive foot traffic a more robust system is required. Other methods of mesh, grids and cells made from plastic all have failings for one reason or another.

The most satisfactory system for a golf course or other heavy foot traffic areas, that fall into this category, is the Rubber Grass Mat. These large rubber Mats 1m x 1.5m and 1 inch thick are full of hole through which the grass can grow. They are inset into the surface and the grass grows through the hole. The crown of the plant is protected by the collar of rubber. Hence after a few weeks they disappear from view.

Artificial turf is often the last resort, but is useful for pathways, steps and Tees. The Pathturf is a 24mm fibre in a rubber backing that is filled with a mix of sand and rubber crumb. For sleepers and other wooden areas Top Turf No 4 can be used, straight onto the steps with an adhesive

The Tee Turf F is a 60mm fibre which is filled with rubber crumb and sand, it will hold a tee, or allow play directly from the surface. It does require some maintenance to keep its condition. No maintenance is required on the Tee Turf NF, which is a dense pile in which tees can be used or you play from the surface.

These solutions are available from Tebbutt Associates on 01253 342003, Fax 01253 346644 or E mail tebbuttasso@btconnect.com

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