FieldTurf Tarkett, a division of Tarkett Inc., is a Montreal-based company that installs artificial turf playing surfaces identified by the FieldTurf trademark.

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#### Product

FieldTurf is an artificial turf composed of monofilament polyethylene blend fibres tufted into a polypropylene backing with a mixture of silica sand and cryogenic rubber infill. FieldTurf was patented in 1982.

#### Legal disputes

FieldTurf claims Southwest Recreational Industries (SRI), the former manufacturer of AstroTurf, allegedly duplicated the FieldTurf product and attempted to sue SRI for patent infringement. FieldTurf lost the suit for lack of evidence in 2002, and in late 2003 was ordered to reimburse Southwest Recreational Industries for approximately $4.3 million in legal expenses.

Following the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit’s affirmation of SRI’s verdict against FieldTurf, FieldTurf paid SRI Sports $1,195,000 in September, 2002. This verdict arose from a jury’s finding that FieldTurf was guilty of false advertising and breach of contract with the November, 2000 trial, the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas found that FieldTurf and its CEO John Gilman acted in bad faith and engaged in conduct intended to prevent a fair trial and constituted obstruction of justice in a Federal Court proceeding.

#### Installations

The wide plain of FieldTurf used at Toronto’s Rogers Centre was installed after the 2004 baseball season.
In 1999, the Metropolitan Oval, a soccer complex in New York City, was one of the first to install FieldTurf in the USA.

In 1999, Nebraska installed FieldTurf in Memorial Stadium. In 2006, Nebraska installed FieldTurf that alternates between two shades of green every five yards.

Nevada installed FieldTurf at its Mackay Stadium in 2000. The playing surface had been natural grass for 34 seasons.

In 2000, FieldTurf was installed in the Washington's Husky Stadium, replacing the astroturf installed in 1968. Husky Stadium was used as the Seattle Seahawks home field from demolition of the Kingdome in March 2000. This would be the first FieldTurf used in the US installed at Qwest Field (originally Seahawks Stadium) in 2002. The original plans called for a natural grass field at the new stadium, but due to the favorable reactions from players while playing, the Seahawks had FieldTurf installed instead.

Washington State installed FieldTurf at its Martin Stadium in 2000. The playing surface had been natural grass for 10 seasons, preceded by astroturf, first installed in 1972.

The University of Oregon installed NexTurf in Autzen Stadium in 2001 but the surface did not perform as expected and during remodeling in 2002 it was removed and replaced with FieldTurf.

Colorado State installed FieldTurf at its Hughes Stadium in 2006. The playing surface had been natural grass for 38 seasons.

Several UK teams have installed it as a training pitch, but as of October 2006, only one club (Academical F.C.) uses FieldTurf (installed in 2004) for their first-team matches. Stadium in San José, Costa Rica became the first stadium to host a FIFA World Cup qualifier on FieldTurf.

The New England Patriots installed FieldTurf midway into the 2006 NFL season. During a week when the team was on the road.

As of 2007, seven of the eight Canadian Football League teams have installed either FieldTurf or a similar surface, as well as approximately half of National Football League venues as well as several baseball stadiums (List of FieldTurf installations).

Super Bowl XL, featuring the Seattle Seahawks and the Pittsburgh Steelers, was the first time that the Super Bowl has been played on FieldTurf. The Ford Field installation differs slightly from the original plans due to the recycled rubber used is made from Firestone tires.

Criticism
In September 2006, several top Canadian soccer players appealed to the Canadian Soccer Association to install a natural grass surface at BMO Field in Toronto. The Association has, however, decided to install FieldTurf despite the players' request.

In addition, following David Beckham's move to Major League Soccer in 2007, in which he arrived carrying an ankle injury, he voiced his opinion that the league should convert to grass for all pitches, specifically singling out the FieldTurf brand (which he later recanted), while outsiders suggested that Toronto had been a factor in his decision to instead sign with another team (he signed with the New England Revolution).

During a telephone interview on David Beckham's Soccer USA (UK version), former Red Bull New York striker Juan Pablo Angel criticized the surface, saying, "I find it really hard to adjust to the Giants Stadium turf field... it takes me two or three days just to recover [after a match]."

New England Revolution manager Steve Nichol is quoted as saying "there is no give in [FieldTurf]. Grass is still the best surface," in regards to professional soccer matches.

Gary O'Connor, current Birmingham City and Scotland striker, has recently spoken out against the FieldTurf surface at Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, Russia, which hosted the England-Russia Euro 2008 October 2007. After a short summer term at Lokomotiv Moscow, O'connor described the surface as "a nightmare" and a "misfortune". He noted the effects of the artificial surface play, saying, "The ball skids off the surface, so it becomes extremely hard to read where it is going."

In 2007, a Connecticut non-profit organization Environmental and Human Health Inc. questioned the safety of recycled tire crumb rubber in artificial turf. EHHI funded a study by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, a state agency, which independently reported that under laboratory conditions approximating field conditions for temperature and leaching solvent, four components of crumb rubber volatilize into the vapor phase (outgas) in water in contact with the crumbs: benzothiazole (a carcinogen and toxicant), n-hexadecane (an irritant) and butylated hydroxyanisole (a suspected endocrine disruptor). FieldTurf, ALIAPUR (a French consortium founded by tire makers Bridgestone, Continental, Dunlop Goodyear, Kléber, Michelin and Pirelli), and ADEME (the French Environment and Energy Management Agency) released their own joint report concluding that there was no cause for concern to human health by inhalation of volatile organic compounds and aldehydes released by recycled tire crumb rubber surfaces.

See also

- Artificial grass
- Astroturf
- List of FieldTurf installations

References

15. Mattina, MaryJane Incorvia; Isleyen, M. & Berger, W. et al. (8/2007), Examination of C
16. Commission of the European Communities (2001), Communication from the Commission to th
Parliament on the implementation of the Community Strategy for Endocrine Disrupters - a range of substances suspected c
18. Dr. Robert Moretto (2007), Environmental and health assessment of the use of elastomer granulates (virgin

External links
- Official FieldTurf web site
- [http://uncutvideo.aol.com/videos/d0df2e8ca6d959654ad2176bf18aca03 Beckham
- Spanish FieldTurf web site

FieldTurf comments at post-match press conference on 8/9/07]

Categories: All articles with unsourced statements | Articles with unsourced statements
Artificial turf | Service companies of Canada

Results from FactBites:

FieldTurf crews running no-huddle (883 words)
- Kraft went on to explain that the change, which is the first mid-season conversion from grass to artificial turf in NFL players as you might think – they practice on it every time they're indoors at the Dana-Farber Fieldhouse.
- Rather than waiting for the FieldTurf to settle naturally, as is usually done, the crews will roll the FieldTurf to pack game.
- Gilman said the FieldTurf can be installed in the rain, since the spreaders used for the artificial dirt are fitted with

Giants.com (943 words)
- FieldTurf is an increasingly popular synthetic field used by the Seattle Seahawks and Detroit Lions in the NFL, Tt League Baseball, as well as Nebraska, Kansas State, Washington and Washington State.
- Fassel, however, is excited because the FieldTurf will enable the team to leave the bubble and practice at times i unable to do the previous three years.
- In the survey, the FieldTurf at Detroit's new Ford Field ranked 11th, despite the fact that less than a third of the le opportunity to play on it.

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