

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS in soil amendments

Editor's note: Following is some product news provided by several manufacturers of soil amendments used by sports turf managers.

“Saving the game”

“Saving the Game” is the guiding philosophy of PRO-FILE Products LLC’s Turface Athletics. It’s a philosophy that focuses on keeping fields playable and players safe no matter what the weather conditions may be. Turface Athletics exemplifies this commitment through its products and educational outreach, which includes Field & Fairway Emerald soil amendment, Profile’s newly acquired DryJect aeration service, and Keep America Playing field education program.

Field & Fairway Emerald is the first product designed for turf applications to absorb water and keep fields dry, turning wet, muddy fields into safe, playable surfaces. When rain is forecast, groundskeepers can proactively apply a topdressing of this product to prevent muddy, wet conditions and extensive wear and tear.

To combat standing water and mud, pour the product directly onto areas such as field benches and on worn areas between the hashes or in goalmouths. The product instantly absorbs the excess water, making the surface dry and safe. The medium-sized, porous ceramic soil amendment is specially designed for turf and for use on fields constructed with native soil. Field & Fairway Emerald’s green color disguises worn areas until new turf grows back.

The DryJect service is a franchise-operated service that injects soil amendments into the soil while aerating grass fields. The patented technology uses water to fracture the soil while simultaneously injecting large volumes of dry

material. DryJect aerates, topdresses, and amends in one pass, leaving behind a smooth, playable surface free of cores.

When incorporated into the rootzone using the DryJect aeration system, Profile Field & Fairway fills the DryJect holes completely, pro-

viding channels for water to drain. This provides a permanent balance of air and water space, which increases drainage and prevents muddy conditions that destroy turf. Using Field & Fairway with the DryJect system also allows you to prevent compaction throughout the year with-



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out causing undue stress during the hot, busy season or in preparation for heavy fall traffic.

Turface Athletics is also helping schools and communities across the country improve their fields through its new program, Keep America Playing. Keep America Playing is a nationwide, educational initiative that offers instruction on best practices in constructing and maintaining sports fields. It provides extensive turf care education to assist turf managers, coaches, athletic directors, and parent volunteers in improving their fields. For complete information on Keep America Playing and to find out where national and regional events are being held, visit www.keepamericaplaying.com.

Product durability is important

All groundskeepers want healthy turf that can stand up to heavy use, remains firm and playable in wet or dry conditions, and thrives on less water. Just as successful sports teams are built on solid fundamental skills, outstanding sports fields must start with optimal soils. All



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turf needs a good balance of air, water, and nutrients in the soil to thrive.

With heavy play and practice schedules, sports fields easily become compacted, resulting in worn or bare turf areas. By adding porosity to the soil with inorganic soil amendments, even the hardest native soils can be amended to allow turf to recover more quickly and respond faster to regular maintenance. Additionally, improved soil allows fertilizers and pesticides to be more effective, sometimes at lower rates, to produce a better playing surface.

There are a wide variety of inorganic soil amendments on the market today that can add porosity to clay soils, and some have the ability to absorb water. The most important questions to ask are: Is the product durable, and is it effective? Does it have to be replaced frequently? How much must be added to make an effective improvement to the soil? And most important, how much of the water absorbed is available to the plants?

AXIS is a soil amendment made from 100% naturally occurring diatomaceous earth (DE). Incorporated into the soil, AXIS reduces compaction and increases water and air permeability of the soil. It increases plant available water, firms up soggy soils, loosens hard to work soils, provides better drainage and aids in nutrient transfer. All of this results in dramatically improved root growth and improved microbial activity. AXIS is the only soil amendment that not only absorbs 140% of its weight in water, but gives 94% of that water back to the turf as it is needed. The result is that you can water more deeply

and less often and also make the most of any natural rainfall.

Turf managers have documented water savings of 30% and more by using AXIS in their golf courses, sports fields, and landscaping. The benefits of AXIS are permanent. It will not break down with freeze-thaw cycles and it will never plug up or stop working. You only have to apply it once for a lifetime of healthy turf.

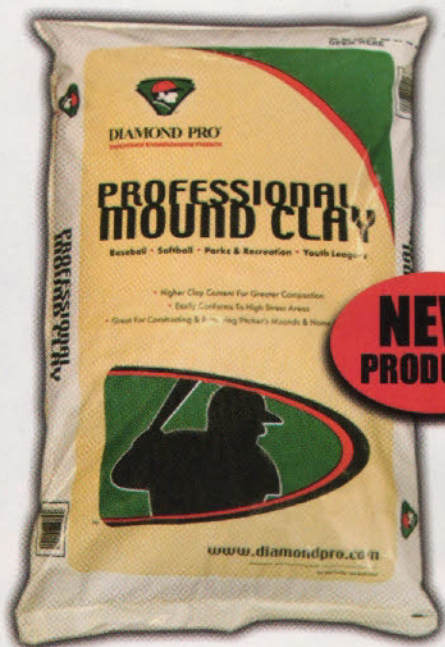


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