

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Serving the Business of Golf Course Management

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On the mark

I read John Walsh's article about hiring practices in the golf industry ("The art of hiring," February issue, page 34). Excellent! I'm a golf course owner that has agonized about hiring decisions more hours than I can count. I've been helping a gentleman in my area who has set up a golf course recruiting company. He has 10 years of experience with employee recruitment and placement in the IT sector, and he's now focusing on golf. His Web site is www.oncourserecruiting.com.

SAM SHUMATE

Principal
The Sulstone Group
Charlotte, N.C.

Making holes

I read Kevin Ross' article, "Creative cultural practices," in the January issue (page 58). I'm interested in the aerifying pictures. What size, type, spacing and equipment were used to produce the holes that close together in which a quarter could touch four holes? Also, can a green withstand topdressing equipment to fill the holes without excessive rutting?

I'm interested in trying to achieve a higher surface area removal/impacted than I currently have. I prefer to do it with core aerification than with verticutting because it's hard to fill the grooves with sand. Please share any more information that might help me out.

TROY FINK

Woods Course superintendent
Kingsmill Resort
Williamsburg, Va.

Ross' response follows:

The tine in the photo is called an ultra tine. It measures 0.625 inches outside diameter and a 0.390 inches inside diameter when new. The wear on that tine is about 0.012 inches per 5,000 square foot green. So after nine greens, it measures 0.5 inches inside diameter. The photo shows a spacing of 1 inch by 1 inch using a GreenCare CoreMaster aerifier. A quarter is almost 1 inch in diameter, so it works well in the photo.

Your topdressing question is a tricky one to answer. Depending on your operation, I like to pick up the cores by hand. This is labor intensive, but it creates a better product. The health and stability of your green surface will determine whether it can withstand the mechanical equipment. Most USGA greens become too soft after this type of aerification. In this case, I recommend a light rolling with

a greens roller after the cores are removed, then topdressing with a mechanical topdresser. To work the sand in, I strongly suggest not dragging it in with a utility vehicle and brush. I prefer Fly-mo's (no strings) and a good team of hand brooms. This causes much less damage and results in a superior product. This also is more labor intensive, but for a critical operation such as this, well worth it.

As far as achieving a higher SARI, that might depend on your aerification equipment. If you can get a 1-inch-by-1-inch spacing, that will help out the most. At present, a 0.400-inch inside diameter (when new) is about as big as you can get, but manufacturers are looking at making bigger ones available. A tine of 0.400 inches ID will equate to 12.5 percent SARI when new on a 1-inch-by-1-inch spacing.

If you were at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, you might have noticed that Graden has a new machine that fills the dethatched grooves as you perform the operation. It might be something to keep an eye on.

A great spokesman

Nice interview with Ray Davies ("The right fit," January issue, page 30). Mr. Davies would make a great spokesman for the entire golf course management company industry. In very concise replies Mr. Davies spoke volumes. I would encourage everyone to take the time to reread the article line by line with extra time to ponder what was said. Then compare it to their own operations, regardless of the type of club or management situation. I will make a conscious effort to never again generalize about the entire golf course management company industry. I'm also confident that superintendents enjoy working for Mr. Davies.

BOB TAEGER, CGCS

Village Country Club
Lompoc, Calif.

Corrections

- The photo credit for the cover of the February issue, the fifth hole of the Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course, goes to Joel Riner/Quicksilver Studios.
- The photo credits for the pictures of Bill Kubly in the February issue on pages 27 and 28 go to Mark Wangerin.
- The liquid formulation of Heritage, Heritage TL, is labeled for use on turf, not on ornamental plants. The information was incorrect in our February issue on page 64. GCN

Readers with comments are invited to write to:

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Letters might be edited for space or clarity.