

LAWN AERATION

Practically speaking, core aeration is the process of mechanically removing 1/2 inch diameter plugs of thatch and soil up to 3 inches long from the lawn to improve soil aeration. This practice is the best thing that could be done to your lawn to improve health and vigor. Lawns are exposed to compaction from human activity such as walking, playing and mowing. Rain and irrigation also compacts soil particles reducing large air spaces where roots can readily grow. The aeration will improve the depth and extent of turfgrass rooting, allowing better water uptake and enhancing fertilizer use. Aeration also greatly speeds up thatch breakdown by incorporating soil into the thatch, which allows organisms to break down the thatch and reduce its accumulation.

The small plugs left on the lawn after the aeration process within a week or two will break apart and disappear into the lawn. These plugs should not be removed from the lawn. If your lawn was overseeded try to keep the top 1/2 inch of soil continuously moist.

BENEFITS OF AERATION

1. Reduced soil compaction.
2. Better water uptake.
3. Enhanced fertilizer uptake and utilization.
4. Improved air exchange into the soil.
5. Improved turfgrass rooting.
6. Enhanced thatch breakdown.
7. Minimizes damage from a heavy thatch.
8. Reduces water runoff and puddling.
9. Disrupts soil layering.
10. Aids in drying wet soils.

WHAT TO EXPECT

About 7 to 10 days after aeration, the aerification holes will be filled with white, actively growing roots. These roots are a sign that the turfgrass is responding to the additional oxygen, moisture and nutrients in the soil from the aeration process. Your lawn will be healthier, more vigorous, with less thatch and fewer pest problems than previously.