

NOTICE the use of rubber crumb on grass is Patented the licensed product is Crown III. See our web site
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CROWN III Rubber Crumb in Horse Racing and Jumping
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The initial proposition was that rubber crumb of the correct particle size, if introduced into a horseracing surface, particularly on take off and landings, provides a combination of properties that could be of considerable benefit to the course and horse.

The advantages of using Crown III rubber crumb are:-

- Permanent improvement in surface drainage
- Reduced compaction
- Reduction in surface hardness
- Reduced surface slippage and less cut up
- Less tendency for the area to freeze
- Improved grass wear

We would like to summaries the results that have been obtained so far
Haydock's Maurice Crooks tried Crown III on the 10m x 14m landing area of one jump. Three dressings were applied, the first was brushed into 6 inch deep hollow cores in June 99. The next two, were top dressed as soon as the previous one had disappeared, this took about two weeks. The landing area is described as having improved surface grip. It was also used in an open ditch in front of a fence for cosmetic purposes. He reports reduced slippage on the landing area where they used 10 kilos/sq/m of the 2-6mm grade. In the year 2000 he increased the particle size of the material used to 2-10mm, the results were even better. He has continued the work in 2001 and is now treating three more landing areas with the coarser material. The cost is approximately £70 per landing area. Further areas are being treated in 2003, big bags are now being used to reduce the cost. The larger particle size materials are being favoured as they tend to resist penetration more effectively.

Doncaster Racecourse started to use Crown III in the Spring of 2003 as a trial on a landing area of 40 sq.m. They used 10 kilos per sq. m after verti-draining the area to a depth of 7-8inches. The 10 kilos was drop spread on the surface and brushed into the tine holes. In Dec 2004 the comparison area is not as resilient and is not draining as well. Several trainers have noted the improved quality of the landing area and believe this is saving the horse's legs and limiting injuries. Further work on other landing areas will commence in the Spring of 2005. Malcolm Taylor who undertook this work, has moved to Beverley.

The walkway at Newbury Racecourse was one of the first areas treated on a racecourse in this country. In October 97 they laid two 2 x 3m squares, one verti-drained, one without, using 7 kilos per sq. meter of the 2-6mm Crown III. After the Hennesey Gold Cup in the November the area looked better than the previous arrangement, which entailed the use of matting

In August 98 an area of the canterdown 4 X 40 meters in front of the stands was verti-drained and four dressings of 2 kilos each were applied over a two month period. The area was used for the first time in the November of that year. In January 99 George Shields their consultant, said the walk way and canterdown seemed

to have improved and Richard Osgood reported in March 2000 that both areas were still doing well.

Towcester used the 2-6mm grade on 6 jumps, in June 99 treating take off and landings, that is 15 sq.m each side of fence. They used Crown III on a returfed area, putting 15 kilos/sq./m into a 4 inches root zone and turfing over the top. In May 2000 Paul Robinson says, "It is better than its has ever been before. Better grass quality, less cut up and no need to returf at the end of the season, which has been the standard procedure for the last few years, on our clay based course".

The success in using 12-14mm rubber/fibre on polo grounds has lead to the latest recommendation to fill the tine holes with the Crown III 1-3mm which improves the drainage on a long term basis and employ the 12-14mm on the surface to proved a protective mat through which the grass will grow and hold in place.

Please note that the use of rubber crumb as a top dressing on grass is subject to European Patent EP 078 8301 B1 and the licensed product is Crown III.