

Turf Blankets

Product Spotlight

Turf blankets retain warmth and moisture to promote germination and growth. At the same time, their porous structure allows air and water to pass through to the soil.

Soil and air under turf blankets can remain three- to eight-degrees F warmer than uncovered turf, which can mean the difference between turf-grass survival and winter kill.

The blankets produce a greenhouse effect of warmth and moisture that promotes a stronger stand with longer roots. They can help turf grow faster, so that covered areas can be used earlier in the season.

Case study

Doubleday Field in Cooperstown, NY, the home of baseball and site of the annual Hall of Fame game, hosts three to four games a day during the season. Maintaining the turf to the standards expected by the historic field's many visitors is an imposing task.

In addition to heavy traffic during the season, the field must survive New York's harsh winters during its recovery period. Head Groundskeeper Joe Harris explains, "We do everything when it's cold to try to make the grass stronger, so when the spring comes, we will have a jump start on it."

Recently, Harris added turf blankets to his arsenal to help fight the weather. "Four years ago we redid the infield," says Harris. "We reworked the drainage, dug down the turf, and resodded the area. The supervisor of this project said we needed a turf blanket to ensure the grass grew back the way it should, so I used a few pieces of Typar Turf Blankets where we'd resodded. I'd never tried them before."

Impressed by the results, Harris decided to cover the infield completely. For the last two years, he has used the blankets November through April.

Harris explains, "The blankets we have are 45-feet by 85-feet. When I place them, I pick a day that isn't too windy so I can handle it myself. I just unroll them over the field, staking them as I go. It works well."

"When October 1 arrives and the grass goes into dormancy, I stop fertilizing. I put the Typar Turf Blankets down just as the grass goes dormant. This year I'm going to put down a fungicide on the entire field before I put down the blankets. Every year the snow mold has gotten a little bit worse, and it's time to stop the problem."

"The first time I used the blankets, I wasn't sure how they would work. But when I took them off and the turf was greener than surrounding areas, I knew they would become a standard part of my regimen." □

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