

The Sunbelt Times

The latest in sod news, tips & tricks, and more.

In This Issue

The Importance of Proper Maintenance

Choosing the Right Sod Variety

Did Artificial Turf Cause Aaron Rodger's injury?

Project Spotlight: Piney Point

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The Importance of Proper Maintenance

Effective turf maintenance including mowing, fertilizing, watering, and herbicide application is crucial for the health and vibrancy of installed sod.

Mowing maintains an aesthetically pleasing appearance while promoting grass density, preventing weeds, and minimizing pests. Mow height & frequency should be customized based on variety of sod.

Fertilizing supplies essential nutrients that enable sod to grow strong, resist disease, and recover from stress. Fertilizer type should be customized to sod variety & soil conditions on-site. (cont'd page 2)

The Importance of Proper Maintenance (cont'd)

Proper watering ensures that the grass remains lush, resilient, and capable of withstanding harsh conditions. Water frequency & amount is solely based on site needs in conjunction with rainfall. Too much water can drown the grass and/or promote disease and pest infestation, while too little water will cause drought conditions which can kill the grass.

Herbicide application should always be customized to site needs and applied by a professional. This is a responsible way of managing invasive plants that can choke out desired turf species.

We always recommend hiring professional maintenance contractors who specialize in this department to manage this for you for optimal results.

Choosing the Right Sod Variety

Sod is not one size fits all, or even one size fits most. Unfortunately there are a number of factors that come into play when choosing sod variety. Some of the main proponents of the decision making process include asking yourself (or the owner) the following questions:

1. What is the purpose of the sod? If it's for erosion control, Bahia may be sufficient. If it's for an athletic field, you need to look into hybrid Bermuda varieties.
2. Do you need to match existing sod? Are you patching in, or butting up to existing sod? If so, you need to consider what variety is already present and match what is there for a seamless look once established
3. Is your site irrigated? If not, you're stuck with Bahia. Other varieties such as St. Augustines, Zoysias, and Bermudas will require regular irrigation.

Choosing the right sod variety is key to a successful job that leaves all parties happy with the end result.





Is artificial turf to blame for Aaron Rodgers' ruptured Achilles tendon?

By this point, we've all seen the memes, the TikToks, and the headlines about Aaron Rodgers' injury. This is something many people have been fighting for years.

A new type of artificial turf was just installed at MetLife stadium earlier this year, hoping to combat potential injuries.

MetLife stadium is shared by the Mets & Giants. John Mara, owner of the Giants spoke out hoping that the stadium would convert to natural grass eventually.

With the U.S. hosting the 2026 World Cup, many stadiums are working on switching to natural grass, as FIFA will not allow artificial turf to be used on its fields.

The NFL Player's Association wants to know if it's not good enough for FIFA & safe enough for their players, why are NFL players being forced to play on it?

Grass seed brand Pennington has been pushing for some time now to #FlipTheTurf.

Arguing to benefit the safety of players, as well as the environment, Artificial Turf needs to be removed from professional athletic fields.

At Sunbelt Sod, we stand strong in the #FlipTheTurf movement.



ANNOUNCEMENT

SUNBELT SOD WILL BE CLOSED BEGINNING
11/20/23 AND WILL RETURN FOR NORMAL
BUSINESS HOURS ON 11/27/23

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TO LEAVE US A REVIEW

Piney Point Phosphogypsum Stack Closure

If you're local, you know what Piney Point is. If you're not, Piney Point was once a Phosphate Plant near Port Manatee in Palmetto. It faced many decades of environmental concern issues & changes in ownership before owners in 2001 filed for bankruptcy. At that point, the EPA took over control of the site. Since that time, a plethora of environmental concerns have continued to occur including multiple tries at closing the site permanently; however, even options for closing the site permanently caused environmental concerns. Ultimately, how do you permanently & safely dispose of hundreds of millions of gallons of polluted wastewater?

Well, after decades of fighting over how to handle this, leaks in the reservoir liner were reported, which resulted in officials pumping 215 million gallons of polluted water into Tampa Bay. In fear of a full-fledged breach in liner, which would cause catastrophic flooding, approximately 300 homes, local businesses, and the nearby Manatee County Jail were evacuated. Governor Ron DeSantis declared a State of Emergency, and a total of \$18.4 million was directed at allocating funds for clean up efforts; however, officials estimate the cost to be closer to the \$200 million range.

As of January 2022, Piney Point was estimated to still hold 397 million gallons of wastewater & as of March 2022, the State of Florida had spent \$85 million on cleanup since the March 2021 leak.

Now, what does this have to do with sod? Well, after years of wondering how to handle this situation, a company was hired to complete the first phase of permanently closing Piney Point. We worked alongside them to sod and hydroseed this project to prevent erosion. There is more work to be done in future phases to close this out completely; however, the end is in sight.

Source: [WUSF Public Media](#)

