

## Dethatching

This is another process used to remove dead organic matter or to reduce the amount of organic matter (thatch). There are three main types of dethatching that staff performs throughout the year. The first is through verti-cutting (vertical mowing) of putting greens and other areas. Besides removing thatch, this process also helps to true up or smooth the putting surface and if set deep enough, can be used for seed establishment. Next, the Aerothatch, which is basically a large, PTO powered, vertical-cutter is used on fairways. By removing thatch from the fairways, we create a better growing environment by loosening the top organic layer. This provides better water penetration and also reduces the chance for certain disease - namely those that live in the thatch layer. Finally, the Wiedenmann is also a PTO powered verti-cutter that also mows and vacuums up the thatch that is removed. This tool is especially useful in areas where a large amount of thatch and debris are removed - primarily all of our native areas that need to be mowed down annually to maintain proper health and density.

