



# Top Dress Guide

## Soil Types & Top Dress Choice

The three soil types are sand, silt and clay. Rarely do they exist by themselves and soils are usually aggregates or mixes of these soil types.

Sand is the largest grain size. This means the voids are larger between the particles. High sand content media drains well, is capable of more traffic, is great for levelling and easier to work with however it leaves little margin for maintenance errors because it won't hold water or nutrients as well as other soil types.

In simple terms, Sand will require more maintenance water and nutrients. The use of soil wetters and foliar fertiliser can assist here greatly.

Generally those with fine leaf turf (couch/zoysia) that maintain a lower height of cut will appreciate sand, understanding the extra maintenance, fertiliser and water required.

Sandy Loam is a mix of sand, silt and clay. Silt and clay have smaller particles than sand and hold water and nutrients better. Sandy Loam takes the good drainage properties of sand, adds the good qualities of the silt and clay mix to hold more water and nutrients. It still levels well however is a bit harder to work.

Generally those with turf that has a higher height of cut and broader leaf turf varieties (kikuyu/buffalo) use a Sandy Loam. The surface doesn't have to be precise like a golf green and because it has some nutrients & better water holding capacity, it will tolerate lower maintenance regimes or mistakes.

Sandy Loam can be used in couch/zoysia with a high maintenance regime and some prefer the added benefits Sandy Loam can provide.



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## How Much Will I Need?

$$\text{Lawn Area} \times \text{Top Dress Height} = \text{Volume}$$
$$\text{Volume} \times 1.4 = \text{Tonne Amount}$$

Example  
100m<sup>2</sup> with 10mm high top dress  
100m<sup>2</sup> x 0.01m = 1.0m<sup>3</sup>  
1.0m<sup>3</sup> x 1.4 = 1.4 tonne

## How Thick?

5mm - 20mm. Thinner will recover quicker. Thicker will take longer. Thinner is always better. Dips causing thicker top dress will take longer to grow in.

Couch, kikuyu and zoysia can be totally covered by a thin layer of top dress during growing season.

Buffalo must have some green leaf showing for photosynthesis. DO NOT SMOTHER BUFFALO

## How To Spread and Level?

Flick with a spade to ensure a light throw down. Level with a soil leveller or drag mat.

## Water

Depends on what you have done (a scalp or full reno) but generally, a couple of light waters a day to keep the soil moist until grown in.



## Main Points

- \* Top Dress during growing season (Spring/Summer/Early Autumn)
- \* Choose top dress (read first page)
- \* Calculate your needed amount with the formula
- \* Top Dress lightly 5mm-20mm. Lighter is better.
- \* Don't totally cover Buffalo, leave some green leaf.
- \* Spread lightly with spade flicking and level with leveller/mat
- \* Lightly water a few times a day till recovery.

TIP - TELL SANDYARD YOU ARE TOPDRESSING LAWN THEY WILL BE ABLE TO HELP WITH YOUR CHOICE.

