

Aerification Notice

Pine Island Golf Course will be aerifying greens once a month throughout the season. We will be using a small 1/4" solid tine. The aerification process would be like pushing a pencil into the green every 2"x2". We will then roll over the greens, which will help smooth out holes and help push the turf back together where it will heal. There will be very little disturbance to the greens and will be virtually unnoticed in a day or two.

Throughout the spring we will also be aerifying areas in the rough. Throughout the years a lot of compaction has occurred around tees, greens, and areas between the tees and beginning of the fairways. We will be using a 3/8" tine that will remove a solid core. These cores will then be removed or incorporated back into the soil.

Soil compaction can be a severe problem on fine-textured soils, resulting in restricted root growth, lack of water infiltration into the soil, loss of resilience, weed invasion, disease problems, and a decline in turf quality. Symptoms of a compaction problem may include lack of rooting, thinning of the turf, and/or reduced rate of water infiltration.

Compaction frequently becomes a problem on putting greens. Corrective measures in this case involve turf cultivation. Turf cultivation results in improved turfgrass quality and vigor due to enhanced movement of water and air into the soil. However, it also disrupts the smoothness of the putting surface and is controversial among golfers.

Turf cultivation is used as required to, correct a compacted soil condition, assist in controlling thatch, and/or alleviate a soil layer problem. Correction of soil compaction is the most significant aspect of turf cultivation in terms of effectiveness.

Turf cultivation generally is practiced in the spring and/or autumn. It is best practiced when temperatures favor rapid shoot growth and coverage of the turf openings.

Turf cultivation of putting greens to a depth of 3 to 4 inches can be accomplished by normal coring. A vertically operated hollow tine or drill unit may be used for coring to minimize surface disruptions. The diameter of tines for normal coring of putting greens ranges from 1/4 to 5/8 inch, depending on the time of year and the reason for coring. Soil cores left on the surface after coring may be removed or may be broken up and

dragged back into the surface. If the soil is undesirable, the lifted cores usually are removed and the putting green topdressed.

Punching is a type of turf cultivation that involves the use of solid tines. It is particularly effective for the use in deep turf cultivation and in high-density, shallow cultivation for canopy management. The punching procedure may involve solid tines that penetrate to a depth of 3 to 4 inches similar to core cultivation.

Compacted or crusted localized dry spots sometimes are a problem. Hand punching or forking to a depth of 6 to 8 inches, followed by intensive spot watering, usually corrects the problem. A manual 4-or-5 tined fork may be used for isolated spots. In contrast, the application of an effective wetting agent and immediate drenching should follow hand forking if the dry spots are caused by a hydrophobic soil condition.

Soil compaction is a more common problem on tees than on putting greens. This is primarily because fewer zones have been modified on tees. Construction of the tees to small for the intensity of the play further accentuates soil compaction problems.

Soil compaction can become a severe problem on golf course fairways and rough, especially those located on fine textured clayey soils. Concentrated traffic patterns and extensive use of golf carts accentuate the problem.