

Labosport Fiber Performance Index for landscape turf in 10 questions

1 – Why a Fiber Performance Index for landscaping turf? Today, home owners, architects, municipalities and parks designers have the choice between an ever-increasing number of landscaping artificial turf solutions for their projects. In order to support their choice, we propose to measure objectively the performance of landscaping turf products.

2 – Why these four dimensions? Besides the aspect and color of the turf, these four characteristics are the most frequently sought out by owners. The Traffic and Weather Resistance tests focus on the turf durability. The Feel and Environment tests distinguish qualitative aspects valued by clients looking for a pleasant, comfortable and sustainable product.

3 – How do you calculate individual scores (0-100)? At Labosport, we have been testing turf for more than 20 years from all over the world; therefore, we possess a good database of performance data. Scores of 100 correspond to top-performing products on the market. Our tests are designed accordingly. For example, we know that after we submit the turf to 6000 impacts (the “Traffic” test) only the best fibers remain up-straight. Similarly, our experience has allowed us to build a reference scale for turf softness (the “Feel” test): 0 points for the most abrasive product, 100 points for the softest product.

4 – How do you calculate the overall score? The overall FPI score is the average of the four individual scores.

5 – Which score is the most important, the overall one? Yes and no. The overall score gives you an indication of the overall product quality. However, the FPI allows you to base your decision on individual scores that match your specific needs. For instance, you will pay special attention to the UV score if your location is Phoenix, Arizona.

6 – What does the Environment score mean? The Environmental impact of artificial turf includes several considerations. Water saving is a very important positive factor, especially in dry regions such as Australia or Middle-East. On the other hand, like any other man-made product, artificial turf contains traces of chemical substances and it is important to ensure that these are minimal so they don't leach into the environment. The Environment score confirms that. Typically, a score above 60 indicates that the product follows most up-to-date regulations. We use the latest technology to detect any substance of concern.

7 – What does the U.V/Weather resistance score mean? If you plan to install your turf outside, it will be continuously exposed to sunlight. Under such conditions, a poor product will deteriorate, age fast and eventually lose its color and natural aspect. We simulate this in our laboratory by submitting the product to thousands of hours of intense U.V. followed by mechanical wear. A score of 100 indicates that the product has strictly not changed after all this.

8 – Can a product achieve all scores of 100? Very good products exist on the market that may scores well in all categories. However, it is difficult to excel in all aspects: for instance, a thick, highly resilient fiber is usually not the softest. We also design our tests so that 100 points is rarely reached, leaving space for future products to exceed today's performance.

9 – How qualified and independent are you as a laboratory? We are a private owned laboratory, fully independent from manufacturers or distributors of landscaping turf. We operate in 12 countries. Our primary area of expertise is artificial turf for sports fields, where high-quality turf is needed. We are ISO 17025 accredited, meaning that we are regularly audited on the rigor of our processes and test methods.

10 – Who can apply to the Green FPI label? The Green FPI is part of the Labosport certification program, which includes 4 labels: durability, environmental impact, quality control and Fiber Performance Index. The program is open to all manufacturers, it is their choice to apply or not.

For more details on the program, please call us or write to us at contact@labosport.com

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