

## Hand Plugging Tool For Turfgrass

Localized dry spots on golf greens and failure of rainwater to soak into lawn soils are familiar turfgrass management problems. These problems are too important to neglect, but not large enough to justify renovation, which involves the purchase or rental of larger pieces of equipment. Now there is a hand plugging tool available for opening up the turf and allowing air and water to enter.

The plugger is light and easy to use —

The unit consists of standard 3-inch aerator tines slipped into bushings which are screwed to a 2-inch diameter steel housing. The housing is 10 to 15 inches long depending on the number of aerator tines on the unit. A piece of 3/4-inch diameter galvanized pipe is attached to the housing and capped with a handle at a convenient height for operation. The tool is produced with 4, 5, or 6 aerator tines per unit. It can be used to remove soil cores by either stepping on the housing and forcing the coring tines into the soil or by stabbing the unit into the soil. This is especially effective if it is necessary to remove any relatively shallow cores of 3/4-inch to 1-inch depth. In either case, it is important to thoroughly moisten the soil before starting the aerification job.

### Turfgrass Growth Improved By Plugging

Golf greens with localized dry spots on crowned areas where irrigation water or rain runs off rather than into the soil are good examples of places where the hand plugger will be useful. There are many places where aerification is

needed, but the use of large equipment is not justified. Other examples are heavy wear areas on baseball diamonds or in front of field hockey or lacrosse goals where compaction is frequently experienced and the soil oxygen so essential for good root growth is in short supply. Lawns with steep slopes or terraces often shed the rain from summer showers. Removal of soil plugs with the hand plugger will help to trap some of this water.

A simple procedure to follow:

1. Identify problem areas where use of the plugger will improve turfgrass growth.
2. Mow grass as short as possible and remove clippings (only if reseeding is planned.)
3. Thoroughly irrigate to soften soil in areas to be plugged.
4. Remove soil cores. As cores collect in the housing of the plugger, place them in a pail as shown in the photo.
5. On fine turf, topdress with an appropriate soil mixture. On lawns, collection of cores and topdressing may not be necessary.
6. Repeat the coring treatment as needed.

For more information, from the source, on the Turfgrass Hand Tool Plugger contact:

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