

# Soil Erosion Control & Dust Stabilisation

Sustainability fact sheet  
Benefits of golf courses series

## The issues

- Soil is eroded or worn away by the impact of the weather<sup>1,2</sup>, which can result in sediment (possibly containing harmful chemicals<sup>2</sup>) being washed into neighbouring water bodies, which can damage aquatic habitats.<sup>3</sup>
- Growing urban expansion and more paved surfaces increase the threat of contaminated water runoff which can lead to sedimentation and pollution in lakes, rivers and streams.<sup>4,5</sup>
- Eroded soil can be picked up by wind and transported as dust, which reduces air quality.<sup>6,7</sup>



## Golf course solutions

- Golf courses are dominated by perennial turfgrasses and offer one of the most cost-efficient methods to control erosion of soil.<sup>8</sup>
- Grass blades intercept and absorb rainwater impact<sup>9</sup> such that total runoff can be reduced by over 60% compared to bare soil.<sup>1</sup> Turfgrass roots stabilise the soil surface<sup>10</sup>, providing resilience to erosion. The turf layer filters water to reduce pollution of water bodies.<sup>3,11</sup>
- Even areas of low density turfgrass cover significantly reduce sediment loss.<sup>12</sup> Turfgrasses are a cheap and efficient tool to protect valuable, non-renewable soil resources.<sup>13</sup>
- Turfgrasses help to eliminate dust and mud around homes, factories, schools and businesses.<sup>8</sup>
- Turfgrass can provide both immediate and long-term soil protection.<sup>8,9</sup> Golf courses have been in use for decades, even centuries, providing permanent protection against soil erosion.



To learn more about the benefits of sustainability and best practice visit [www.randa.org/thegolfcourse](http://www.randa.org/thegolfcourse)

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