

Aeration Strategies to Reduce Compaction

continued from page 14

period and result in healthier turf the following year.

To increase the effectiveness of aeration throughout the soil profile, use a deep aeration procedure within two weeks of shallow depth aeration.

Consider Budget Constraints

With ever-tightening budgets, the ideal aeration program may not be practical. When lack of equipment, personnel or funding limit aeration options, concentrate resources where they will provide the greatest benefits. For example, make more aeration passes between the hashmarks and bench areas of a football field than the rest of the field. Schedule regular aeration of park system playground areas and sports fields, and use aeration as required to avoid turf decline in lesser used areas.

Develop a reciprocal relationship with other turf professionals, arranging joint purchases of equipment or swapping existing equipment. Though golf courses, school systems, park systems, municipalities and large commercial properties will have similar needs, different timing of equipment use may make such arrangements workable.

As with all sports turf maintenance practices, constant monitoring is necessary to evaluate the success of the program throughout the year and from year to year. Because quantifying aeration results is difficult, detailed record-keeping will be needed. Record the type and timing of aeration procedures. Since wet soils compact more quickly than dry ones, note irrigation and rainfall in relation to field use. Also, keep records of daily temperature ranges, the frequency of games and practices on each field and the times they take place, fertilization schedules, overseeding and topdressing procedures, and any other pertinent activities.

Note the effect of procedures on turf health, including any reductions in irrigation, fertilization, weed, insect and disease control. Budgeting entities are more willing to consider funding when they can see documented results.

Be Flexible

Develop a workable cultivation program that meets field needs and your budget, but remember that even the best-prepared plans must be modified at times. Know what options are available and be flexible enough to adjust the plan to meet changing conditions and turf needs.

STM

Your Certification Committee Report

Progress continues on STMA's Certification Program. The Certification Committee met on June 6, 1998. Following are key details of the meeting.

The Certification Committee reviewed the list of competencies already compiled by committee members and fine-tuned the format for presenting this material. Assignments were made within the committee to develop specific competencies to that format and develop additional competencies where needed to complete the list.

The committee reached consensus on specific issues of recommendation to be presented to the board.

Committee members are developing a glossary of terms and a list of references of background and study materials. Educational program information continues to be channeled to the review sub-committee to determine if and how they fit into the overall certification program and the point allocations for them.

Questions? Comments? Please contact Headquarters.

The makers of **KLAWOG®** proudly introduce:
The **Klacon™** Soil Conditioning System.



The **Klacon™** family of products are specifically designed to work together for optimal playing field conditions. **Klacon™** combats compaction, enhances turf drainage, increases soil oxygenation, promotes safe play, reduces bad hops, shortens rain delays, has excellent dust control, and gives you a choice of colors (red or gray). **Klacon™ GRAND SLAM** is specially formulated with a smaller granular size for safety, truer bounce, and consistency. **Zapitdri™** eliminates puddles and standing water on sports fields FAST!!

For more information on **Klacon™** and other **KLAWOG®** products call **330-745-9322** for your nearest distributor.

WESSCO, INC. P.O. Box 4025 Copley, OH 44321-0025