

## Tine design improves aerification

by Tim Taagen



The CoreMaster 12's quadratine design improves aeration pattern efficiency and maintains a 3½-inch penetration depth with each pattern.

The principles of aggressive aerification are widely accepted throughout the turf management field. They are, in fact, becoming more important to the entire grass-growing industry.

At Cherry Hills Country Club in Englewood, Colo., we see it as among our most important agronomic programs.

In our pursuit of effective and efficient operations, we have found the CoreMaster from GreenCare International best accomplishes our goals: increased speed and effectiveness.

The CoreMaster 12 is a unique piece of equipment because the spacing of the tines (1x2; 2x2; 2x3; 2x5 inches) is easily changeable—yet when going from one to another, the approximate three-and-a-half inch aeration depth does not deviate greatly. Variables such as height of grass, soil structure and size of tines account for slight changes in penetration.

The unique thing here is that the speed is more than two times faster than

other popular greens aerators, which makes this an extremely effective fairway aerifier as well. At Cherry Hills, we can do 28 fairway acres with three machines in five days, including cleanup.

### Not perfect

Of course, every cloud has a silver lining.

The one problem with the CoreMaster stemmed from the fact that there was no flotation device in the original design. Only an extremely experienced operator could use it on the flattest of surfaces without the risk of tearing large areas of turf.

We turned to our mechanic for a solution. He developed a flotation device that will accommodate any undulations regardless of the severity.

The best part is that any crew member can be trained in 10 minutes to operate the aerifier safely and with no fear of turf damage.

According to Dale Hansen, turf

consultant and vice president of marketing for GreenCare, the company has installed an "undulation suspension system" which became available in October. "It solves any problems of tearing the surface," Hansen says.

The company has also added a CoreCollector attachment which collects cores during aeration and dumps them automatically when the CoreMaster 12 is raised out of the turf. When the CoreMaster is lowered again, the collector resets automatically.

In a business that is becoming more mindful of sound agronomic practices, it is very important that people be aware of every available tool.

In our opinion, the CoreMaster, with its variable spacing, three-and-a-half inch depth and the flotation device, makes it the best available unit on the market today.

Taagen is the assistant superintendent at Cherry Hills.