

A realistic review of maintenance practices for synthetic turf fields

# Synthetic Turf Maintenance

Presented By Mark Lucas  
UC Davis Sports Turf Manager











# First and Foremost study your field maintenance manual

“Maintenance Guidelines Are Not Followed  
Carefully Enough. The Consequence is That The  
Playing Conditions are Worsened and the Field will  
suffer early aging and/or damage if you neglect your  
regular maintenance”



# Field Use Maintenance Calculation

- Maximum hours per year
- Hours of use between grooming
- Formula for use hours based on type of play
- If flat-soled shoes are used on field then  
Hours of play should be increased by 20%  
per hour (marching bands)
- Number of players is a factor

# Field Grooming







Don't groom when your field is dry and hot



































# Field Sweeping











Less Invasive Surface Blowing



# Debris Collection from Surface Blowing with Vacuum Sweeper









































# Magnetic Collector





# Irrigation Systems





# Field Sanitation















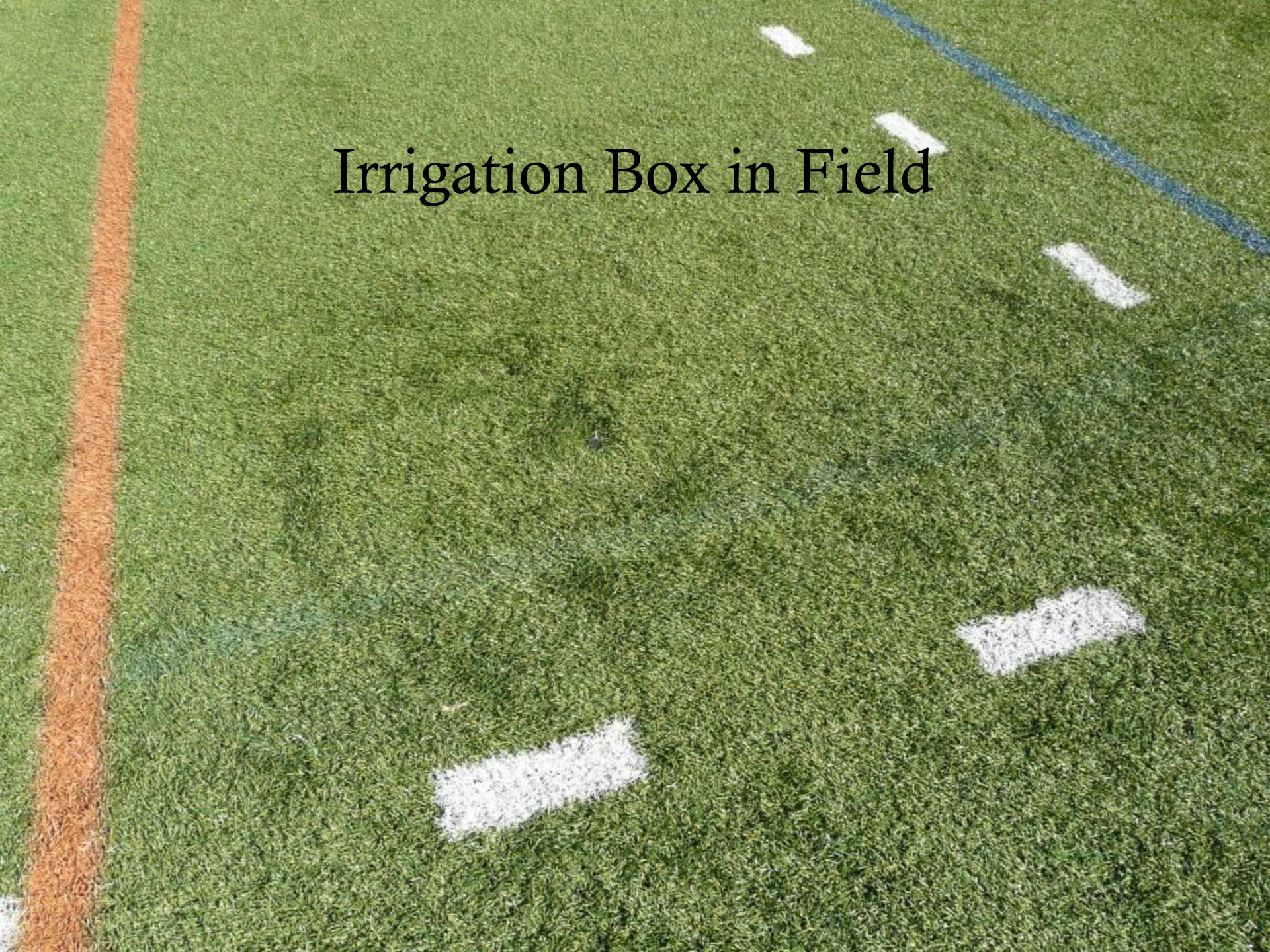
HOME	PERIOD	GUESTS
DOWN	YDS TO GO	BALL ON
ROLLIN T. GRIDLEY STADIUM		







Irrigation Box in Field









# Irrigation Blowout























Field Painting

















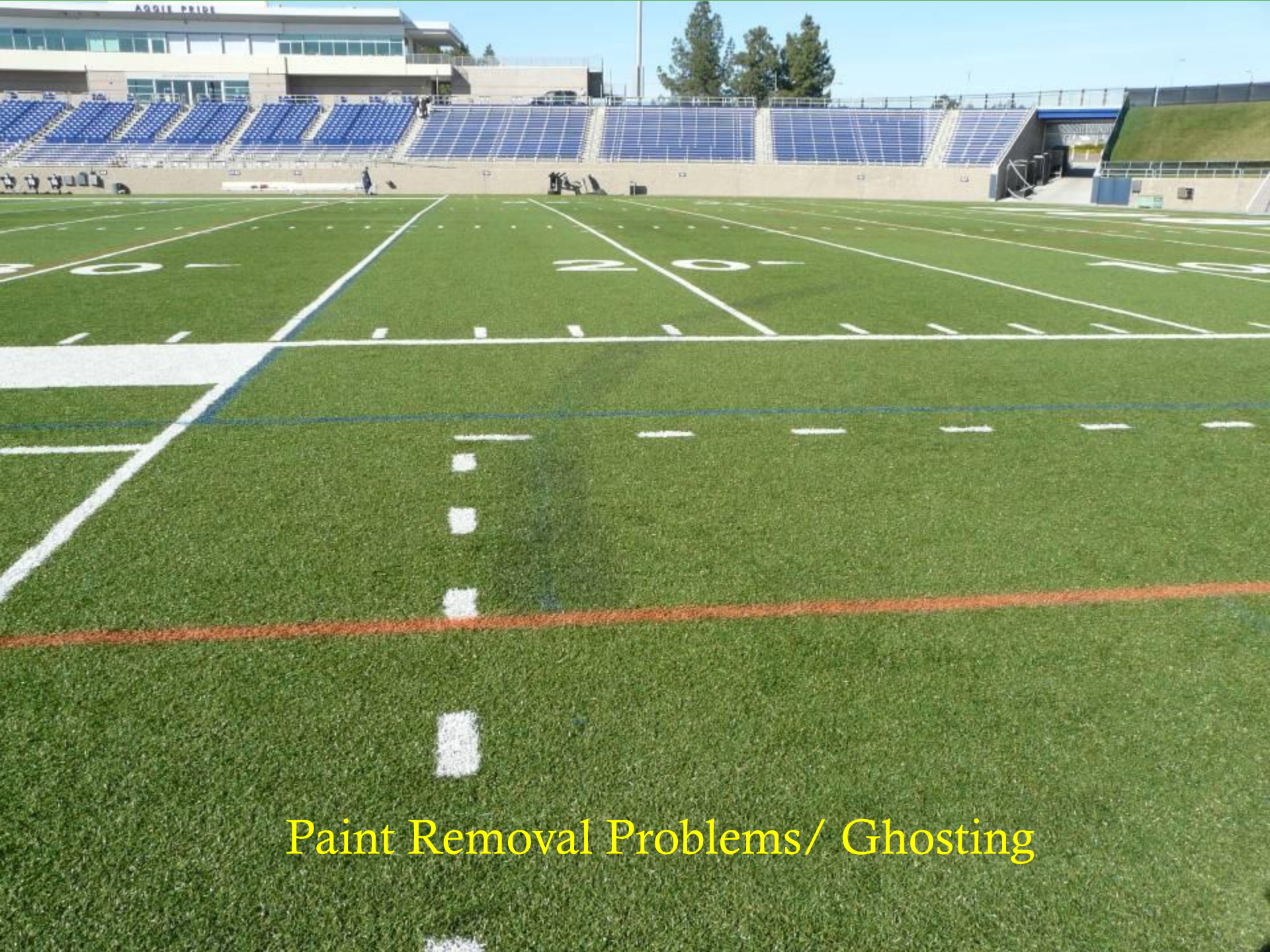












Paint Removal Problems/ Ghosting













BOB FOSTER TEAM CENTER

JIM SOCHOR FIELD

PLAY  
TO WIN













Logo Painting





Hydro Extractor

















Top Dressing Infill Material





BOB FOSTER TEAM CENTER

AGGIE

PRIDE

OUTLET

ANCHOR

UCDAYS

GATOR







# Post Top Dressing Grooming













# Biannual Deep Cleaning and Leveling

























































# Turf Repair











































































































Sub Surface Grade Repair



Higher Levels Of Maintenance



















Dirt Removal Using Hydro Extractor



A person is using a yellow handheld device, likely a cable tester, to test a blue cable. The device has a digital display showing the number '585'. The person is holding the device with their right hand and the cable with their left hand. The background is a green lawn.

# GMAX Testing



# Infrared Heat Gun





# Wind Speed Indicator











Infill Depth Measurement



# Height of Drop



















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**Playing Surface Impact Test Report  
Artificial Playing Surface**

**UC Davis, Davis, Ca.  
Football  
Sportex**

**Test Date:** December 5, 2006 **Report Date:** December 5, 2006

**Test Methods:** ASTM F 355-A: Standard Specification for Shock-Absorbing properties of North American Football Field Playing Systems as Measured in the Field. ASTM F 355: Standard Test Method for Shock-Absorbing Properties of Playing Surface Systems and Materials, Procedure A. Accelerometer last calibrated February 25, 2003. Tests performed by Jeff Davis.

**Surface Description:** In-filled artificial turf system in new condition.

**Weather Conditions**

December 5, 2006	°F
Mean Temperature	46°F
Max Temperature	63°F
Min Temperature	30°F
Wind (mph)	1
Dew Point	33°F
Relative Humidity	68%

**Summary of Results**

Field Average G max	111.4
Field Max. Avg. G max	110.6
Site maximum G max	117.8
Average Fill Depth (mm)	34.3



Test results reported herein reflect the conditions of the tested field at the time of testing and at the temperature(s) reported under the stated test conditions, all points met the requirement of <200 G max when tested in accordance with ASTM F1936



New field avg.  
111.4

## SPORTS SURFACE IMPACT TEST REPORT

U C Davis

Test date: December 5 , 2006

Report date: December 5 , 2006

### Field Description and Condition :

Surface Type: Infilled Synthetic Turf

Football

New

### Weather Conditions:

Temperature : 52 °F

Humidity : 50%

Clear

### Test Method:

ASTM F 1936: Standard Specification for Shock-Absorbing Properties of North American Football Field Playing Systems as Measured in the Field.

### Summary of Results:

	gmax	tmax ms	HIC
Point 1 — Goal Line, End A, Center Field	112.7	7.0	313.5
Football			
Point 2 — 10 Yard Line, End A, and 1/4 the distance from side line C to center field	116.1	6.6	322.4
Football			
Point 3 — 25 Yard Line, End A, and 1/2 the distance from side line C to center field	114.7	6.4	319.2
Football			
Point 4 — Center field	104.9	6.7	283.5
Football			
Point 5 — 25 Yard Line, End B, and 1/4 the distance from side line D to center field	110.6	7.2	303.1
Football			
Point 6 — 12 Yard Line, End B, and Center of Field	109.8	8.0	305.1
Football			
New			

### Conclusion:

Under the test conditions reported above, all test points met the requirement of < 200 average G max when tested in accordance with specification F1936.

*Test results reported herein reflect the conditions of the tested field at the time of testing and at the temperature(s) reported.*

Jeff Davis

File: Sportexe, UC Davis, 06-12-05.355



## Gmax Testing Results

### University of California Davis Football Davis, CA

Testing Procedure: ASTM F355-01: Standard test method for shock-absorbing properties of playing surface systems and materials. ASTM F1936-07: Standard specifications for shock-absorbing properties of North American Football Field playing systems as measured in the field. All tests were performed by Tom Collier.

Field Description: Sportexe – Two year old football field. Single tone turf equipped with football markings. Avg. Surf Temp. = 114°F

Weather Conditions: 97°F-102°F, Hot clear afternoon. 0% humidity

#### Summary

Avg. Field Gmax = 130.5  
Max. Field Gmax = 144.0  
Max. Site Gmax = 144.0  
Avg. Infill Depth = 32.1mm



Avg: 130.5

## Gmax Test Results University of California Davis Davis, CA

Sportexe:

Test Location	Drop#	G-Max	Tmax ms	IHC	Surf 'f
1. Goal Line, End A, center field	1	126.8	6.8	361.1	
	2	144.0	6.8	450.1	
	3	143.9	6.3	444.8	
Avg. Infill Depth = 30mm	Avg. 2 & 3	144.0	6.6	447.4	109
2. 10 yard line, End A, ¼ the distance from Sideline C to center field	1	112.5	7.4	312.8	
	2	127.1	7.0	382.9	
	3	131.1	7.3	403.1	
Avg. Infill Depth = 33mm	Avg. 2 & 3	129.1	7.1	393.0	109
3. 25 yard line, End A, and ¼ the distance from sideline C to center field	1	119.3	8.0	343.3	
	2	133.6	6.7	412.4	
	3	136.0	7.1	423.9	
Avg. Infill Depth = 33mm	Avg. 2 & 3	134.8	6.9	418.2	109
4. Center Field	1	109.7	7.4	298.8	
	2	118.8	7.0	342.3	
	3	119.7	7.8	345.6	
Avg. Infill Depth = 34mm	Avg. 2 & 3	119.3	7.4	344.0	122
5. 25 yard line, End B, and ¼ the distance from sideline D to center field	1	112.3	7.8	306.6	
	2	128.0	7.1	384.1	
	3	129.0	8.1	387.3	
Avg. Infill Depth = 32mm	Avg. 2 & 3	128.5	7.6	385.7	118
6. 12 yard line, End B, and center of field	1	126.8	7.2	369.2	
	2	141.6	6.2	443.8	
	3	143.2	6.3	448.7	
Avg. Infill Depth = 31mm	Avg. 2 & 3	142.4	6.2	446.3	115
7. Sideline D, Outside of inbounds lines, Inside coach's box	1	113.6	7.4	321.4	
	2	124.6	7.5	373.1	
	3	126.9	5.8	382.6	
Avg. Infill Depth = 31mm	Avg. 2 & 3	125.8	6.7	377.8	113
8. Sideline D outside of inbounds lines, Outside coach's box	1	106.9	7.8	295.2	
	2	118.9	7.4	351.9	
	3	121.6	8.3	364.3	
Avg. Infill Depth = 33mm	Avg. 2 & 3	120.2	7.8	358.1	115

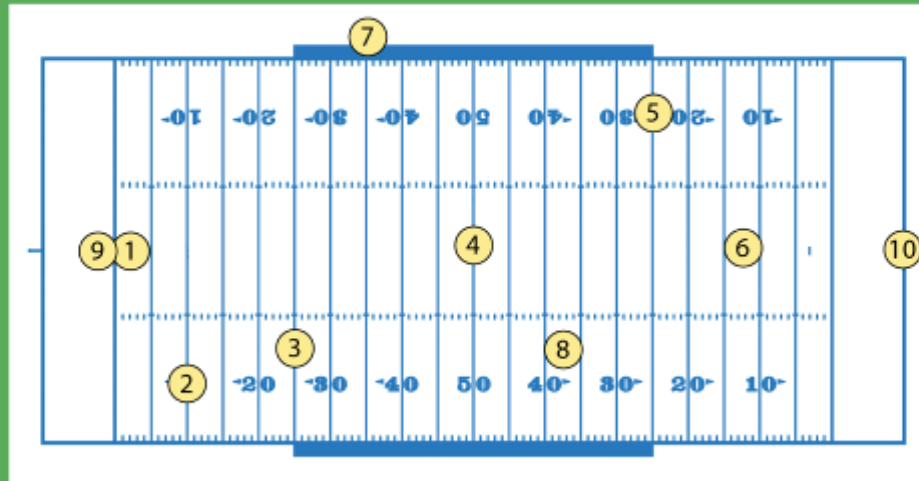
Test Date: 08-20-08  
Tested By: Tom Collier

Test Date: 08-20-08  
Tested By: Tom Collier



2011

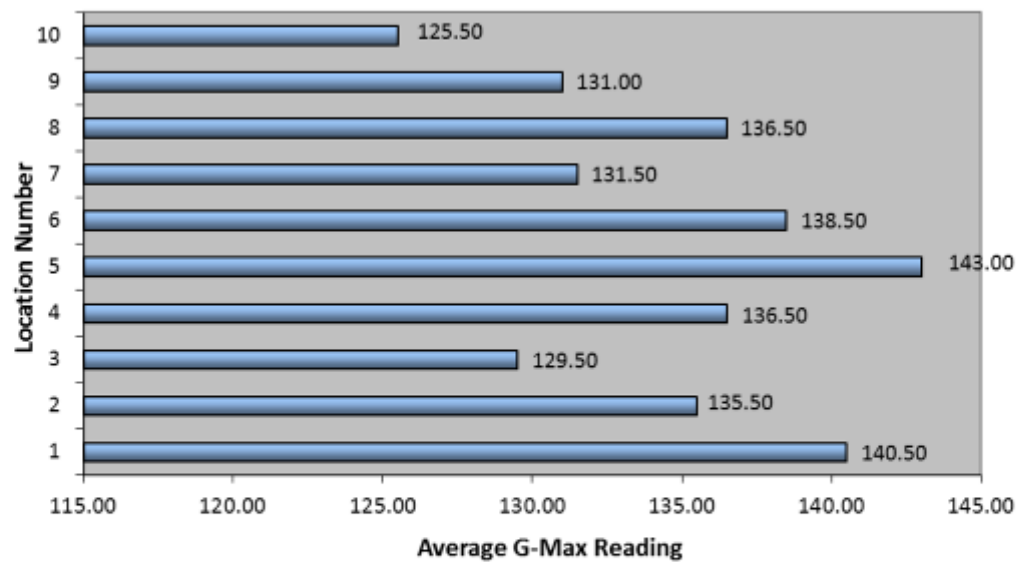
## Test Locations



\*End A is East

## Data Tables

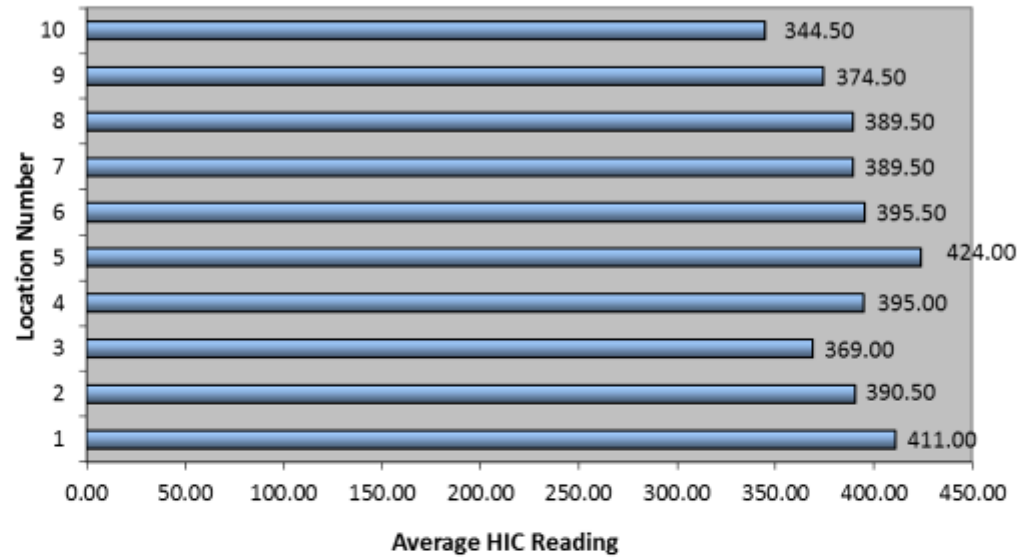
Average G-Max Reading per Location



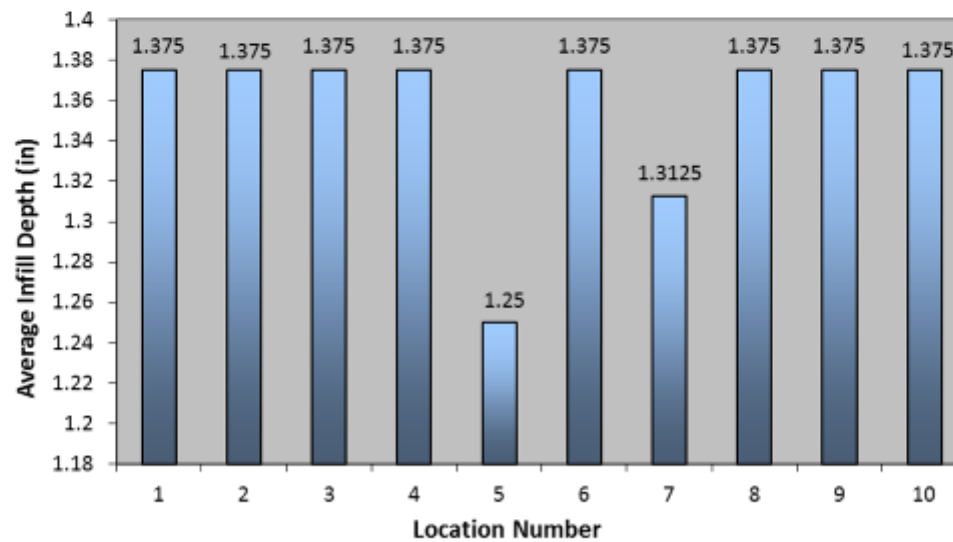


2011

**Average Head Injury Criteria (HIC) Reading per Location**



**Average Infill Depth per Location**





2011

Avg: 134.8

<u>Loc #</u>	<u>Drop #</u>	<u>Gmax (G)</u>	<u>Velocity (ft/sec)</u>	<u>H.I.C</u>	<u>Loc Description</u>	<u>Gmax Avg (G)</u>	<u>Infill Depth )</u>	<u>HIC Avg (HIC)</u>
1	1	123	11.6	332	Goal Line, End A, field centerline	140.50	1.375"	411.00
	2	139	11.6	405				
	3	142	11.6	417				
2	1	120	11.6	329	10 Yard Line, End A, 63 ft. from field centerline to the Side C	135.50	1.375"	390.50
	2	136	11.6	393				
	3	135	11.6	388				
3	1	114	11.5	303	25 Yard Line End A, 40 ft. from field centerline to Side C	129.50	1.375"	369.00
	2	127	11.5	359				
	3	132	11.6	379				
4	1	122	11.5	330	field centerline	136.50	1.375"	395.00
	2	134	11.6	384				
	3	139	11.6	406				
5	1	128	11.6	392	25 Yard Line, East end, 63 ft. from field centerline to Side D	143.00	1.25"	424.00
	2	142	11.6	420				
	3	144	11.6	428				
6	1	125	11.6	340	12 Yard Line, End B, field centerline	138.50	1.375"	395.50
	2	136	11.7	384				
	3	141	11.7	407				
7	1	119	11.6	328	North Team area, Side D	131.50	1.3125"	389.50
	2	131	11.6	383				
	3	132	11.6	396				
8	1	122	11.6	328	37 Yard Line, End B, 40 ft. from the field centerline to Side C	136.50	1.375"	389.50
	2	135	11.6	383				
	3	138	11.6	396				
9	1	114	11.5	304	6 ft. from Goal Line to the back of the End Zone, End A, field centerline	131.00	1.375"	374.50
	2	128	11.5	363				
	3	134	11.5	386				
10	1	116	11.6	307	6 ft. from the back of the End Zone to the Goal Line, End B, field centerline	125.50	1.375"	344.50
	2	123	11.6	335				
	3	128	11.6	354				
						134.80	1.356"	388.30







9 year old field in good shape





## References:

### Technical Advice and Photography

- Craig Edwards with Shaw Sportexe
- Dave DiGeronimo with Shaw Sportexe
- Alan Krausen with Turf Authority
- Tim Pellegrino with The Perfect Field
- Jeff Fisher with Eco Temp-Line
- Greg Patzkowski UC Davis Grounds Supervisor
- University of California at Berkeley and Davis
- Nick Cole Sports Turf Manager UC Berkeley
- John Burke with AstroTurf
- Jeff Gentile with DMA Sports Design
- Charlie Meeks with Shaw Sportex
- Spencer Lucas
- Matt Forrest UCD

# Thank You!

## Questions?

