



Chicago Welcomes the 22nd National Turf Conference

SITE OF 22ND NATIONAL TURF CONFERENCE AND SHOW

JANUARY 29, 30, 31 AND FEBRUARY 1, 2, 1951

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IS THE FALL PERIOD A PROPER TIME FOR AERIFICATION

Fall is the natural time for the grass root system to develop. Improvements of the soil nutrient supply and the physical condition of the soil are very valuable during the fall period when Nature is cooperating toward root development. Fall seeding is favored by most, and good results are obtained by aerifying to prepare a seedbed. If crabgrass has been a problem, after chemical treatments to remove crabgrass, aerification to improve soil condition is one of the measures which should be carried out to encourage the spread of the turf grasses. The importance of aerification during the fall should not be overlooked.

In the first place, aerification opens up the soil so fertilizer and fall rains can penetrate to the root zone. This encourages the roots to grow deeper. And it prevents wasteful runoff of water and plant foods. More efficient use of fertilizer and water are two beneficial results of fall aerification.

Again and again it has been seen that roots grow when they have air. Vigorous root growth in Aerifier holes shows this clearly. Air in the soil is as important as plant food and water, to encourage root growth. Without air, plants cannot take up food and water. Grass wilts in saturated soil because there is so little air that the roots cannot take up the water, even though an excessive amount of water is present.

In order to open up the soil to permit the entry of plant food, water and air, most greenkeeping superintendents report that fairways should be aerified at least twice, at deep cultivation depth.

Aerification is also helpful to prepare a seedbed in existing turf. It has been observed many times that grass becomes established in Aerifier holes. So the more holes, the more uniformly good will be the stand of grass. For the purpose of preparing a seedbed with the Aerifier, the deep cultivations to encourage root growth are followed by several additional aerifications at shallower depth. This provides plenty of soil for the seedbed. Aerification at shallow-depth can be done quite rapidly. Thatch and hard surface soil should be thoroughly broken up so seedlings can come in contact with soil. Soil brought to the surface is best crumbled with a wire mat, to prepare a fine, firm seedbed. Incidentally, the use of a wire mat to break up soil on the surface also helps to get fertilizer down into the soles.

The 3/4" diameter spoons recently developed for the Aerifier will be useful for doing a thorough job of aerification, with less disturbance to the surface than would be caused with the one inch spoons. Flexi-press is also going to provide improved aerification this year. Improvements on the machinery plus experience gained by the users will make for more satisfactory aerification this year than there was last year or the year before.

Greens as well as fairways and tees benefit by fall aerification. When soil in greens is very poor, inch or

3/4" diameter spoons may be preferred to remove cores of existing soil so new materials can be worked down into the holes. If soil is essentially good, but compacted, then the half-inch spoons probably will suffice to loosen it. Some greenkeeping superintendents report very good results from aerifying late in the season (November) and not top-dressing, but just leaving the holes open over the winter. The winter freezing and thawing help along the process of loosening the soil.

—By TOM MASCARO.

GROTTI AND SELLERS FINISH IN A DEAD HEAT IN ANNUAL SUPT. AND PRO TOURNAMENT

Dom Grotti and John Sellers paired with their club Pros, Joe Palleti and Jimmy Hines, tied for first place in the annual superintendents and golf professional tournament held at St. Andrews Golf Club of September 11th. Other Superintendents and Pros finishing well up in front of the 56 entries were:

Melvin Warnecke	
Bert MontessorIdiewild C. C.
Emil Mashie	
George SmithOntwensia C. C.
Bob Duguid	
Johnny RevolvaEvanston C. C.
Ray Didier	
Bill GordonTam O'Shanter C. C.

TELEVISION WINNERS

Julius Buchen, Chesterfield G. C.—Crosley TV Console model.

Warren Roseman, Roseman Tractor Co., Crosley TV Table model.

GREENKEEPING-SUPT. WANTED

For specific information contact the Freeport Country Club, Freeport, Illinois.



"The success of our Association's responsibilities depends greatly on the sincere effort and activity of its committees throughout the year. A problem which has recently confronted the management of the bulletin, is the lack of interesting news contribution by its supporting members at large. It is hoped that TOMORROW'S NEWS will mean the continued success of the publication, THE BULL SHEET."

Editor.

COMMON ARBORICULTURAL TERMS

N-P-K—Chemical symbols for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, the chief ingredients of complete fertilizers.

pH—A symbol for reaction scale by which acidity and alkalinity can be expressed. A pH of 7.0 indicates neutrality, higher values alkalinity and lower values acidity. A symbol used in expressing degrees of differences in acidity and alkalinity.

TOXIC—Poisonous, not always fatal.

HOST—The plant or animal upon which some other plant or animal lives.

Arborist News.

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