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Q: Give us your reaction to Bob Erdahl's writing about aerification in the last issue of *The Grass Roots*, please.
LACROSSE COUNTY

A: As usual, Bob has done a fine job, first in assembling the survey and then in presenting the results. He did not however, ask the question "Why do you aerify"? I gather from reading the article that once in awhile the question was answered anyway. It seems the main reasons are to ensure quality playing surfaces on *Poa* infested putting greens and to control fairway thatch that seemingly is worsened by going to light weight mowing. Reading between the lines, I perceived that winterkill and the reaction invoked, that of overseeding, is another common reason for aerifying. These are all valid reasons for aerifying.

The article I wrote was perceived by many as an anti-aerification message. That was not my intent. What I attempted to do was two things; call to your attention to what recent research has indicated to be the virtues and limitations of aerification as a cultural practice and to get superintendents to question why they aerify. My message was to aerify when you have a defensible reason to do so and have investigated your particular problems and are reasonably sure aerification is the answer. I stand by that message.

Q: I'm confused by the shakeup in the College of Agriculture I've read about in a number of places, including *The Grass Roots*. Will it affect any of the research, teaching and extension activities in the turf program at the UW?
OZAUKEE COUNTY

A: The shakeup you refer to is what is deemed necessary to overcome a \$3 million plus budget deficit in the College. As long as our turf group stays intact, there should be no reductions in our research, teaching and extension efforts. Should one of us leave for any reason, the position would certainly not be filled for the next three years. After three years, the position might be filled, but only if the College Administration became convinced that the position has high priority in the College.

Q: A few years ago we briefly thought about composting plant debris from our golf course — leaves, grass clippings and the like. It didn't get past the talking stage, however; the benefits just didn't match up with the costs. Now, the clubhouse manager wants to compost wastes and leftovers from his restaurant operation. He asked about the opportunity to do that along with compostable material from our golf course operation. His disposal costs are high and he estimates 2/3 of his wastes are compostable. Can coffee grounds and table leftovers be composted with bentgrass clippings and oak leaves? What do you think about this cooperative effort?
MILWAUKEE COUNTY

A: Wastes from the restaurant and the golf course can be composted together. There are, however, two things that have to be kept in mind. One is that the restaurant wastes **must not** contain any meat scraps or animal fats. When placed in the urban compost pile, these materials do a couple of naughty things; they serve as breeding sites for flies and attract some neat vermin such as skunks, rats, mice and raccoons. Because you'd be using bentgrass clippings, you have to be prepared to daily blend and add to the compost pile equal volumes of dry leaves and fresh plant material. This so-called cooperative venture would have to be very cooperative. There'd have to be a sworn statement from the restaurant as to the composition of their wastes

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