

By DLC Resources, Inc.

Turf Aeration



Aeration is a critical component of healthy turf management.



Aerating your turf is best performed in the spring when Bermuda is actively growing.

Beautiful Healthy Turf

Turf is an integral component of the common area landscape. Its aesthetic qualities and value as a play surface make it a desirable part of many communities. Beautiful and healthy turf is always the goal in any maintenance plan, and this goal can only be attained through the intelligent application of proper horticultural practices employed by your landscape maintenance provider.

Soil Compaction

Turf areas that are utilized frequently often suffer from soil compaction. Physical compaction of the soil results in a hard surface that does not allow sufficient water penetration, oxygen absorption by turf roots, movement of nutrients from the surface into the root system, etc. Aeration is a valuable, but often overlooked, horticultural practice that is very effective in maintaining healthy turf for the long-term.

Aeration Methods

There are several different aeration methods, but all of them involve creating holes (3" to 6" deep) in the turf soil. One common method is to force a solid tine into the soil through the use of gravity (weight), hydraulic down-pressure or vibration. This is a fairly fast process that is also "clean" in that no soil cores are removed from the soil that end up distributed on top of the turf. Another method is to drive a hollow core tine into the soil that removes a small cylindrical shaped soil "plug" and creates a hole in the soil. Plugs are then left on the turf surface and are generally broken up by subsequent mowing. Golf course greens, for example, are aerated utilizing this method several times each summer.

Amendments

Soil samples should be collected and analyzed prior to aeration. Soil amendments (i.e. nitrogen, sulfur, gypsum, etc.), selected to address the

nutrient deficiencies identified in the laboratory analyses of the soil samples, are best applied immediately after aeration while the holes are fresh. Amendments fill the holes and are quickly distributed to the root zone of the turf where they will be absorbed and utilized. Water and oxygen are also able to penetrate aerated soils and promote healthy turf.

Did You Know?

Compacted soils offer a good environment for a fungus known as Fairy Ring.

