

SOME THOUGHTS ON HOLLOW CORE AERIFYING OF GREENS

My first suggestion to anyone considering aerifying greens is to ask yourself, why am I aerifying?

So many times I have seen greens aerified during the heart of the golfing season. The greens were aerified, the cores removed, and the holes left open. When the golfers putted the ball it surely did act peculiarly. It hopped along like a bunny rabbit and at times veered to the right or left. It really is an amusing sight to watch the ball hopping and zig-zagging. Golfers do have a good sense of humor but they draw the line when anything contributes to higher scores.

Therefore may I be so bold as to say that it is not necessary to aerify a green, remove the cores and leave the holes open for any length of time. If coring is done for the purpose of removing thatch then topdress immediately with a mixture of materials that you want to incorporate into the green. If coring is done to correct an existing condition of isolated dry areas then topdress with a mixture of materials that will allow water to percolate through the surface more readily. If coring is done to improve surface water drainage then topdress with a material that will absorb moisture.

Whatever the reason for aerifying, after the cores have been removed topdress as soon as possible with materials that will help correct any particular problem that may exist on the putting surface. By immediately filling the cored holes you will restore a smooth putting surface and the turf will knit over the holes quickly preventing infiltration of poa annua into the bent grasses. You will also have the undying gratitude of the golfing membership.

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