

AMA has a Facebook group with 6200+ members including many of the AMA officials and administrators. On Saturday 8/20 I posted the following query into the IFLYAMA Facebook group.

R. Scott Page

"Geotextile runway: looking for stories of regret from clubs that have installed geotextile runways. I'm open to positive comments as well."

Over the course of the next two days the following comments were received.

Roger Russell

The start of Jacksonville PROPKICKER's RC Club of Jacksonville, Illinois
Going on 6 years
Recommend some type of Pea Gravel graded and rolled in
That is what Midwest did
We did not
Killed our grass and then mowed it as short as possible
Laid ours in a day
Staples every 6-8"
Worth it IMO



Chris Gardner

Installed in Feb this year. We love it. We are going to add another section now. It's a game changer for little wheels and edfs.

John P. Biondo

Lone Tree Flyers we have one of the best installs IMO. Graded perfectly, over Lime base 12" staples. Our transitions are exquisite and is beautifully painted. 350' x 34'. Grass strip beside 700' x 85' meticulously maintained! No regrets!!



Steve Lewis

It was a game changer for us. Brought in a bunch of new members. Great for planes with small wheels or retracts. Also can help with take off/ landing skills now pilots need to follow the runway instead of just anywhere on an open field. The transition to/from the grass can be a bit of a challenge but is minimal. We also installed a couple of short taxiways. We put it in almost 10 years ago. Even with A LOT of prop strikes it is Still doing good. Should last atleast another 5 years. We do keep up with maintaining it , patch the holes to keep weeds to a minimum. (Plus weed killer) We also bring in a heavy roller each spring to smooth out the winter washouts. We're in a flood plane with river sediment for a base. Removed the sod and grade the base. Before installing it. We also made some "staples" out of 1/4 Stainless steel installed every 24 in and anchored the corners with 10ft rebar stakes. Keep up with holes from prop strikes (and other impacts) use weed killer on the weeds and your club should enjoy it for many years.

Tony Stillman

Depends on what brand you use. Us fabrics aero modeling geotex tile 230 is the best.

(Note – See included .pdf on Biography of Tony Stillman)

Mike Csaplik Jr.

We cut ours in and I didn't like the ridge it created. Pretty hard on landing gears of bigger models. I would suggest putting it away from the main landing area and just putting it directly on the grass.

David Colgan

Best to grade away any sod, Etc., for a firm underlayment. Depending on the topography, you may experience some washouts. On a downhill portion of our runway, we laid 10 mil plastic under it to reduce washouts. You will experience more cuts with electric powered aircraft as they don't stop with a prop strike. The longer the staples, the better.

Donald Grissom

Installed almost 10 years ago and it is still really good. We just added another 300 feet.



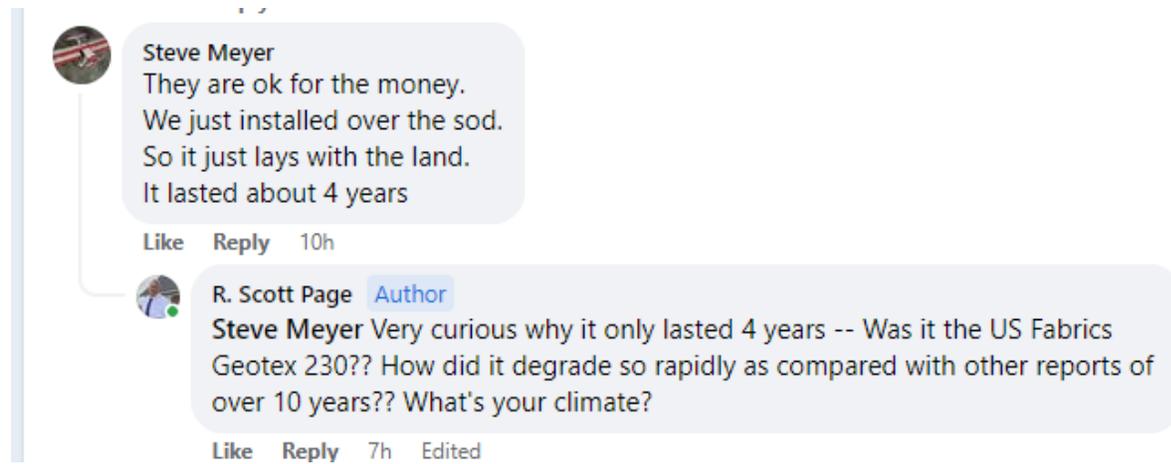
Mike Samsen

A club near here installed one. First, it was a lot more work and a lot more expensive than the literature would have you believe.

Second, it takes a lot more maintenance than the ads would have you believe. Based on their experience, our club chose not to do so.

Mike Valletti

Lots of cuts from props and weeds then grow thru



 Steve Meyer
They are ok for the money.
We just installed over the sod.
So it just lays with the land.
It lasted about 4 years

Like Reply 10h

 R. Scott Page **Author**
Steve Meyer Very curious why it only lasted 4 years -- Was it the US Fabrics Geotex 230?? How did it degrade so rapidly as compared with other reports of over 10 years?? What's your climate?

Like Reply 7h Edited

Dave Robinson

My club install a geotextile runway several years ago. We have had to patch a few places where someone did a 1 point landing, but that's all. We put 30 yds of sand down, leveled by hand after a truck dropped a layer 4-5" thick, then compacted with a roadway 8' wide roller vibrating compactor. The final grade with a garden tractor pulling a 4" X 8" beam around. Cut a groove around with a plow so the edges will be 12"
Staple it down every 6" when the sun comes out it will get tight.
Hope you don't have any jerks on dirt bikes try to tear it up, I've heard of that.
We love it, you can use 1" wheels no problem.
When landing your planes will not slow down as quickly as on grass.

Harold Hearon

Have had ours down for going on 5 years NO PROBLEMS added extension on last year. 🙌 Best thing we did, rolled field for 6 hours installed on top of grass still flat and tight, holes are repaired with "FLEX-SEAL" Any big tears we use "FLEX-SEAL & FIBERGLASS SCREENING.

