

MGCSA SURVEY

Aerification Practices Throughout the State

(Editor's Note: The MGCSA conducted a survey via e-mail to members of the association. Thanks to all who responded so promptly.)

Typically I aerify the greens twice a year, the first being early May with a bayonet tine and topdress with 100% sand topdressing. We will then topdress light every three weeks throughout the season and end with aerification on the 19th of September with 3/4 inch hollow deep tines filling the holes with topdressing. I also would use the bayonet tines throughout the season in problem areas.

- Mike Brual, CGCS
Greenhaven Golf Club
Anoka

We are a nine hole executive course, open to the public, with USGA built (sand) greens.

We aerify in late August. I like to fertilize the greens a week before aerification to have the grass actively growing at the time of aerification. We pull cores, break them up and drag them in. We blow the debris off and topdress the next day. We

use 1/2 inch tines. The recovery time is approximately a week. We only aerify once a year and the timing is to get the quick recovery. As a player, there is nothing worse than finishing the season on bumpy aerified greens and opening up in the spring with the same.

With the sand greens, once a year appears to be enough. I have maintained push up greens before and found it beneficial to aerify twice a year then.

-Walt Braumig
Thompson Oaks Golf Course
West St. Paul

I aerify my greens two times a season. The first is in mid-April using a walk behind Gradens(verticut) to a depth of one inch and fill with sand. The recovery time is two to three weeks. The second is in the first two weeks in September using a 5/8 inch hollow tine and fill with sand. The recovery time is 7 to 10 days.

- Jared Finch
The Legend and The Quarry
Biwabik

Spring Aeration with 1/2 inch hollow tines, remove cores and backfill with sand on May 10. Summer aeration is mid-July with 1/4 inch solid tines and lightly topdressed. Fall aeration is August 20, with 5/8 inch hollow tines and backfilled with sand. No linear aeration. Light topdressing once per month. Recovery is 7-10 days with hollow tine aeration.

- Mark Lindberg
Edgewood Municipal Golf Course
Fargo, ND

I aerify my greens in the first week of June and the second week of September. Both times I use 1/2" hollow tines 4" in depth. I heavy topdress with topdressing sand immediately and then topdress lightly throughout the season. I usually recover completely in 10 days. I do not linear aerify.

- Justin R. Gustafson
Ely Golf Club
Ely

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Aerification Survey-

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We aerify just one time per year and that is usually around Sep. 20th. We use 3/4" tines going 3-3.5" deep with 2.5" spacing on a GA-60. Because the greens were constructed with an 80/20 mix, we bust up the plugs and drag the sand back in and remove only the thatch left behind. We also topdress after clean up of plugs to help fill the holes. We topdress every three weeks in the summer months. They recover by May 1.

When I started here two years ago the thatch layer was 3" thick and an anaerobic condition had taken effect causing black layer in almost every green. By using the 3/4 inch tines we can still see the columns of sand and have eliminated the black layer with increased air movement to the root zone. We compared greens that were plugged with 3/4" tines/2.5" spacing (about 7% surface removed) to greens that were plugged using 1/2" tines/2" spacing (about 5% surface removed) and the recovery was about two weeks longer, but were healthier the rest of the year.

- Eric Peters
North Links Golf Course
North Mankato

We typically aerify greens once per season about mid-September. We use 3/4" solid tines, 8-9" deep. We backfill with silica sand. I recover by mid April.

- Randy Allen
Tartan Park Golf Course
St. Paul

In a typical season I aerify my greens one time in April using 5/8-sized tines and back filling with 80/20 topdressing. I recover typically in 7-10 number of days to a condition similar to just prior to aerification.

- Joe W. Wollner
Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge
Deerwood

In a typical year I aerify my greens once in April using 10-inch 1 sand peat mixture. I verticut in early April and again in June. I use 10 inch long 1/2 inch wide solid tines and fill with a mixture of 80 -20 silicon sand and peat in September.

- Howard Madson
Mt. Lake Golf Course
Mountain Lake

In a typical season I aerify my greens two times: once on May 10 - or as soon as

they are growing well with 1/2 hollow tines and backfill with 100% mason sand and again on August 22 using 1/4" solid tines with kicker (verti-drain 7007 and topdress lightly with 100% mason sand. I continue to topdress lightly with 100% mason sand every two weeks throughout the growing season. I recover typically in 7 - 10 days in the Spring and 3 - 5 days in late August.

- Norma O'Leary
Silver Bay Country Club
Silver Bay

We deep-tine aerate (10")once a year, the first week of May, with 1/2 inch tines and back fill with straight sand. Recovery is usually 14-21 days. No linear aeration.

- David Wood
Oxbow Country Club
Fargo, ND

I aerify greens once a year in May with 1/2" deep tine. I sand greens before with strait sand. My recover time is 5 days. I aerify tees 2 times per year May & September, with Ryan GA 30 using 1/2" hollow tines. We recover 5-10 days. I leave holes open. I aerify fairways in September with 3/4" hollow tines we recover 10-12 days, I leave holes open.

- Jeff Vinkemeier
Glencoe Country Club
Glencoe

In a typical season I aerify my greens in early May and again in September using .3 and .6"- sized tines and back filling with straight sand. I do not linear aerify. I recover typically in 7-14 days to a condition similar to just prior to aerification.

- Donnacha O'Connor
Alexandria Country Club
Alexandria

In the spring I usually aerate the first week of May and use a 1/2 inch by 10 inch solid deep tine. I fill the holes with a 80/20 sand peat topdressing and my recovery time is about 3-5 days.

In the fall I usually aerate the Tuesday following Labor Day and use a 5/8 inch by 4 inch hollow tine. I remove the cores and fill the holes with a 80/20 sand peat topdressing and my recovery time is 7-10 days. At both aerifications I seed bentgrass at 1/2-3/4 lbs/1000sqft.

- Bill Gullicks
Bellwood Oaks Golf Course
Hastings

I aerify greens on the fourth Monday of April using 5/8" Coring Tines, Uni-Par Sand, completely filling all holes. Twenty-one days recovery at best

I aerify again on the fourth Monday of August using 5/8" Coring Tines, Uni-Par Sand, completely filling all holes. Recovery is usually 21 days.

We have used the graden on occasion - 2mm blades, 1" spacing, 5/8 - 1" depth.

- Scott D. Austin, CGCS
Midland Hills Country Club
St. Paul

We aerify once per year, usually the last Sunday of August starting at 3pm. I still have enough staff left to accomplish this task. I use quad tines on a 2 x 3 spacing, drag cores, blow, topdress lightly, apply .75 lb N of ammonium sulphate and the water the beegeezers out of the greens. We skip mowing the following day, more water, roll the next day and more water, then on day three we mow at normal (.135) height. By Friday, we are completely healed for the weekend crowd.

We are a privately-owned 18-hole public facility with a \$235,000 budget.

- Kevin Clunis, CGCS
Tanners Brook Golf Course
Forest Lake

In a typical season we aerify our greens twice. We aerify in late April before leagues start and again in late August before Labor Day after league play ends. We also use John Deere 3/32" solid tines twice during the summer in late June and mid-July. We use fi" hollow tines, space setting of 2 with a John Deere Aercore 800 back filling with topdressing using a Turco Meter-Matic 3 at a setting of 3. We typically recover in 14 days depending on the weather.

- Sean McDonagh
Roseville Cedarholm Golf Course
Roseville

I aerate once per year using 1/2 or 5/8 tines backfill with sand. I then Hydroject aerate once per year. Usually takes 5-6 days for recovery from core aeration, returning to original condition in 10-12 days. Core aeration usually takes place end of May or right after Labor Day depending on schedule. Tine sizes are rotated every year.

- Todd Daniels
Fosston Golf Club
Fosston

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Aerification Survey-

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In a typical season we aerify our greens two times: once in mid-May and once in mid-late September. When aerifying we use 1/2" hollow side eject tines. We backfill both times with topdressing sand. We do not linear aerify. We spike and topdress every seven days during the season. Our greens completely recover within 1.5-2 weeks after aerifying. Our approach at the sportscenter regarding aerification is "compaction prevention." We try to prevent compaction before it becomes a problem. We also core aerify wall to wall in spring and fall. During the season on tees, fairways and sports fields, we slit aerify with 10" tines every other week.

- Jeff Reich
Victory Links Golf Course
Blaine

In a typical season I aerify my greens 2 times on the dates mid-May and mid-September, using 1/2" sized hollow tines and back filling with 95/5 topdressing. I also solid tine (Aerway fine tine) just after the greens heal in the spring. I recover typically in 14-21 number of days to a con-

dition similar to just prior to aerification.

- Michael Cohrs
Bluff Creek Golf Course
Chanhausen

In a typical season I core aerify my greens one time in late September with 1/2' open tines and backfill with 80/20 topdressing. During the Spring and Summer, I Hydroject greens once every 5-6 weeks to avoid aerification mess. Tees are core aerified twice a year, in the spring as needed and all in the fall with 1/2" open tines. Tees are topdressed as required again with 80/20 topdressing. Fairways are aerified at least twice a year with an Aerway aerator with shattertines. Roughs and traffic areas are aerated by the Aerway or Vertidrain as necessary. Problem areas are aerated using 1/2" open or solid tines as required. Recovery varies according to procedure, but I always fertilize prior to aerification to enhance repair of damaged surfaces.

- Greg Hubbard, CGCS
Manitou Ridge Golf Club
White Bear Lake

In a typical season I aerify my greens 2 times on the dates of mid-May and the first week in September. On both occa-

sions we use 5/8-inch hollow tines and harvest the cores. We follow-up by topdressing with (Plaisted) quartz sand at an amount that will generally fill most holes. Lastly, we brush in the sand and finish with a clean-up mowing. We topdress light during the remainder of the season a three week interval. (27 total greens, nine each week) Until this year, we had not done applications of linear aerification. This year we have had one linear application to date at 1/8-inch of depth. Green recovery is generally completed two weeks following the procedure.

- Bill Vollbrecht
Eagle and Glen Lake Golf Centers
Plymouth

In a typical year I aerify with 5/8 hollow tine in mid-May and backfill with sand on greens, tees and fairways. I quad-tine greens after Labor Day and 5/8" hollow tines on tees. End of October I use 1" solid tine 10" deep on greens. Every 3 years we use 1" hollow tines on greens 10" deep and backfill with sand.

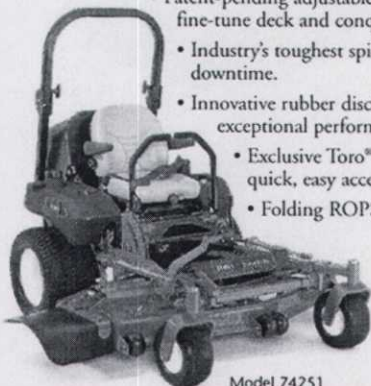
- Jim Nicol, CGCS
Hazeltine National Golf Club
Chaska

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Aerification Survey-

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I aerate tees in the spring and in the fall. I aerate greens in the fall. Aerate, remove plugs, top dress, drag in and blow off. I aerate fairways in the fall.

- Dan Hill
Birnamwood Golf Course
Burnsville

We aerify our greens once a year in the fall alternating between quarter-inch quad tines one year and three quarter-inch deep tine the next year. During the summer months, the hydroject and small verti-drain with needle tines are used as needed. We try to topdress the greens lightly every three weeks with silica sand. Tees are done twice a year with 5/8-inch tines. Fairways are done once a year in the fall with three quarter-inch tines.

- Bill Larson
Town & Country Club
St. Paul

In a typical season I aerify my greens twice a season on the dates of mid-May with 1/2 inch hollow tines and topdress till holes are filled (every one!) and typically recover in 10 days, just after Labor Day. I aerify with 5/8 inch solid tines 10 inches deep-tine and topdress till holes are filled and recover within 7 days. I do not linear aerate. I will also "spot" deep-tine with 5/8 solid tines in poor drainage areas of the greens just before closing the course and leave the holes open, with good results.

-Marlow Hansen
Forest Hills Golf Course
Forest Lake

In a typical season we aerify our greens one time per year around the second week of September using 1/2" solid tines at a depth of 10 inches using the Redexim Verti-drain. We follow with a light to medium topdressing with fine masonry sand. We do not linear aerify. Our recovery time is about 5 - 7 days.

- Tom Notch
Bent Creek Golf Club
Eden Prairie

I aerify our greens once a season right after Labor Day. We core aerify with 5/8-inch tines. We backfill with sand.

- Rick Dauner
Village Green Golf Course
Moorhead

In a typical season I aerify my greens three times: May 23, September 12 and late fall using 1/4" hollow tines and back fill with seed/sand mix and topdress 2-3

times throughout the summer. I recover typically in 5-7 days to a condition similar to just prior to aerification.

- Bob Distel
Wayzata Country Club
Wayzata

In a typical season I aerify my greens once in late October, using .4" quad tines with 1.5" x 1.5" spacing. I backfill with silica sand as well as light topdressing every two weeks. I do not linear aerify. I recover typically in mid-April.

- Nick Rongstad
Izaty's Resort
Isanti

We aerate two times a year, early May and the day after Labor Day. I rotate the type of aerification during spring from linear to deep tine 1/2" tines at a depth of 6". Filled with sand - heavy amounts.

Throughout the year, as needed, I will needle tines selected greens. I light topdress every Wednesday, followed by vibratory rolling. Fall aerification is larger tines and I will core 5/8 or 3/4, some years I deep tine 3/4 at depth of 9", followed with sand. Recovery depends on Mother Nature. Typically in spring 7-10 days. Fall typically 7-14 days.

I have also aerated late October to leave holes open for winter to help get water down into ground as opposed to having water sit on top of green surface.

- Tom Proshok
Brackett's Crossing Country Club
Lakeville

In a typical season I aerify my greens once in the spring around May 10 using 1/2-inch hollow tines about four inches deep. We fill the holes with straight sand although not all the holes will be filled to the top. The greens recover about two to three weeks later depending upon the weather. I do not linear aerify.

- Thomas Fischer, CGCS
Edinburgh USA
Brooklyn Park

In a typical season I aerify my greens twice on the dates mid-May and late September, using 3/8" -sized tines and back filling with washed mason sand. I recover typically in 5 - 7 days to a condition similar to just prior to aerification.

- Mike Stone
Crosswoods Golf Course
Crosslake

I aerify my greens in mid-September using a 7-inch bayonet tine to open up the surface. I follow that with rolling and topdressing. Minimal disruption, complete recovery in a couple weeks.

I manage my thatch with regular topdressing, light verticutting and brushing throughout the season. I have not pulled cores to date (course is five years old).

- Mike Nelson
Dacotah Ridge Golf Club
Morton

In a typical season we core aerify greens one time, usually the second week of September, using either 1/2"- or 5/8"- hollow tines. We backfill with straight sand topdressing. Additionally, this year, we will also deep solid tine our seven original native soil greens to 10" and backfill with straight topdressing sand.

We linear aerify the second or third week of May using 3 mm blades and backfill the slits with straight topdressing sand.

- Paul Diegnau, CGCS
Keller Golf Course
St. Paul

In a typical season I aerify my greens two times on the dates of mid-October using 3/8-inch hollow tines and the first week of November using 10-inch, solid fi-inch tines. I do not backfill with sand, but topdress light and frequently through the summer with silica sand. I do not linear aerify. I recover typically in mid-April.

- Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
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