

Double Aeration Doesn't Mean Double Trouble

By Brian Whitlark, agronomist, West Region

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Traditionally, golf courses in the desert southwest aerate bermudagrass putting greens two or three times during the summer season. Golfers often comment that by the time greens heal from the first aeration – i.e., achieve acceptable surface smoothness and speed – it is time for the second aeration. Furthermore, some courses offer discount green fees following aeration. Therefore, a growing trend is to combine multiple aerations into one event – often conducted in mid-July when bermudagrass growth is optimum and the fewest rounds of golf are being played.



Combining multiple aeration events is gaining popularity among golf course superintendents, golf shop staff and golfers alike.

The technique of combining aeration events varies from course to course. Many aerate with 5/8-inch outside diameter tines – with depths varying from 3 to 6 inches – on 1.5 x 2-inch spacing followed by a second aeration that is offset 30 to 40 degrees. Often, the second aeration utilizes the same tine size and the same or wider spacing – e.g., 2 x 2-inch spacing – but slightly shallower depths. Although conducting multiple aerations takes more time, the time it takes putting surfaces to heal following combined aeration events generally is the same as recovering from a single aeration. Don't believe it? [Watch the video](#) to see for yourself.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming field day at The University of California, Riverside:

UCR Turfgrass & Landscape Research Field Day

UC Riverside Turfgrass Field Station

1060 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Riverside, California 92521

Thursday Sept. 17, 2015

West Region Agronomists:

Patrick J. Gross, regional director – pgross@usga.org

Larry W. Gilhuly, agronomist – lgilhuly@usga.org

Brian S. Whitlark, agronomist – bwhitlark@usga.org

Blake Meentemeyer, agronomist – bmeentemeyer@usga.org

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