

Lawn Care: Lawn Aeration

Lawns often suffer from both compacted soil and thatch build-up. Compaction can be particularly serious in the top two inches of the soil layer. It reduces water and fertilizer uptake by the grass roots, thereby decreasing a lawn's tolerance to heat and drought. It also increases the amount of runoff from watering or the application of fertilizers and pesticides.



Frequent core aeration by removing soil plugs from the turf with a Lawn Aerator will enhance root growth and establish healthier grass, especially when combined with a thatch control program. Lawn care experts recommend periodic soil aeration. Aeration significantly increases water uptake by the plants. It improves the lawn's resistance to drought and reduces expenses associated with the application of fertilizer and insecticide.

Mid to late spring and early fall are the most ideal times to aerate Kentucky Bluegrass and perennial Ryegrass. Turf grasses such as Bermuda, Zoysia and St. Augustine should be aerated mid spring to summer. Aeration before applying herbicide, fertilizer and water is recommended.