

TIME TO AERATE

IT'S WORK BUT IT'S WORTH IT

BY CURT HARLER AND SETH JONES

1. ProCore SR

The TORO ProCore SR Series of deep-tine aerators works to alleviate subsurface soil compaction on greens, fairways and other areas. The eight models in the ProCore SR Series are available in widths from 48 to 75 inches wide and depths up to 16 inches. They have hydraulic remote depth adjustment, which allows the operator to change depths without getting off the tractor. A wide range of solid and coring tines are available for specific aeration applications. Models 864 and 1298 have precision-balanced coring heads to eliminate hopping, rocking and unnecessary vibration. With its 64-inch coring width, the 864 can aerate 1.5 acres per hour. The 1298 can do 2.3 acres per hour with its 98-inch coring width. Available in threepoint mount and PTO drive. toro.com

2. Aercore 2000

The Aercore 2000 has a full 80-inch coring swath. Designed to produce good quality coring holes up to four inches deep, this JOHN DEERE unit can cover 100,066 square feet per hour. Its heavy-duty frame, tine rams and adjustable hole spacing makes this aerator durable and versatile. Operators have a choice of two coring patterns — a 2.4-inch pattern or a 3.2-inch pattern, depending on the speed of movement. Flexilink supporting arm keeps tines perpendicular to the ground longer for producing up to 1,200,800 high-quality holes per hour. There are six tine options to choose from. Johndeere.com

3. Greensaire 24

JACOBSEN says its Greensaire 24 walk-behind aerator gives superintendents "unparalleled core hole quality"

TIPS FROM GEORGE STARK

MECHANIC // Country Club of Orlando

- Use the carbide-tipped tines, they last longer!
- It all comes down to preparation. Make sure everything is greased and oiled and everything is gone over with a fine-toothed comb before you send that aerator out. It'll save you time in the long run.

RELIEVING COMPACTION, removing thatch and getting the root zone some much-needed oxygen are just a few reasons crews are out there running aerators across the country. It takes long hours and hard work, but admit it: the sound of an aerator pounding the ground is the sound of progress.

which promotes faster turf healing - allowing play to resume earlier. The unit's maneuverability allows for tight turns on undulated turf without causing undue damage. Its narrow platform creates clean and consistent aeration hole depths even on undulations and varying terrains. The core head follows contours of the surface, ensuring tines are in position to create clean, quality holes every time. Jacobsen.com

4. PL72

The **WOODS** core aerator line comes in 48-, 60- and 72-inch models. The PL 60 has 12 plugger wheels and 96 spoons. It penetrates to 4.5-inch depth. The PL72 professional grade aerator is 78.15 inches wide and has a 4.5-inch penetration. Each comes with 96 one-eighth inch thick, three-guarterinch case hardened steel spoons. It requires a Cat 1 hitch and has an operating weight of 561 pounds. Woodsequipment.com/ landscapeEquipment.aspx

5. Coring Shaft

FIRST PRODUCT'S Coring Shaft is a non-PTO powered, 3-point hitch pull-behind. It features a three-quarter inch core diameter and pulls five holes per square foot. Widths of 40, 60 and 80 inches are available. It fits into all First Products UA models. With five optional shafts and seed box option, the Universal Shaft System Frame can be used in a wide range of applications. Changing shafts takes an hour, so the machine can be used for renovation projects in the morning and seeding in the afternoon. 1stproducts.com

6. GS-48 T.I.P. Spiker/Seeder

Plant, seed and aerate on one pass with the T.I.P. Spiker/Seeder. This unit assures good seed-to-soil contact while opening the soil up for better drainage, solving dry spots and loosening the soil. The GS-48 is available both in a pull-type and 3-point hitch models, with a manually operated or electric actuated seed box, and with standard hydraulics or an optional 12-volt electric pump available on the pull-behind model. Either unit comes with 1200 replaceable spikes. Optional rear brush also is available. Tipinc.net





