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Aerification is a crucial part of maintaining healthy turfgrass on golf courses. As thatch accumulates, the root zone receives less oxygen, which stresses the turf. While some courses are more prone to thatch accumulation, all courses perform cultural practices to control excessive thatch.

To alleviate thatch buildup, superintendents aerate using spikes or tines to remove thatch and allow for improved air movement in the soil. Puncturing soil or removing soil plugs helps prevent the roots from suffocating by circulating oxygen and nutrients.

On average, turfgrass recovery requires more than a week after spiking, and two to three weeks after core aerification. Minimizing that recovery time so that turfgrass playability is back to normal is a priority for both superintendents and players.

Root volume and quality is vital to the turf's health, as well as its aesthetic appearance. Researchers and superintendents are discovering that managing disease with the broad-spectrum active ingredient pyraclostrobin provides additional physiological plant health benefits that extend beyond disease control. These pyraclostrobin-based products are known as Intrinsic™ brand fungicides from BASF and include Honor® Intrinsic brand fungicide and Insignia® SC Intrinsic brand fungicide. Research indicates that the improved turfgrass effects delivered by these products include:

- » Increased plant efficiency via more efficient photosynthesis.
- » Better use of nitrogen.
- » Increased plant tolerance to stress through a decrease in ethylene production.
- » Increased antioxidant activity.

Superintendents managing disease with pyraclostrobin-based fungicides are experiencing thicker more voluminous turfgrass roots. When applied 2-7 days prior to aeration, and at the high rates of both Honor Intrinsic and Insignia Intrinsic, superintendents are also experiencing more rapid turf recovery.

In addition to improved aerification recovery times, superintendents using Intrinsic brand fungicides are also experiencing increased tolerance to turfgrass stresses, such as heat, drought, and cold, compared to untreated specimens. These stress tolerance attributes are in some cases helping superintendents decrease their dependency on irrigation and lower fertilizer and chemical inputs used to manage their turfgrass.

While aerification has become a necessary inconvenience for turfgrass professionals and golfers, Intrinsic brand fungicides based on the active ingredient pyraclostrobin, are helping turfgrass bounce back healthier

Summary:

Aerification improves long-term turfgrass health and playability but creates short-term turfgrass stresses and player inconveniences. Some superintendents synchronizing Intrinsic™ brand fungicides that contain the active ingredient pyraclostrobin, get broad-spectrum disease control and experience faster turf recovery after aerification. And faster.

Always Read and Follow Label Directions.