

WHAT IS LAWN AERATION?

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Aeration is the process of mechanically poking thousands of holes in the soil. This allows water, oxygen, and nutrients to better penetrate to the roots of your grass. This also causes roots to go deeper, making the lawn more resistant to drought and disease.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF AERATION?

Aeration can help make your lawn healthier and reduce its maintenance requirements.

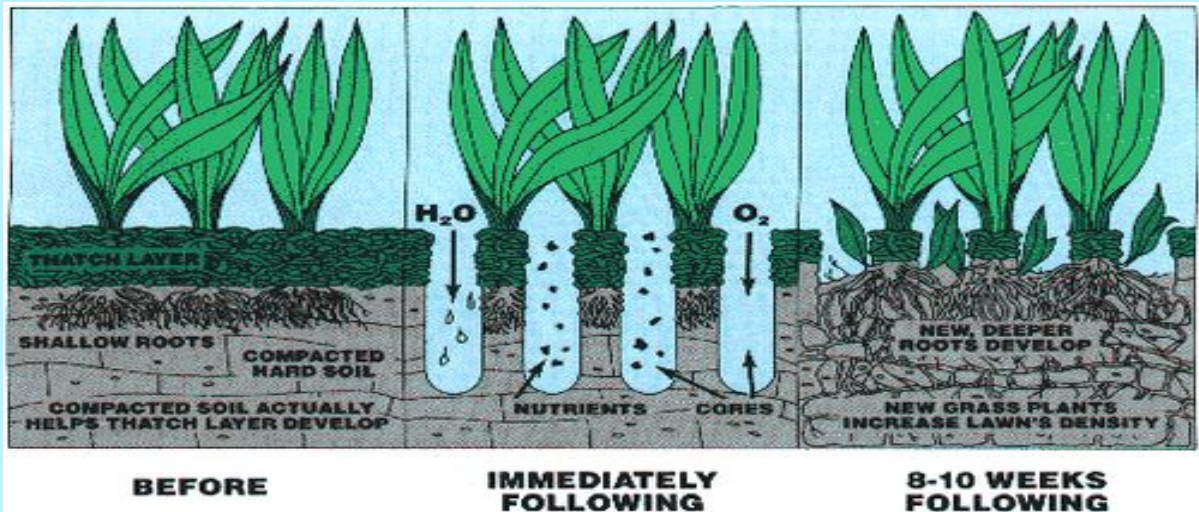
Benefits are as follows:

- Improved air exchange between the soil and atmosphere
- Enhanced soil water uptake
- Improved fertilizer uptake and use
- Reduced water runoff and puddling
- Stronger turfgrass roots
- Reduced soil compaction
- Enhanced heat and drought stress tolerance
- Improved resiliency and cushioning
- Enhanced thatch breakdown
- Improved turf health, thus reduced disease and insect damage

WHY IS AERATION NECESSARY?

In most home lawns, fertile topsoil may have been removed or buried during excavation of the basement or footings, forcing grass to grow in subsoil that is more compact, higher in clay content and less likely to sustain a healthy lawn. Walking, playing and mowing also compact soil and stress lawns. Raindrops and irrigation further compact the soil, reducing large air spaces where roots readily grow. Compaction is greater on heavy soils than on sandy soils, and it is greatest in the upper 1 to 1-1/2 inches of soil.

Aeration relieves soil compaction, allowing your grass to grow deeper roots and make better use of water and fertilizer.



WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Immediately after aeration, small plugs pulled from the soil dot the lawn. Within a week or two, they break apart and disappear into the lawn. About seven to ten days after aeration, the aerated holes fill with white, actively growing roots. This signifies the turf grass is receiving additional oxygen, moisture, and nutrients from the soil.

After aeration, your lawn should be able to go longer between watering, without showing signs of wilt. With repeat aerations over time, your lawn will show enhanced heat and drought stress tolerance. Remember, most lawns benefit from annual aeration. And while you shouldn't expect miracles, lawns that receive this care will be healthier, more vigorous, easier to maintain, and have fewer pest problems.

NOTES

Although aeration remains a vital cultural practice, it can be destructive because the aeration machine tines reaches a depth of approximately three inches. When hiring Thompson Landscape to aerate your lawn, flags are provided to mark important underground items, including but not limited to sprinkler heads, dog wires, and any lines not buried properly. Examples are post wires, cable and phone lines, gas grill lines, all of which should be buried at least six inches at installation.