



There are no two ballparks that are the same, so the clubs make the decision on the amount of netting and the type and the length.

Farrow said that one drawback to Dyneema or Spectra is that the fibers are slick and the coatings could wear off over time, leaving a gray fiber that is more difficult to see past. However, Farrow added that more high-level stadiums are going with Spectra because of the safety factor.

How much netting is enough?

Once you decide upon a netting material, the next—and perhaps more difficult question to answer—is how far the protective netting should extend.

“We don’t make any recommendations regarding what the netting should cover or how far it should extend down the baselines,” said Farrow. “The reason we don’t make any recommendations is the same reason that parks will have to eventually extend the netting, and that is the litigious nature of our society. If I make a recommendation and say ‘this is how far you need to go’ and somebody gets hit five feet past that, guess who is named in the lawsuit—me—because I made a professional recommendation.”

Koch also said that liability issues are the reason his company avoids making recommendations on how far the netting should extend.

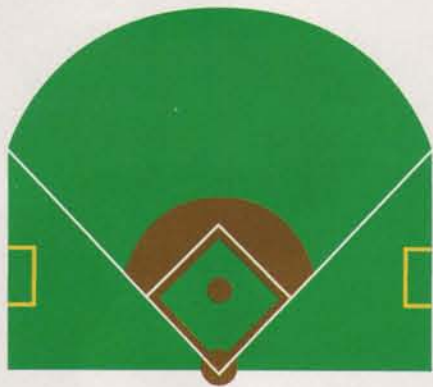
“There isn’t a lot of information available,” said Koch. “It’s really up to the club and what they decide to do, and what the engineer or architect has decided would work best for them.”

According to Farrow, Seamar relies on the buyer to determine how much netting is needed. However, he does offer the following advice to those who are in the market to purchase protective netting: “We ask for exact dimensions and we make it to fit exactly. And they better have their posts in before they call me. That is one of the big mistakes—they go by the blueprints and then say ‘the posts are only off by 6 inches.’ But 6 inches in a 40-foot span is a lot. If the net is too big it makes a big sail when the wind blows, and if it’s too tight you will never get it to fit. When people call us, we get exact dimensions, inside post to inside post, and we find out how they will support it, whether there will be vertical cables on the end and how it will be attached at the bottom.”

Although netting manufacturers and suppliers typically don’t make recommendations regarding how far to extend the nets, there are sources that provide some overall recommendations that parks can use to determine heights for protective fencing and netting.

ST

John Kmitta is senior editor at SPORTSTURF magazine.



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www.aquamasterfountains.com

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NETTING SOLUTIONS

West Coast Netting is the nation's only manufacturer of knotted & woven netting and fabricator of steel range poles, all out of one shop. They manufacture three types of golf netting, nylon, polypropylene, and the new SPEC-SET, which has a breaking strength of more than 168 lbs.

The company has designed, built and installed netting and poles as high as 150 ft. above ground and specializes in golf barrier fences, driving range systems, indoor & outdoor cages and custom netting products.

West Coast Netting/800-854-5741

www.westcoastnetting.com

For information, circle 180

RAINGEAR

Compliance Safety, Inc., a nationwide distributor of safety products for the outdoor workplace, offers two new rainwear products.

The new "Camouflage" Value Rain Suit provides a low-key appearance for grounds crews that is ideal for publicly visible work and keeps everyone comfortable in all weather conditions. The jacket and bib-style overall suit is constructed of rugged 30 mil PVC over polyester with a snap storm front, flap pockets and a snap-detachable hood with nylon drawstring. The new suit is also available in yellow.

Also new is an improved over-the-shoe Rubber Slush Overboot for protection against water, mud, chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers. Designed for those who need all-day comfort, this boot features high-traction soles, non-metallic adjustable straps and a fabric lining.

Compliance Safety/800-340-3413

www.compliancesafety.com

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CoverSports USA/800-445-6680

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PROTECTIVE ACRYLIC SHEET

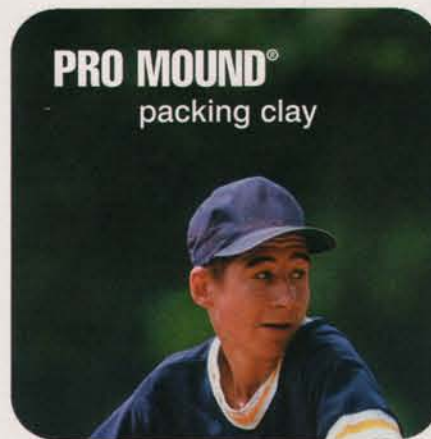
New ACRYLITE PLUS acrylic sheet from CYRO Industries combines the high optical clarity of acrylic with a new level of impact strength and weather resistance for industrial guards and windshields for golf carts, parking patrol, and other off-highway vehicles. While delivering the same structural impact strength as other transparent plastics but at thinner gauges, ACRYLITE PLUS sheet fabricates quickly and easily, lowering material and labor costs, and

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Reinders, Inc. has announced that schools, parks, municipalities, and athletic facilities can now take advantage of its sports field audit service to improve their athletic fields.

Bruce Schweiger, a Reinders turf specialist, completed the Certified Sports Field Auditors Program from Profile Products. Schweiger has more than 25 years of turf industry experience; during an audit, he will spend several hours on a property to observe the field and surrounding areas, conduct soil tests, analyze current conditions, and ask questions to develop a maintenance program tailored for the specific field. The results and recommendations are compiled and a detailed report is mailed to the facility. An appointment is then scheduled to discuss the findings in depth. The fee is \$150.

Reinders (Bruce Schweiger)/800-785-3301, x4014
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Envirometrics Systems/888-276-4104

www.envirometrics.ca

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KNOTLESS BLACK POLYETHYLENE NETTING

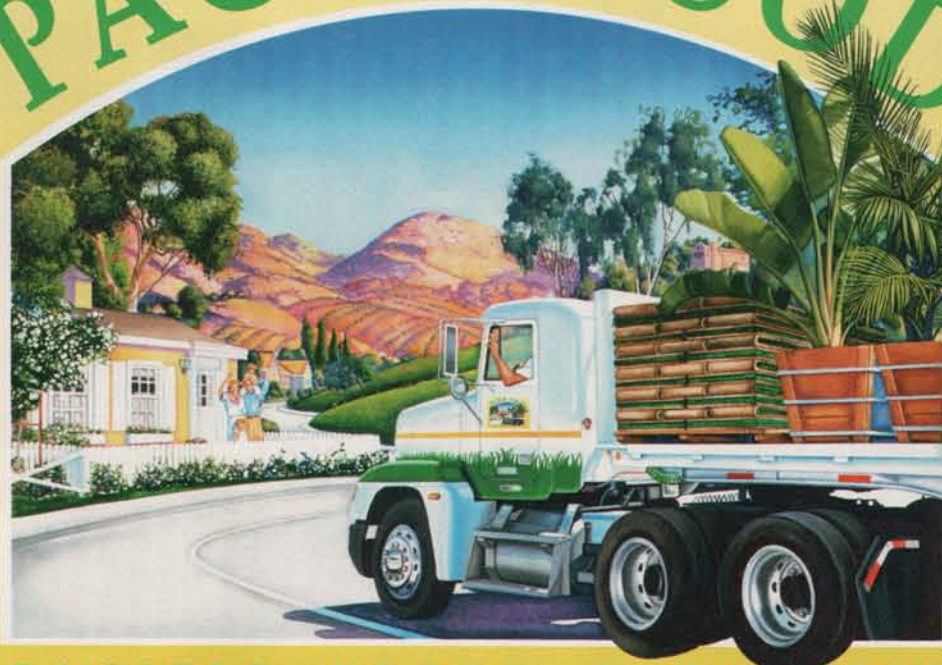
SEAMAR's knotless black polyethylene baseball netting is extruded black so it stays black. With strong UV inhibitors in the twine, it lasts longer in the sun. It has a smooth knotless join at every mesh so it's easier to see through. It doesn't absorb water and it has less wind resistance than other netting. When cut square it offers a better view for the cameras and fans. Standard width is 20 ft., but custom sizes are cut to order. It comes in 46 ply (1.8mm) for heavy use and 30 ply (1.4mm) for light use. The smooth polyethylene doesn't create friction with baseballs, so the long lasting 46 ply is ideal for batting cages. Even the 30 ply can withstand winds up to 80 mph.

SEAMAR/800-426-2783

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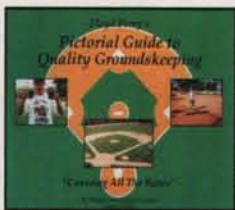
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Pictorial Guides to Quality Groundskeeping Book I

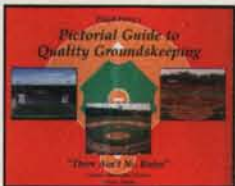
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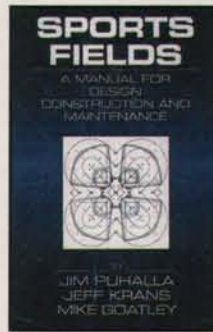
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