

# University of Minnesota Turf Talk

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**I was curious as to how many of you are spiking your greens on a regular basis?** Timing, equipment, depth etc. I'm just doing some thinking about my aerification program. Oh oh, there I go thinking outside the box again! – *Jack MacKenzie, North Oaks Golf Club*

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Funny, I too, have been thinking outside the box. Actually, I was having a discussion earlier this winter with my young assistant, on things I did when I first got into the business, and spiking was one of them. I am contemplating having my mechanic build a set for our Greensking. I am thinking to utilize this equipment as I do with everything in life, enjoy in moderation.

Great topic. Hope we get some feedback. Speaking of other old practices, does anyone still brush their greens? – *Kevin*

*Clunis CGCS, Tanners Brook GC*

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We returned to spiking greens last summer. We used our Toro Sandpro with a spiker attachment. The spikes were well worn and did not penetrate as deep as we would have like so we are replacing them this winter. We spiked only three times. Once in May, July and September. With the sandpro it does take some extra time and we spike in two directions. The spiking in July was critical. We should have better results this next year with the new spikes.

**How many guys still verticut?** We do not have a set of verticutters but we do have groomers for our triplex reels. We adjusted the groomers according to our needs, some times double grooming the greens. First we broomed, groomed 2x, then topdressed. We did adjust our

aggressiveness depending on the weather conditions and growth of the turf. We did not broom or groom in July. We resumed this practice in late August.

The brooming before the grooming was critical to removing more leaf tissue and the second grooming actually removed more leaf tissue than the first cut.

Combining all of these practices led to what I felt was smoother more consistent greens. – *Jeff Johnson, The Minikahda Club*

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We did spike last year - monthly, using the Sand Pro also. Brush occasionally, but lightly as a supplement when verticutting is too aggressive.

Last season we ended up settling into a routine of scheduling our practice of verticutting and topdressing around a needed watering of greens. Half of the prescribed

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