

Dressed for Success

What is and the benefits of Topdressing

- What is a topdressing
- 10 reasons to top-dress
- Selecting the right topdressing
- Analysis
- Application



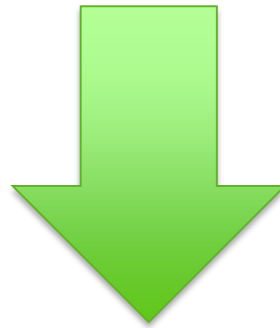
Biography

- Agricultural Background
- 35 years experience working with soils
- 22 years experience as a groundsman
 - Bury St Edmunds Nat 2 South
 - Ex player
- IOG Volunteer Groundsman of the Year 2012
- RFU Volunteer Pitch Advisor for Eastern Counties
- National TOPSOIL Manager for British Sugar TOPSOIL



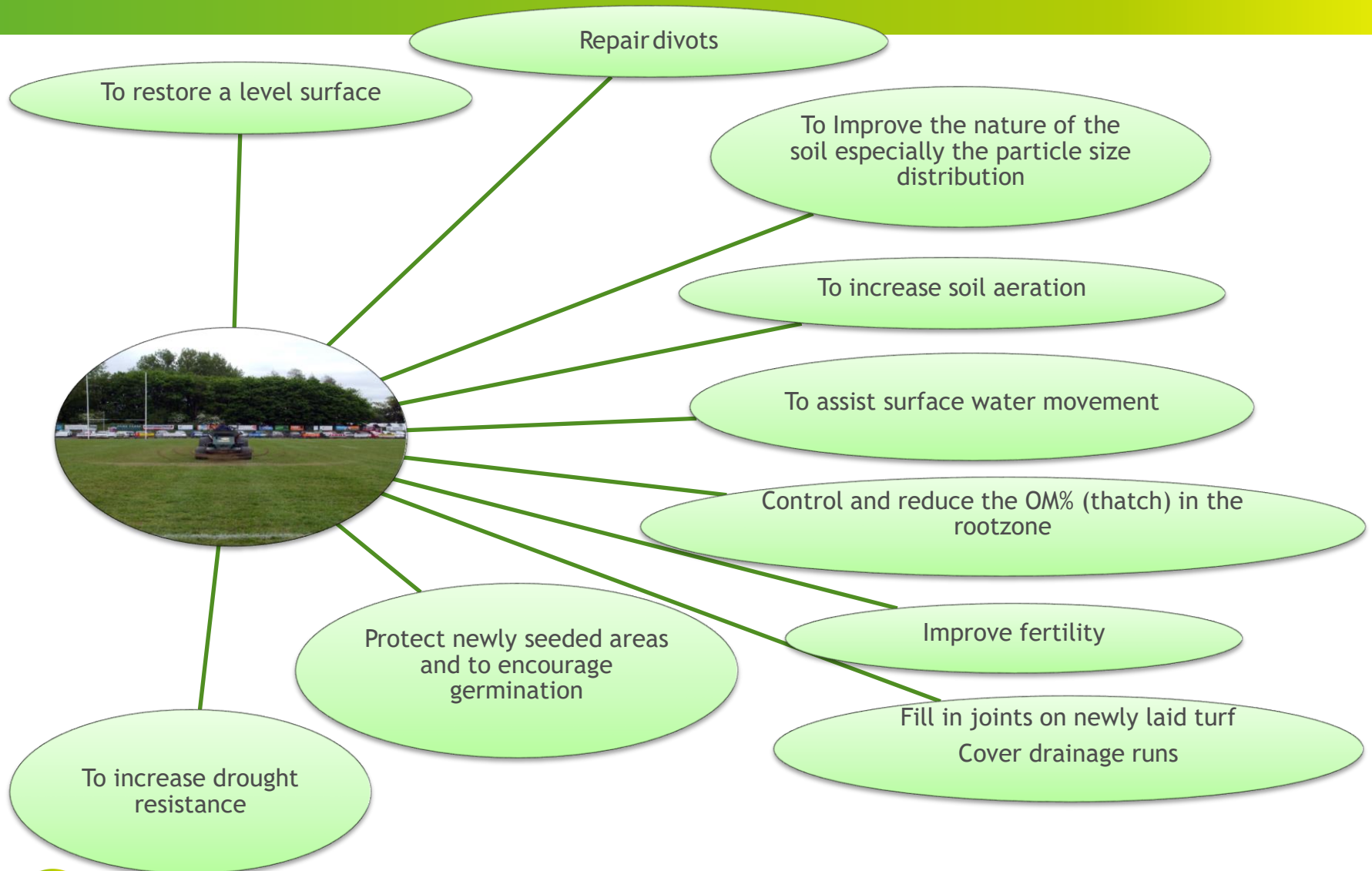
What is top dressing?

It's the application of a sand or blend of sand, silt, clay & OM to an established lawn or playing surface



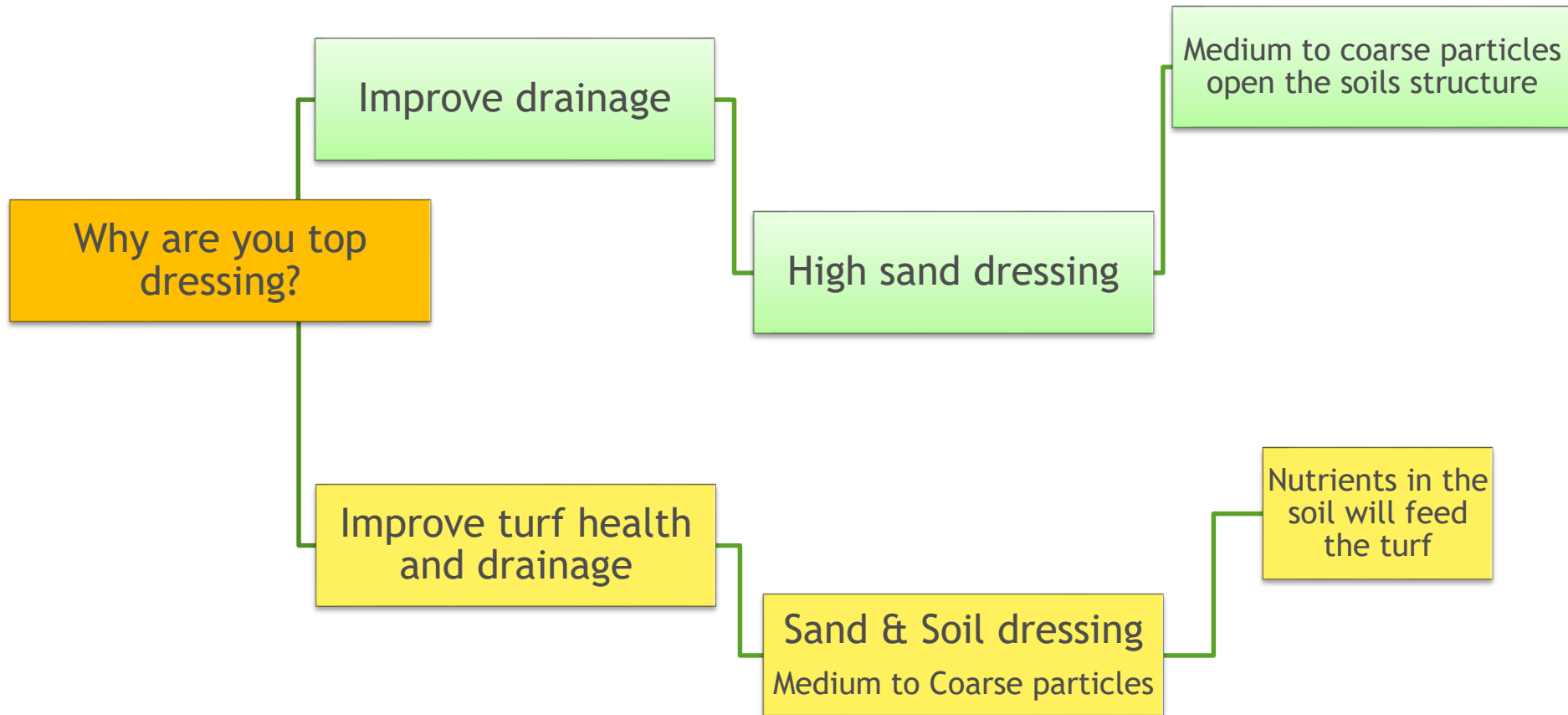
The composition of the dressing will depend on the purpose and type of surface it is to be used on

10 Reasons why we TOPDRESS?



Selecting the right topdressing

IOG / STRI can advise



A sand dressing should have a majority of coarse to medium sized particles



RUGBY GROUNDSMEN CONNECTED – KEITH KENT'S SAND TOPDRESSING SPECIFICATION

SIEVE SIZE (ISO)	SAND TYPE	WEIGHT RETAINED %
4.00 mm		0.0
2.00 mm		0.0
1.00 mm	very coarse sand	0.8
500 um	coarse sand	6.4
250 um	medium sand	55.6
150 um	fine sand	25.4
125 um	fine sand	4.8
63 um	very fine sand	5.3
-63 um	silt	0.8
Clay grade content		0.9
TOTAL		100.0

UK Golf Guidelines = 150mm/hr

Water permeability	840mm/hr
Organic content	
PH value	6.8
Fibre content	
Moisture content	7.0

Analysis and Testing

- Use accredited labs
 - STRI
 - Interpretive reports can help
- Test in situ soil as well as topdressing
 - Good suppliers will have product analysis
- Parameters to test for
 - Particle size distribution
 - Percolation
 - pH
 - Electrical conductivity
 - % OM
 - Plant available nutrients
 - P, K, Mg
 - Contaminants or phytotoxic elements
- Presence of physical contaminants
 - Glass, plastic



When and How to Apply Topdressing

Traditionally used at the end of the playing season



New research is showing that smaller amounts applied more often can give better results

Apply by hand or by machine



Typical Application Rates

	Typical Application Rates
Rugby / Football	50t - 100t per pitch
Golf Greens	15kg/m ²
Fairways & Lawns	10kg/m ²

Consider the outcome you want
Avoid grass coverage
How will you be applying the dressing?

Topdressing should be part of a bigger maintenance plan

Aeration

Slitting / Hollow cone / Verti drain / Rotary blades



Over seeding



Scarifying / Harrowing

Summary

A top dressing can be just sand or a blend of sand, silt, clay & OM

Understand why you are top dressing

Know what you are working with. Test your in situ soil & top dressing

Top dressing should be part of a maintenance programme

Take advice from the IOG, RFU or STRI
IOG pitch Improvement Programme