

A wide-angle photograph of a rider on a dark horse, likely a dressage horse, performing a movement in an outdoor arena. The arena floor is a dark, granular surface. In the background, there is a wooden fence and a line of green trees under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The rider is wearing a dark jacket and a helmet. The horse is in motion, with its legs extended.

#### FACTS ABOUT ANNE-METTE LYAGER

-  Founder of Lyager Dressage (2016)
-  Winner of the 2012 Ecco Cup
-  Gold medalist at the Danish Championships for teams in 2013
-  Gold medalist at the Nordic Championships in 2016
-  Three times Nordic Champion gold medalist for teams

*Anne-Mette Lyager, Lyager Dressage*

# OUTDOOR HORSE RIDING ALL YEAR ROUND THANKS TO FROST-FREE SURFACE

No matter whether you enjoy horse riding as your hobby or professionally, the weather is a significant parameter when it comes to outdoor riding. Especially in the Nordic countries, where rain and sleet, snow and frost are weather report standards many days of the year, countless riding hours are spent in indoor riding arenas. The outdoor track is just one big puddle or hard as rock after several days with sub-zero temperatures.

Professional rider and owner of Lyager Dressage in Denmark, Anne-Mette Lyager, is also familiar with this challenge. She was thus pleasantly surprised when she heard about some of the many benefits of using rubber granulate as top layer in horse riding arenas; a dry and frost-free arena all year round.

"I really enjoy riding outdoors. And the horses also seem much happier when outside than when inside. But if you have an arena with a fibre base or a wood chip surface, which easily freezes or becomes slippery, there are only a few days during winter when riding outside is an option.

That is why I really appreciate our rubber granulate arena – now it is no longer a problem, and I have a lot more days on our outdoor riding grounds than before. Even in the middle of January." Anne-Mette Lyager explains with excitement and continues: "The previous arena was often flooded, even after minor rain showers, whereas the current one rarely has large puddles - and those that are inevitable quickly disappear. Water easily runs through the top layer and disappears into the ground, and excess water evaporates faster, as the dark colour of granules attract the heat of the sun. This helps prevent the surface from becoming slippery, which is really important





*Jannie Striboldt  
Sales Manager, Genan*

for both horse and rider. The fact that the arena is always ready for use and does not need much maintenance, is most helpful in the busy everyday routine where the hours in the saddle are our main focus. The surface is always bouncy, and riding on this surface really makes a difference for our horses."

Anne-Mette Lyager started her own business with farm and sales stable at the age of 17, and many projects were tackled before the renovation of the riding arena was initiated in cooperation with ByStriboldt and Genan in 2020. Today, the arena is used by many riders every single day, and new plans in this respect are also in the pipeline at Lyager Dressage.

"One of our next projects will be to construct a brand new, outdoor arena – and to convert the existing outdoor arena into an indoor arena. The new outdoor arena will be built with rubber granulate as top layer, just like the existing one. In this way, we will have two arenas with all the advantages of rubber granulate, and we are really looking forward to this. I cannot imagine riding on anything else." Anne-Mette Lyager concludes.

Prior to her employment at Genan, Jannie Striboldt ran her own company, ByStriboldt, with an exclusive agreement to sell Genan's rubber granulate for horse riding arenas in Denmark. In her new role at Genan, as Sales Manager for the

Nordic and Baltic countries, Jannie's dedication to equestrian sports can be further nurtured in conjunction with the development of rubber granulate as the preferred top layer for horse riding arenas.

"With a background in the world of equestrian sports, it is pretty cool to get to help installing arenas for top riders like Anne-Mette Lyager. But whichever the level, the construction of the base of a riding arena is very important. The ratio of stone dust to granulate is crucial to achieve the perfect shock absorption, and this is an important element in the guidance I offer our riding arena customers." Jannie Striboldt says: "Using rubber granulate as top layer in horse riding arenas is still relatively new in Denmark, but it is definitely a trend on the rise. As established by Lyager Dressage, there are simply too many advantages not consider this solution if you are looking to construct or renovate a riding arena."

"Using Genan's rubber granulate as top layer on riding grounds is a great example of how a recycled resource can contribute to new use. As top layer in a horse riding arena, our granulate has a positive effect on both tendons and joints of horses, riders win more days outside, and the owner of the arena is faced with only minimal maintenance. Sustainability is not always about compromise - it is about finding the right solutions." Jannie Striboldt concludes.