



Lawns: For Safety's Sake, Grass is the Best Surface to Play On

Sliding into home plate isn't very fun when the only place for a pick-up game of baseball is a parking lot. And a picnic on pavement or a campsite on concrete just doesn't cut it. When it comes to playing outside, nothing beats thick, soft grass for comfort and safety.

A well-maintained lawn is the perfect venue for any outdoor event, whether it's the arena for a sports game or seats for an outdoor summer concert. Athletes actually prefer natural grass to artificial turf, as it better absorbs physical impact and reduces injuries. It's soft enough to be comfortable, but resilient enough to protect legs and joints during intense play. The National Football League Players Association has found that injuries on natural grass are fewer and less severe than on other surfaces. And on a hot summer day, air temperatures can be up to 30 degrees cooler above grass than above paved areas – another plus for athletes and children.

A Strong Lawn, a Strong Barrier

A well-cared-for lawn is the best defense against unwanted pests like rodents and snakes that prefer taller grasses, shrubs and flowers as hiding places from predators. Ticks, an especially annoying public health pest, are also more commonly found in unmown grass.

Maintaining a strong, well-kept lawn is the best way to prevent these nasty nuisances from making permanent residence in the front lawn. The strongest lawns are the well-fed and cared-for ones. To get the most out of your lawn's safety benefits mow it high and feed it three-to-four times a year with a lawn fertilizer like Scotts® Turf Builder.®

An added benefit of a full lawn is its ability to trap air pollutants that can bother children and pests. It is estimated that grassy areas in the United States trap 12 million tons of dust and other debris annually, while the thick surface helps reduce noise pollution by absorbing sounds.

Lawns Are a Kid's Playground

For any family with kids, a stretch of soft grass with some outdoor toys is the ideal play area for a group of youngsters.

Homeowners readily recognize the benefits of a well-maintained landscape when it comes to the safety of the neighborhood, and a Gallup Survey of American homeowners showed that more than one in three surveyed named a safe, high-quality area for children as the most important benefit of a lawn and the home.

Whether the lawn is used for batting practice by little leaguers, by dad practicing his golf swing or by girlfriends having a tea party picnic, none of these activities would be half as fun, safe or comfortable if they happened anywhere else but on a nice patch of grass.

Source: James B. Beard, Texas A&M University, The Role of Turfgrasses in Environmental Protection and Their Benefits to Humans, 1993

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