



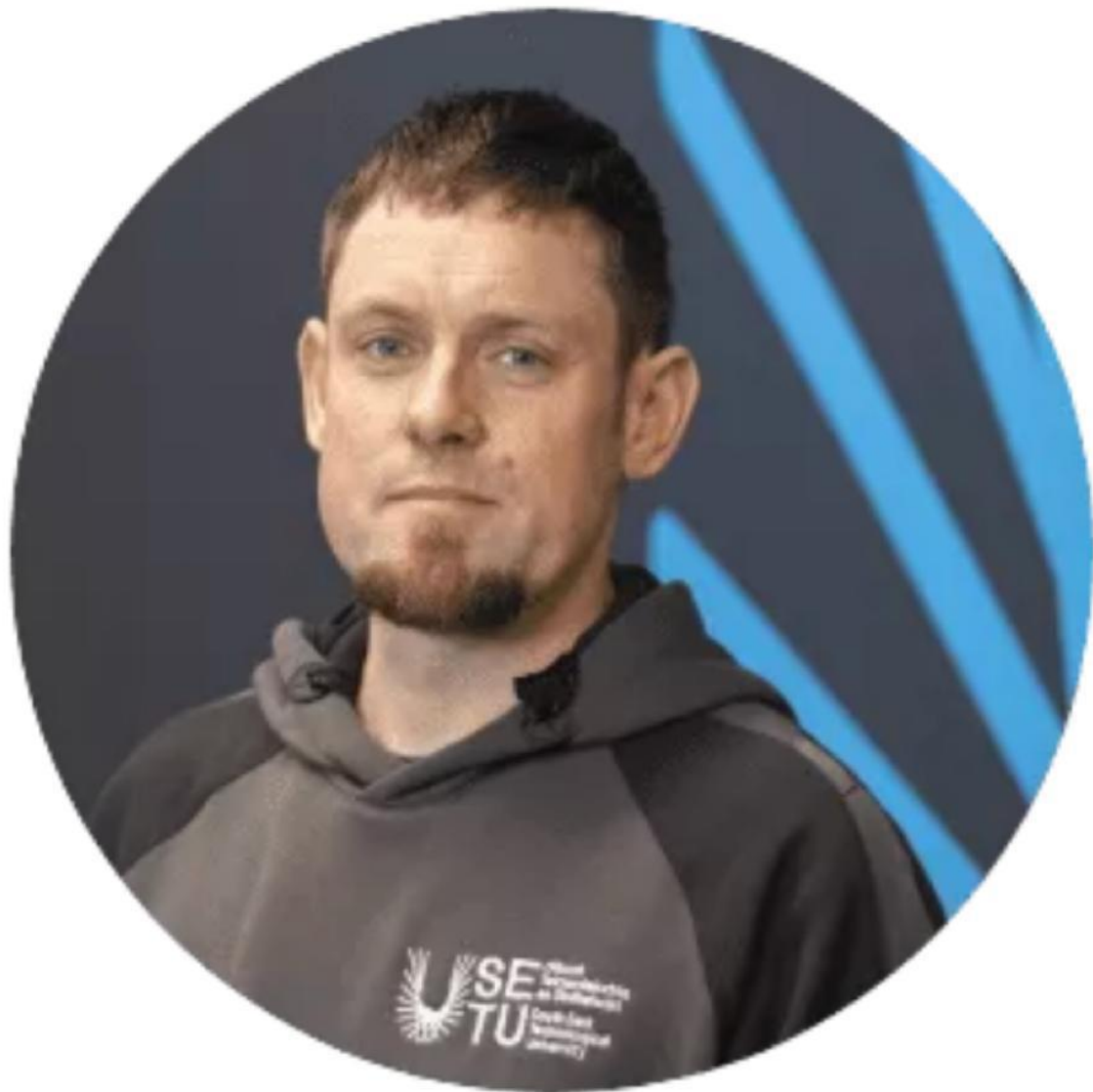
Pitch Renovations And Spring Maintenance



Raising Standards
National Pitch Maintenance Workgroup



David Grant



- H. Dip Horticulture
- 2002 – 2009 - Landscaping
- 2009 – 2012 - Facilities maintenance
- 2012 – Current - Pitch Manager at SETU Arena

What is the purpose of a pitch renovation?



- De-compact the pitch
- Increase the air space in the profile to encourage root development
- Restore levels through topdressing
- Re-populate the sward with new grasses
- Improve sward density with well timed fertiliser applications



Major Renovation



- Surface removal by Koro
- Reinstating levels

- De-compact surface
- Re-sodding pitch
- Fertiliser
- Irrigation



Minor Renovation

Brush pitch surface

Hoover loose debris



Main causes of compaction

- High levels of use
- Playing on waterlogged surfaces
- Carrying out maintenance work in poor conditions





Aeration

- Improvement of pitch quality through mechanical intervention
- Improves drainage
- Creates pore space in rootzone
- Reduces excessive thatch build up
- Decreases chances of games being called off
- Decreases player fatigue and injury



Deep tine aeration

- Verti – Drain
- 4” – 12” working range
- Vary depths & diameter





Linear aeration

- Shockwave
- 1"-12" working depth



Slitting



- Linear Aeration
- Root development
- Sward density



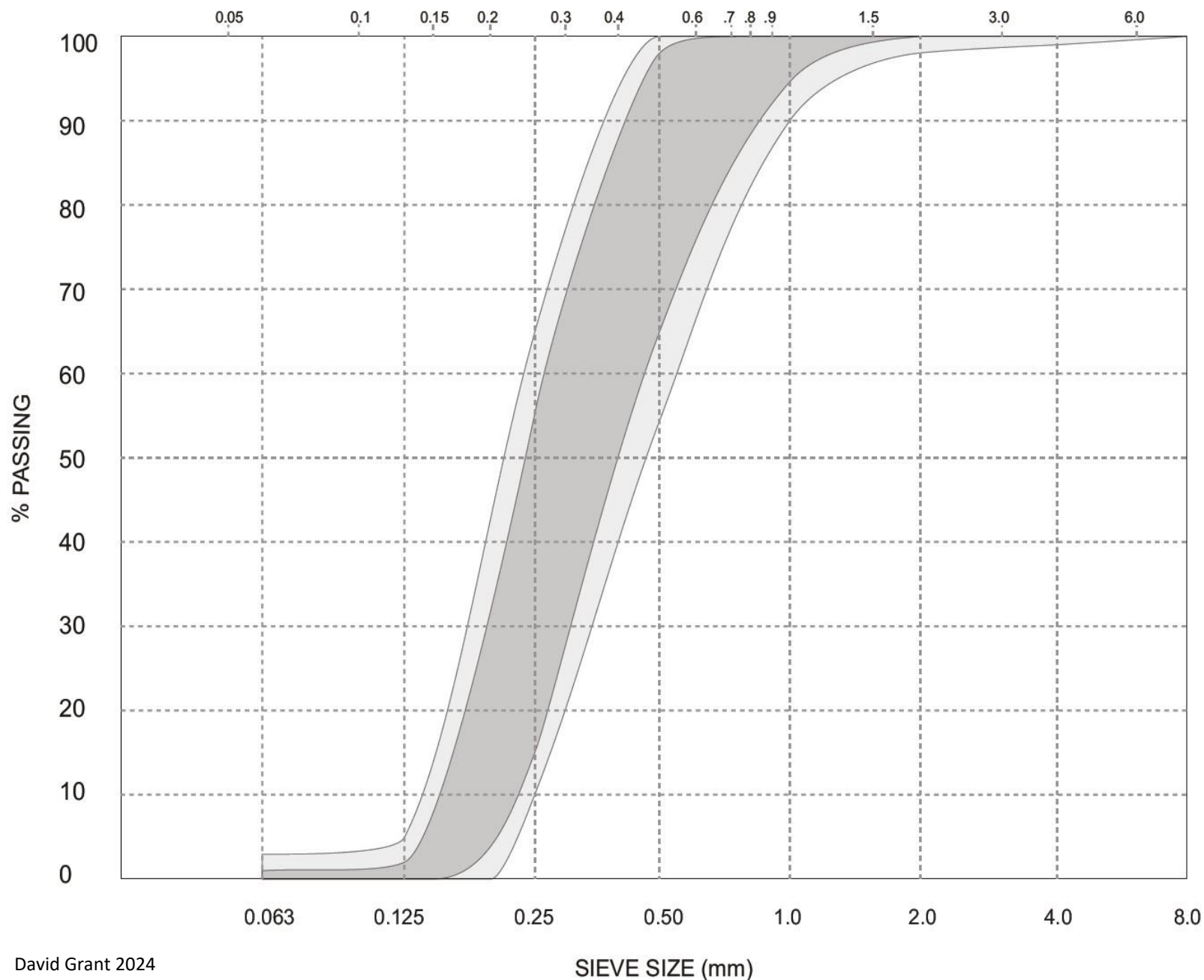


Top Dressing



- Spreading a bulky material (usually sand) across the playing surface





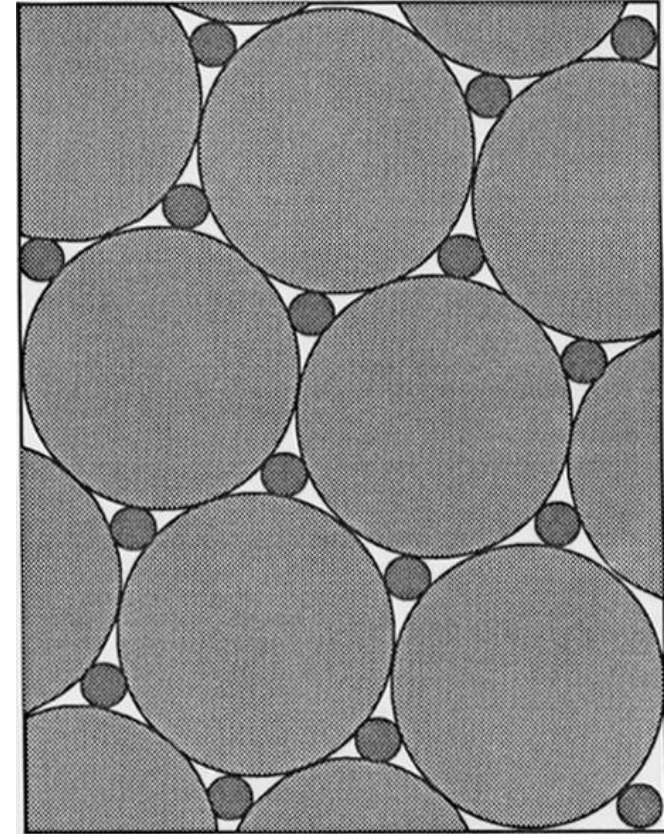
Essential that a suitably graded sand is used otherwise:

- Inter-packing of particles
- Reduction in porosity
- Water retentive material
- Player injury

The benefits of top dressing



- Improves drainage - reduces surface ponding
- Creates pore space for root development
- Dilutes organic matter
- Helps to improve surface uniformity
- Improves traction





Pitch Maintenance

Mowing

Marking

Management



Mowing



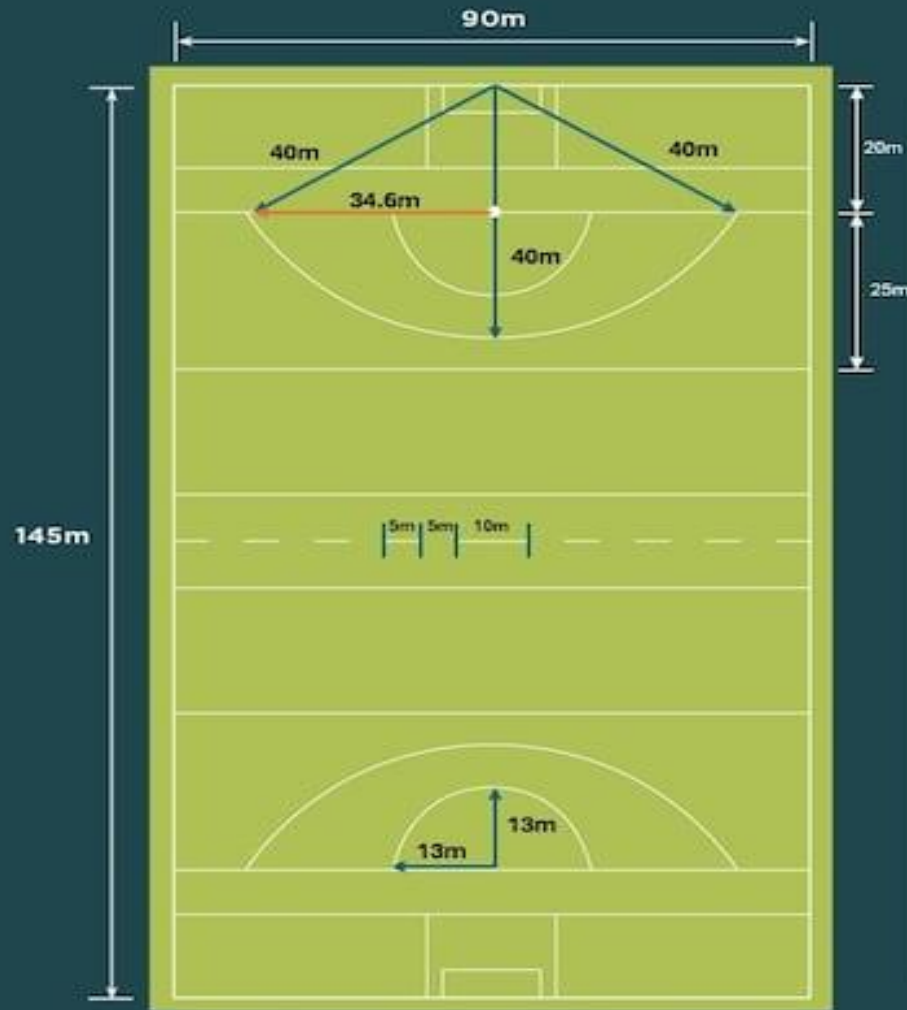
- 13.050M2/1.3ha/3.22ac
- 3 Times per week
- Fit for purpose
- Sharpen Blades Regularly
- Service Intervals
- 30 – 35 mm height of cut



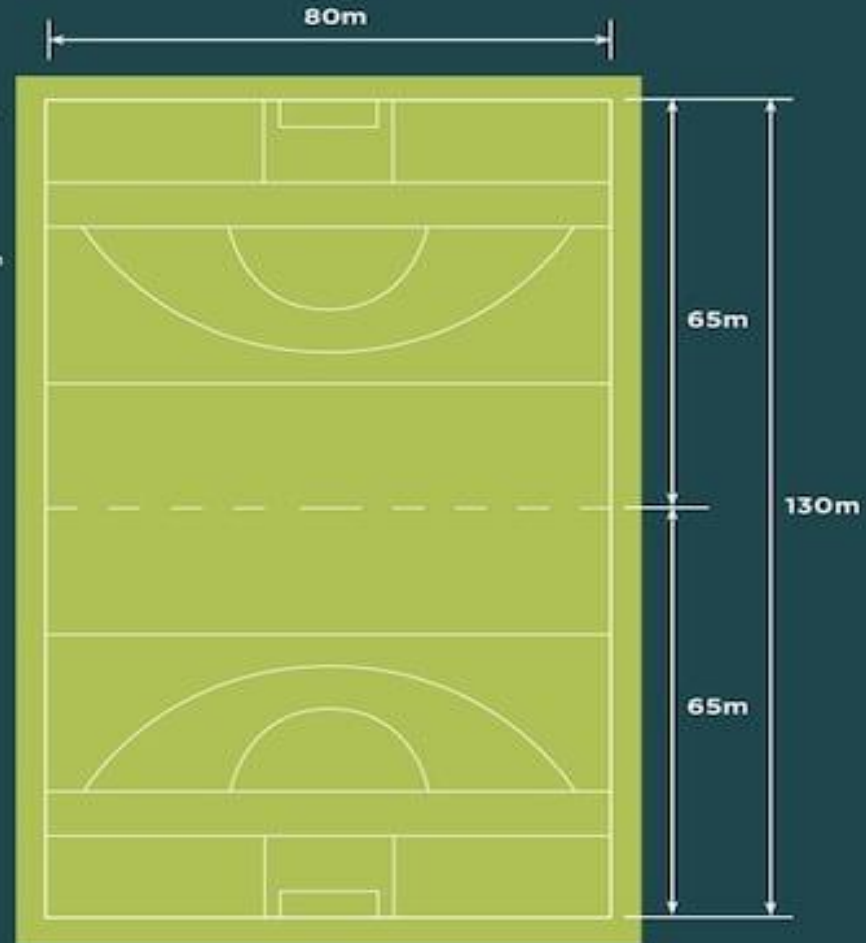
Marking



FOOTBALL
REVIEW
COMMITTEE



Maximum GAA pitch dimensions



Minimum GAA pitch dimensions



Machines and Paint



- Use Paint designed for pitch marking
- String line 1st marking of pitch
- Clean equipment after use



Management



- Hours of use
- Placement of drills/sessions
- Products
- Weather

Hours of use



- Hours per week
- Maintenance requirements

Week	Astro 1	Astro 2	Grass Pitch 1	Grass Pitch 2	Grass Pitch 3	Grass Pitch 4	Grass pitch 5	Grass pitch 6
30.9.24 - 6.10.24	28	20.5	12	3	10.5	4	8.5	6.5
7.10.24 - 13.10.24	35.5	16.5	10	3	13	4	8	8
14.10.24 - 20.10.24	27.5	20	10.5	10.5	6.5	0	7	7
21.10.24 - 27.10.24	21	21	12	7	12	2	8	8
28.10.24 - 3.11.24	11.5	6	5	3	4.5	1.5	2	2
4.11.24 - 10.11.24	20.5	18	9	3	6.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
11.11.24 - 17.11.24	28	25	11.5	4.5	5	0	0	0
18.11.24 - 24.11.24	20	19.5	9	3	7.5	0	0	0
25.11.24 - 1.12.24	25	20.5	9.5	2.5	5	0	0	0
2.12.24 - 8.12.24	26	24.5	4.5	0	3	0	0	0
9.12.24 - 15.12.24	38	16	8	3.5	7.5	0	0	0
16.12.24 - 22.12.24	19.5	11.5	4.5	3	7.5	0	0	0
23.12.24 - 29.12.24	7.5	7.5	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.12.24 - 5.1.25	1.5	8	3	1.5	2	0	0	0
6.1.25 - 12.1.25	18	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.1.25 - 19.1.25	34	29.5	10.5	3	6.5	0	0	0

Placement of Drills/Sessions



- Use training areas
- Use Portable goals
- Move sessions



Products & Weather



- Type of product
- Longevity of product
- Conditions during application
- Rate of application
- Rainfall levels
- Growth Degree days
- Soil temperatures
- Daylight hours

Case study SETU Arena



- **Waterford GAA**
- **Deise og**
- **Waterford Camogie**
- **SETU GAA**
- **Schools**





2012

- 1100 Hrs of use
- Closed 1 pitch
- 1 Verti-drain session
- 120 tons sand per pitch
- 2 applications of conventional fertiliser
- Poor grass cover

2024



- 3600+ hours of use
- 4 Verti-drain sessions
- 120 tons sand per pitch
- 8 bags of rye per pitch
- 2 applications of crf
- 3 liquid feeds
- Brush/rake/hover
- 100% grass cover



Pitch related queries/Feedback



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