

CORE AERATION

To maintain a healthy lawn through periods of stress, the soil needs water, air and nutrients in the top 6 to 10 inches. Soils that are hard and compacted, have no "nooks and crannies" to hold the water, air or nutrients. Without these crucial components, root growth is impeded, which prevents the grass from developing the deep root system that is essential to survive in hot and dry or harsh and cold periods.



A core aerator's tines pull plugs of soil from the lawn.

Core aeration is the process of mechanically removing plugs of thatch and soil from the lawn. Aeration opens the soil, helps reduce compaction, improves water infiltration, improves rooting, reduces thatch and acts in many other ways to improve the lawn and reduce stress. Aeration restores the vital "nooks and crannies" to the soil.

Core aeration can be used to minimize thatch accumulation, to modify its physical characteristics, and to reduce soil compaction. Soil plugs are deposited on the turf surface (see right). These plugs then break down and redistribute soil throughout the thatch layer. The soil from the plugs helps to modify the physical structure of the thatch, making it a better



This soil also enhances thatch breakdown by introducing the beneficial microorganisms that feed on thatch.

Most turfgrasses growing in heavy clay or poor soils benefit greatly from annual aeration to reduce thatch buildup and more importantly, to relieve soil compaction. This cultural treatment will help improve the recycling flow of air, water, and fertilizer to your grass plants. This, in turn, will help to rejuvenate your grass by allowing the roots to grow deeper, creating healthier grass plants and keeping your lawn thicker and greener.