

# Sports&Turf<sup>♦</sup>

## 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 increase soil aeration

To change the texture of the soil, especially the particle size distribution

To improve drainage

To repair divots

To protect newly seeded areas and to encourage germination

To improve grass health

To improve drought tolerance

To control and reduce the amount of thatch (OM) in the rootzone

To fill in joints on newly laid turf

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

## understanding top dressing



### 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.*

# 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.

