



Field painting advice from suppliers

Pioneer Athletics, pioneerathletics.com

During the 2007-2008 football season, the synthetic turf field at the Louisiana

Superdome played host to 19 games. In a 20-week span, there were 10 New Orleans Saints games, five Tulane Wave games, the Bayou Classic, the New Orleans Bowl, the Sugar Bowl, and the BCS National Championship game. Each game required a complete field paint changeover, including all field logos, hash marks, and endzones.

In previous years, the Superdome maintenance crew painted all field markings with house-

hold paint from the local hardware store. After each event when the field paint had to be removed, they hired 15 temporary laborers who spent up to 3 days scrubbing the field with an industrial cleaning solution—and still had problems with ghosting of the paint.

Last season though, they found a way to remove every last mark on the field in 2-3 hours by doing the work themselves with Pioneer Athletic's Removable Field Paint System. GameLine Temporary Marking Paint is a high-gloss paint specifically formulated to be easily removed from synthetic turf once sprayed with Blitz-GameLine

remover solution. This paint is chemically engineered to react to the remover solution so its resin system releases from the turf blades.

The process is simple:

Step 1. Apply GameLine Temporary Marking Paint.

Step 2. When the field temperature is below 80 degrees, use Blitz GameLine Remover Solution in a backpack sprayer to saturate the painted area.

Step 3. Agitate the area with Pioneer's Blitz Remover machine, a lightweight, walk-behind, scrubbing machine with a 5.5-hp Honda engine

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

and seven adjustable brush heights.

Step 4. All traces of the paint rinse away with water from a standard garden hose. If drainage is an issue, use Pioneer's WaterClaw to remove the excess water and paint residue while leaving the infill in place.

Pioneer worked closely with the Superdome crew to develop a comprehensive system of field paints, field striping machines, and equipment that addressed their particular situation and synthetic turf surface.

Graco, Inc., www.graco.com

The majority of turf striping equipment in use today is "pressure pot" based, with either an on-board compressor or CO2 tank. These older style systems make it difficult for turf strippers to find substantial product differentiation from one manufacturer to another. This type of equipment requires that paint be "cut" with water, and then added to a tank on the striper which is very time consuming and is considered "old school" tech-

nology.

Airless striping technology is the newest manner in which sports fields are now being striped. This technology allows you to now save time and money by:

Spraying athletic paint, uncut, which keeps the field looking great for 2-3 times as long as other systems including spray cans and pressure pots.

Drawing directly from the paint container. No more mixing and dumping is needed with this technology.

Providing exact pressure control. Pressure control must be below 900 psi in order to avoid damaging the turf. You want to spray the turf, not the dirt! Make sure equipment is capable of being "dialed down" to avoid damage.

Stencil spraying, which is a must for sports turf applications; a quick change out to a 20-inch extension with proper tip allows for fast, reliable stencil jobs.

Use of adjustable spray shields to help keep

the line quality the best it can be by blocking wind from blowing the paint all over the field.

Use of tall turf tires allows unit to easily roll.

Connecting a drive system to the turf striper, which allows user less fatigue and provides consistent, straight paint lines

Minimum of half gallon per minute is needed to provide the coverage field managers demand.

Paint filters on the sprayer: Include the "rock catcher," paint manifold filter and paint gun filter. Prevents downtime due to clogs.

Piston pump technology produces the most consistent lines.

Non-clogging, reversible SwitchTips allow great lines to be sprayed every day.

One of the best ways to see what these new style airless turf-striping units can do is to arrange for a demo to see how it performs and how easy or difficult it is to use.

Transporting the unit is as important as using it so make sure it is light-weight, portable, and able to be moved from field to field with little or

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Courtesy of Graco, Inc.

no hassle. Lastly, go with a proven brand from an equipment supplier who has a solid reputation in your market.

Whitlam Paint, www.whitlampaint.com

Temp-Stripe Athletic Field marking paints are necessary now, more than ever, to put temporary markings for either a different sport or for hosting an event that normally gets played elsewhere, whether it's synthetic turf or natural.

This product makes some sports turf managers' lives much easier for a variety of reasons: Some people use Temp-Stripe because it has a easy removal feature (just water pressure and "elbow grease"); some like it because it breaks down into the soil better than most other, more permanent, long-lasting type field paints

Most like it because it actually works and doesn't require the purchase and use of a chemical solution for removal, nor does it require the purchase of additional equipment for that removal process. ■



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StarLiner

In response to concerns from customers regarding the environmental impact of aerosol field paints, Pioneer Athletics developed a striping machine that produces sharp, liquid paint lines with the ease of an aerosol striper. The StarLiner runs on a rechargeable battery and resembles a typical aerosol striper, but delivers a bright liquid line that will not burn natural grass. The brilliant white Star Stripe paint made for the StarLiner contains Halogen 2000 optical brighteners and comes in a "bag-in-a-box" container that is self-sealing and reusable. Star Stripe paint is also available in orange, red, yellow and blue.

Pioneer Athletics


For information, fill in 059 on reader service form or see <http://www.oners.hotims.com/14681-059>

ProLine

Layout fields once and never measure again with Newstripe's ProLine field layout system. Just drive the rugged nylon locators into the ground at key field positions, attach the supplied string line to the locators and you're ready to stripe your field. The locators are then left in place so you can precisely remark your field year after year, yet you will never have to re-measure. There are no open holes to catch cleats or fill with debris. Available in packaged of 12, 25 and 50 locators. Each kit comes complete with starting tool and 600 feet of high-grade cord.

Newstripe

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Paint and Equipment for Synthetic Fields

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Benefits of verticutting

By Darian Daily

Verticutting has many important benefits to produce healthy sports turf.

We all know the cultural practices such as aerification and topdressing are important for healthy sports turf. But verticutting or vertical mowing is the least-used practice. Verticutting has many important benefits to produce healthy sports turf, including thatch removal, lateral growth promotion, seed bed preparation, and early spring green up.

Thatch removal

Whether you maintain warm season or cool season turf, thatch control is important. Some thatch is good for the field system. The proper

amount of thatch will assist in the breaking down of chemical (fertilizers) because of the higher likelihood of having good microbial activity. Proper thatch will allow for better seed bed for new seedlings and gives good footing. Excessive thatch can lead to a poor draining field, a higher susceptibility to diseases, and unstable footing.

Proper verticutting loosens the old thatch and brings it to the top. Once the old thatch is removed, the turf can take in more water and take in more air promoting healthier turf. Another positive of removing excessive thatch is that your turf will dry quicker because the air and sun get down to the soil.

On the playability side, having too much thatch, the field will feel soft and "slow." A field with proper thatch will feel firm and "fast."

Promotes lateral growth

For sports turf managers maintaining warm season grasses, verticutting is as important as aerification. With proper fertilization, verticutting warm season grasses will stimulate the cut stolons to generate new growth from the cut area and this forms a much thicker and denser turf. After a light topdressing, the field will become nice and "tight" and ready for play.

The same is true, but to a lesser degree, for

some types of cool season grasses such as bluegrass. In bluegrasses there is some lateral growth, but not as much as bermudagrass. With the help of verticutting the same cutting of the "runners" will simulate growth and help form a better root mass and help to fill in thin spots.

Seed bed preparation

Verticutting is a great tool to enhance your overseeding regiment. The most important aspect of getting good seed germination is to have good seed-to-soil contact. In most cases, we are trying to seed into established turf such as over seeding into bermudagrass. With the use of verticutting, you will open up the turf to allow the seed to get in touch with the soil and increase the chance of a successful germination.

When you are trying to seed into thin areas, a light verticutting will loosen the soil to allow for good seed-to-soil contact. The sports turf manager needs to be careful when verticutting thin areas. You must remember that the turf is already weak and any aggressive verticutting could set you back further.

Early spring green-up

From my personal observations, verticutting in early spring (March in the Cincinnati area) will help with green up of cool season grasses.

When you verticut, you remove the old, dead grass that has been laying there over the winter. Verticutting breaks up the winter derogation and opens the soil up to the warm sun that promotes earlier growth.

Once the soil is opened up to that warmth, the grass starts to grow and thicken up. I have seen areas that we verticut green up and start to grow 4 weeks earlier than non-verticut areas.

Timing is very important. You have to be careful not to try this too early in the year. You have to wait until the heavy frost period is over. If you verticut too early and get a couple weeks of hard and cold weather, your plants could be in trouble and take longer to recover since you have removed their protection.

Talk with other sport turf managers around your area and ask their thoughts and techniques about verticutting. They can assist you with finding the proper timing and equipment to do the job.

Darian Daily is head groundskeeper for Paul Brown Stadium, Cincinnati, OH.

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