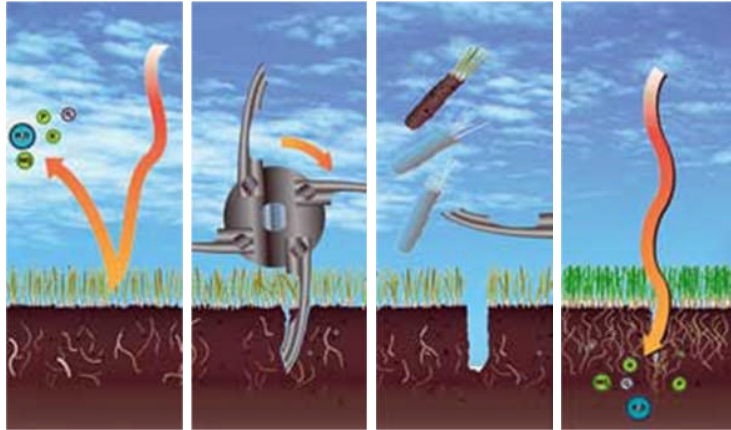




Aerating

How aeration works

Aeration is the process of mechanically removing cores of turf to improve the flow of air, water and nutrients in dense, compacted soil. Soil compaction, caused by lawn traffic such as walking and moving, is one of the greatest causes of turf deterioration. When soil is compacted, dirt particles are forced together, reducing the area where roots can grow. Aeration relieves soil compaction by improving the exchange of water and critical nutrients to grass roots.



- **(1)** Adequate amounts of vital nutrients including water, oxygen, nitrates, phosphorus, and potassium are unable to reach the roots.
- **(2)** Aerators relieve soil compaction by removing evenly-spaced cores of turf up to 3 inches in depth.
- **(3)** Once the soil is aerated air exchange is improved and the soil can easily absorb water, fertilizer and other nutrients.
- **(4)** Aeration promotes deeper root growth for a lawn that is lush, healthy and drought resistant.

Why should I aerate?

According to Michael H. Hunt, Manager of Tantamount Equipment Rental, Gastonia, NC 'Healthier turf means happier customers and an increase in revenue not only from the rentals but from the new customers referred by satisfied older customers.' Chuck Daum, Residential Equipment Coordinator, The Davey Tree Expert Company, Kent, Ohio believes 'Aeration is the single most important add-on service that a lawn client should consider. It's a high value, low cost service that benefits both the homeowner and our technicians.'

When should I aerate?

For optimal effectiveness aeration should be performed at least once annually. Spring (between March and May) and fall (between August and November) are the ideal times to aerate cool season grasses, such as perennial Rye Grass and Kentucky Bluegrass. Warm season grasses, such as Zoysia Grass and Bermuda Grass benefit the most from spring or summer aeration.

Achieving the best results from aeration

- Water area to be aerated the night before. This will help to soften the soil allowing for maximum core penetration.
- Before beginning, map out any obstructions such as sprinkler heads or drains.
- Cover every inch of the lawn and go over high traffic areas more than once.
- After aerating, water the lawn and apply fertilizer. This will promote growth and allow grass to compete with weeds as they grow.