

Top-dresser turned overseeder

With a few minor modifications and two special covers, the Turfco F-12 Top Dresser will overseed fairways, repair areas, tees and greens with a tow-behind top dresser. As an overseeder, the modified top dresser requires 75 percent less labor than broadcast spreaders, according to company literature. The F-12 spot seeds in a single morning what it takes a push-type broadcast spreader two days to accomplish.

The ability to use the Turfco F-12 top dresser as an overseeder is made possible by its patented chevron belt. It allows the user to apply a wide variety of materials — in top-dressing mixtures of sand, peat, mosses and humus as well as crumb rubber and calcine clays. Turfco discovered the top dresser could also apply grass seed.

The F-12 handles all ryegrass blends and other large seed grasses used for overseeding. These seeds are used predominantly in Southern parts of the country and intermittently in the North. The F-12 can spread rye seed at a minimum rate 7 pounds per 1,000 square feet or 300 pounds per acre.

The F-12 does not apply very

small seeds at lower rates.

Turfco developed a special-fitting hopper cover to prevent lightweight grass seed from blowing out of the hopper. To prevent wind drift during overseeding, a wind screen covers the rear panel and seeding zone from the hopper to a few inches above the turf. A hand-controlled clutch actuator lets the operator start and stop overseeding without ever getting off the seat of the tractor.

For more information call Turfco at 612-785-1000.

CIRCLE #307

Verti-Drain offers aeration alternative: Narrow-needle tines

Verti-Drain, developer of a diverse line of soil aeration systems, has introduced a series of multi-tine aluminum holders that utilize narrow needle tines for effective golf course and sports field aeration during the hot, high-traffic summer months. The new equipment, with tines divided into two rows, enables turf professionals to aerate faster with the same amount of holes per square foot, or at the same ground speed with more holes per square foot.

The solid needle tines (each 5/16 of an inch by 9-1/4 inches) used in Verti-Drain's multi-tine heads can penetrate the soil and deliver air and other nutrients to the roots up to a depth of

7 inches with virtually no surface disruption. Follow-up topdressing isn't necessary. Multi-tine heads developed for the Verti-Drain 005.120 Model (7 inch by 2 inch by 1-3/16 inch) incorporate 7 needle tines and offers two 3/4-inch by 2-3/16-inch adapters which fit directly into the 3/4-inch holes of the tine holder. A separate multi-tine holder for the Verti-Drain 105.145 Model (8 3/4 inch by 2 inch by 1-3/16 inch) fits 8 needle tines symmetrically into two rows. It also comes with two adapters.

For more information, contact Verti-Drain at 717-288-9360.

CIRCLE #306

THIS FALL... THINK SPRING!

- An excellent dormant feed fertilizer that provides a deep green spring color
- Beneficial in applications after aeration or prior to seeding and sodding to promote turf growth and recovery
- Minimal leaching and volatilization for use near sensitive wetlands or waterways
- An 85% slow-release natural and organic fertilizer which promotes excellent color and density without excessive growth



Also available in 10-2-8, 10-3-3, and 7-1-14



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Compost test

Continued from previous page

on five acres of tees and fairways. "We'll keep it off the greens because compost could interfere with soil mechanics, air and water movement," he said.

The major problem with compost is its variability, Dinelli said. Since it contains everything from sticks to leaves to grass clippings, compost can vary greatly in terms of carbon/nitrogen ratio, ash content, pH and other nutrients. To help minimize any variations, Dinelli will purchase all his compost from a local supplier, Greencycle. The cost should run between \$7-14 per cubic yard.

"You can make compost on site, but there is really quite a science to it if you want to do it right," Dinelli said. "Compost suppliers have expensive tub grinders and windrow equipment. They constantly monitor their materials so they can turn them at the proper time."

Dinelli will transport the compost to the course site where he plans to incorporate the compost with a bacillus bacteria in early October. He will top dress the material into the specified areas in early November, "just about the time the turf goes dormant," he said.

"We'll remove the top dressing or work it into the soil in the spring," he added. "It will be a heavy top dressing and the leaf blades have to be visible. There's no smell. And it won't interfere with play since it won't be on the greens. Besides, we get very little off-season play."

"I'll let you know how it works out next spring."