



## Common Aeration Questions

**Q: What is core aeration?**

**A:** In simplest terms, it is the process of making finger sized holes in your lawn and depositing the removed material on the surface to break down. This allows fertilizer, water and oxygen to get to the roots where healthy grass originates.

**Q: How do I know if my lawn needs aeration?**

**A:** Known clay soils, heavy traffic, more than 1/2" of thatch, standing water after irrigation or rain, or lawns that brown easily in heat are all excellent candidates. In reality, any lawn, healthy or not, can benefit from annual aeration.

**Q: Will spiking do the same thing?**

**A: No.** While spiking will put holes in the turf, it actually compacts the soil rather than removing the core. While there are often short-term benefits, in the long term this is counterproductive.

**Q: When should I aerate?**

**A: Spring (March-May) and Autumn (August-November) are best.** late spring and is preferred.

**Q: How often should my lawn be aerated?**

**A:** In areas where the soil has a high clay content, compaction and thatch buildup is more prevalent and aeration should be done twice a year. In areas of more sandy or loamy soils, annual aeration will result in continued healthy lawns and improved irrigation and fertilizing efficiency.

**Q: When will I see positive results in my lawn?**

**A:** Depending on the turf conditions, your visual results may or may not be immediate from a single aeration. Subterranean root growth and overall health and stress tolerance will however begin to improve almost at once. Even in the toughest conditions aeration in combination with an appropriate fertilizing, irrigation and weed control program will show dramatic visual results in the second year after a second or third aeration.

**Q: Is aeration a one-time fix that can be discontinued when my lawn has improved?**

**A: No.** Aeration needs to be a continual part of your lawn care plan just like fertilizing, weed and pest control, irrigation and mowing. In some cases aeration can be reduced from twice a year to once a year after a couple of seasons.

**Q: How deep and how many cores are required for effective aeration?**

**A:** Generally, cores every 4"- 6" and from 2"- 3" deep will give best results. It is commonly accepted that the deeper and the closer together the better. The cores left on the lawn will usually be about 5/8" diameter.