



SSP. SPECIALISED SPORTS PRODUCTS LTD

Unit 3 Heppington Barn, Faussett Hill, Street End
Lower Hardres, Canterbury Kent CT4 7AL
tel 0844 2570700 fax 0870 751 8935
email info@ssp-uk.co.uk website www.ssp-uk.co.uk

VAT Registration No 703 2820 72

Moss & Algal Control on Artificial Grass Sports Pitches & Tennis Courts

Artificial grass and synthetic turf sports surfaces such as tennis courts, hockey and football pitches can be significantly affected by moss and algae. There are over 12,000 species of which over 50 species are found to affect synthetic turf and natural turf.



Mosses are primitive non-flowering plants that have no root structure and rely on a sufficient moisture environment being present for reproduction and survival. They are stimulated by cool wet humid conditions and rapid colonization can occur during autumn and winter months wet the synthetic grass surfaces are lying wet and saturated for long periods of time. Mosses can spread either by spores or by detached fragments of the parent plant material however they are less tolerant of areas of high wear.



Mosses may invade when any of the following conditions are prevalent: Long periods of wet weather – Compacted surfaces – Poorly drained surfaces – Poor air circulation – Excessive shade – High nitrogen levels – Ineffective maintenance regimes particularly brushing, scarifying, and pesticide control operations.

Algae's can cause a glutinous slime commonly known as 'Squidge' or 'Algal Squidge'. The symptoms show as a dark green or black slimy growth that covers the synthetic grass surface resulting in a very slippery surface, which can be quite dangerous and affect surface playability. Conditions that increase the likelihood of an attack of algae are the same as moss but they are encouraged when surfaces remain waterlogged and smeared. Algal squidge is often found in dipped areas of the artificial turf where water collects or to the constructed fall



Registered Office: Stourside Place, Station Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PP





SSP. SPECIALISED SPORTS PRODUCTS LTD

Unit 3 Heppington Barn, Faussett Hill, Street End
Lower Hardres, Canterbury Kent CT4 7AL
tel 0844 2570700 fax 0870 751 8935
email info@ssp-uk.co.uk website www.ssp-uk.co.uk

VAT Registration No 703 2820 72

Control of Moss and Algae's

The main reason for moss and algal attack is predominantly down to poor maintenance and lack of effective cultural practices coupled with environmental and location factors that stimulate moss and algal growth (wet, damp, humid conditions and poor airflow, poor sunlight and poor drainage).

The site should be evaluated and plans made to implement maintenance regimes to reduce excessive moisture and retention of water, and the establishment of the spores within the synthetic turf system.



- Apply a suitable moss and algal chemical killer regularly especially to the most likely areas
- Decompact the infill and lift the carpet pile regularly to maintain the drainage of the system
- Brush the surface regularly to help prevent the spores establishing themselves within the system especially less trafficked areas away from the main playing surface
- Clean the surface to remove any contamination build up including foreign debris and moss and algal spores
- Attempt to allow as much airflow and sunlight to the enclosure
- Keep the surface clean especially perimeters located near vegetation, entrance areas, and any dipped areas within the surface

