

Frequently Asked Questions About Green Aerification

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Why do we have to aerify our greens, they look good?

Reduces traffic stress, reduces thatch, increases root development, increases water infiltration, releases gases in soil from decomposition.

Why aren't the holes filled after aerification? Not enough sand on greens? Too much sand on greens? How long until the height of cut (H-O-C) will be lowered on greens after aerification?

We always mow our greens at same H-O-C from open to close.

Typically mow greens (with riders couple times) seven days after aerification (minimize sand removal).

Quality of cut after first couple times post-aerification (sanding), is gone after first couple greens cut (sand is abrasive and dulls mowers instantly).

Walkers typically mowing 10 - 14 days after aerification.

Eliminate Primo (turf growth retardant) to insure hole recovery.

At Brackett's Crossing we fertilize greens five days prior to aerifying to insure turf growing and to help aid in hole closing.

Heavy watering to set sand into the turf canopy (Mother Nature rain increases this process).

Speed at which sand sets into turf canopy determines when mowers can mow for first couple of times. If we mow early, this will defeat the purpose of sanding the greens.

If we don't apply sand at all, we can mow greens without interruption (not desired).

Sanding greens maintains soil structure (prevents layering), playability (smoother greens), reduces organic matter build-up (decaying root zone material), reduces thatch build-up (decaying growth crowns).

Now we have to weigh previous scenarios against playable green surface for the golfers.

Biggest Challenge

Biggest challenge we have to deal with is how much to water, when to mow for first time, when to mow with walkers, keeping in mind not to remove too much sand, when to re-apply Primo, etc.

Typically aerification procedures subside from 14 days to 21 days. This is determined by size of holes, depth of holes, how much sand applied, proper irrigation to set sand, temperatures.

Weather conditions and time of year have effects on recovery time with aerification hole healing.

Goal is to fill all holes on greens, difficult to achieve (typically less than 2% left unfilled).

If we add more sand to greens prior to first mow, it just prolongs our first mow.

Typically between days 14-21 we are mowing with walkers, apply Primo and working towards our weekly green maintenance program.

Light top-dress, followed by rolling (Mondays).

Rolling greens total of three times per week, otherwise damaging to turf.

Applying Primo every two weeks (consistency of turf growth)

Brush dragging, spiking or needle tine greens as needed until next aerification.

To sum up aerification, extremely valuable to the quality of turf, yet disruptive to play for couple of weeks and not fun for staff during aerification.

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