

Geotextile Discussion with Tony Stillman 9-21-22

He said there were several articles in Model Aviation just in the last few years.

Tony's home club is 70 miles south of AMA headquarters and has a 15' x 400' geotextile US230 runway. He indicated that he was surprised that they hadn't made it wider yet. It's been installed for two years now and he said there were no cuts (prop) in it yet. Almost all the aircraft at his home field are electric. He said that two guys fly IMAC and haven't had any problems.

The edges are a concern and he said to make a 3-4' turf cut to fix any transition issues.

He said large models aren't a problem on it.

Tony's interest is warbirds and he uses the grass for them. I assume they are large scale but he didn't say. He pointed out that earlier large scale warbirds, such as WWI aircraft, tend to have tail traction issues (ground loop?) and pilots tend to use the grass for those models. Remember though that most of the models at his field are electric.

Tony said they roll their field once or twice a year to smooth out any bumps.

He said some clubs have edged the fabric with 1" PVC and buried it. I'm not sure what his club did.

He suggested that it enhances smaller ARFs.

He was very positive about geotextile in general, other than the four wheelers that sometimes invade the field (I think he was saying that was his home field).

That is the high points of what he said.

Dave Holland