



The Grasshopper Aera-vator unit is hydraulically controlled.



Toro's Hydroject 4000 has a portable, 200-gallon water supply.



◀ John Deere Aercore delivers a 4-inch core.

TURFGRASS AERATORS

Soil compaction is a common turfgrass management problem. Foot traffic, sporting events, or the weight of heavy equipment will soon squeeze soils together to deprive turfgrass roots of oxygen. Wet soil is especially prone to compaction.

Signs of compaction include bare spots, standing water, and isolated dry or muddy patches.

Aeration is an important and basic turf care service that can bring extra revenue to a lawn care company, and improve the vigor and play of athletic fields and golf course turf.

Frequent aeration:

- ▶ reduces thatch build-up,
- ▶ improves water infiltration,
- ▶ improves irrigation efficiency,
- ▶ improves fertilizer efficiency, and
- ▶ helps reduce the need for pesticides.

Kinds of aeration

Closed spoons remove a core from the turf. This is the most commonly-accepted form of aeration.

Open spoons penetrate the soil without making cores. This is a less disruptive treatment, and eliminates core clean-up, if that is important to the job.

Slicer blades make thin slices in the soil, about three to four inches deep, depending on soil conditions. This is a more temporary solution, since the openings tend to close up within a few days, limiting the effect. The advantage of slicing is that it is fast and minimizes turf disruption.

To sell it

Here are some ways to tell customers about aeration:

1. **Give them** a flyer that explains the cost offset by savings on other turf additives and water.
2. **Inspect** for obvious compaction problems, such as isolated dry spots, weak turf

Aerway
(519) 863-3414
Circle No. 250

Twenty-nine models, including 3-point hitch and tow-behind hydraulic lift units, four to eight inches in width. For golf courses, a ground-drive, non-coring green aerator penetrates six inches.

Shattertine aerators for sports fields and golf course fairways penetrate up to seven inches deep, and cause a sideways soil shattering effect beneath the surface, with little surface disruption.

BlueBird International
(303) 781-4458
Circle No. 251

The operator can pre-set the walk-behind unit's rear wheels to control depth of tine penetration,



machine stability and maneuverability. V-belt to jack shaft primary drive. Secondary drive is a #40 permanent lube roller chain to tine assembly and front wheel. Front wheels are 10x6 inches semi-pneumatic with sealed ball bearings on shaft. Rear wheels are 8x2-inch solid rubber molded on cast wheels. Tines are 3/4-inch closed spoon. Aerates up to 3 inches, with a 17 1/2-inch swath.

plants or standing water.

3. Take a soil profile sample. A thin soil slice made with two cuts of a spade is good if you don't have a soil sampler. Look for hard soil, high clay content, low water infiltration rate, black layer, poor rooting and waterlogging.

4. Show the customer what you find. Explain how regular aeration will help solve

Classen Manufacturing
(402) 371-2294
Circle No. 252

TA-26 features a 4-cycle, 4 hp Honda O.H.V. engine with 6:1 gear reduction box. Compact enough to fit through a 42-inch gate with the rear wheels attached, but wheels remove easily to a 36-inch width. Sealed ball bearings. Stable on sloped areas. 65 lb. weight bar. Pro-



tection guard keeps cores away from chain. 375 pounds.

John Deere
(919) 850-0123
Circle No. 253

New Aercore aerators are tractor-mounted, deliver a true 4-inch core at spacings between 2.4 x 2.0 inches and 3.2 x 5.0 inches. Aercore 1000 produces 600,000 holes per hour at a coring swath of 37 1/2 inches. Model 1500 can produce 900,000 holes per hour at a coring swath of 57.5 inches. Standard "flexi-link" supporting arm on both the Aercore 1000 and 1500 to keep tines perpendicular to the turf surface longer.

the problem. Aeration will help restore poor lawns and turf. Regular aeration will keep it looking good.

Aeration is most effective when done in spring and fall. For heavily-used turf, more frequent aeration—once every four to six weeks through the growing season—is ideal.

—Thanks to the Grasshopper Co. and Millcreek Manufacturing for supporting information.

Grasshopper Company
(316) 345-8621
Circle No. 254

AERA-vator attachment goes on Grasshopper zero-radius outfront mowers for aerating closely around trees, flower beds and other landscaping. Hydraulic lift that locks into a raised position, then lowers using a foot-operated release. PTO drive vibrates the tines rapidly in an oscillating motion for good penetration. Extent to which soil is loosened varies by speed of the power unit.

Gravely
(910) 777-1122
Circle No. 255

The new Pro Aire-27 includes hydraulic operation that allows you to switch from aeration to transport with the touch of a lever. A low center of gravity allows for more stability on hills and slopes. Spring-loaded rear caster wheels allow you to aerate while making gradual turns.

An automatic weight transfer system keeps the weight and balance where it's needed for transport or aeration. The unit can aerate up to 34,474 sq. ft./hour.

GreenCare International
(714) 842-6003
Circle No. 256

Shattermaster is a tractor-mounted aeration tool that will cover up to 30,000 sq. ft./hr. in best conditions. Aerates to 14 inches. Operates on all model tractors offering at least 18 hp and a 540 PTO. Coremaster model can be fitted with a variety of tine sizes and covers up to 20,000 sq. ft./hr. in ideal conditions.

F.D. Kees
(402) 223-2391
Circle No. 257

Core Pluggers are self-propelled, easily loaded and transported. Foot operated adjustment controls tine depth. Welded stainless steel tines.

Millcreek
(800) 879-6507
Circle No. 258

Mount to commercial upfront mowers via 3-point and front mount; unit fits Excel, Ford, Kubota, John Deere, Walker, Howard Price and Gravely, with 3-point hitch standard equipment on each. Front-mount models are 42- and 63-inch units; 3-point hitch covers up to 84 inches. Also: free sales-building brochure on how to sell aeration services and an example of a newspaper ad you can use to market the service.

Ransomes America
(800) 228-4444
Circle No. 259

Three-wheel Ryan GA 30 aerator maneuvers easily, and causes minimum soil compaction within a 30-inch swath. Greensaire 24, made for golf greens tees and other fine turf areas that require high-maintenance, covers up to 8000 sq. ft./hour with a 24-inch swath. Lawnaire V is designed for sloped surfaces, and covers a 26-inch swath.

Toro Company
(612) 888-8801
Circle No. 260

Fairway Aerator cuts a swath of 63 inches, follows a tighter coring pattern and cores up to 5 inches deep. Covers 61,000 sq. ft. per hour. Six tines per head is standard; two per head is optional. Hydroject 4000, a pull-behind model to go with the Workman Utility Vehicle, draws water from a 200-gallon tank mounted on the Workman bed.

Turfco
(612) 785-1000
Circle No. 261

Aerator Pro covers 33,280 sq. ft. per hour. Controls conveniently located. Minimal chain maintenance required. Drop-off wheels allow the unit to fit through tight spots. 48 tines for a dense pattern. Rugged

cont. on next page

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The Ryan GA-30 maneuvers easily.

one-piece frame, external drive components, fewer moving parts, industrial-grade engine. Easy to operate and service. $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch tines penetrate 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep.

Turfster International
(810) 632-9200
Circle No. 262

Model H550 drum unit mounts directly to 3-point hitch, and makes

a turning radius as sharp as the tractor itself. Each drum rotates independently to reduce strain on equipment and turf. Hinged tines allow for clean plug removal. Available in two, three four or five drum units, with 36, 60 or 120 tines per drum. Plug collecting is optional. All drums are 12 inches wide, and there is a three inch space between drums. All drums can be equipped with solid or



Turfco's Aerator Pro requires minimal chain maintenance.

screened sides. Spikers available.

Verti-Drain
(717) 288-9360
Circle No. 263

The new model 205.150 penetrates to a maximum soil depth of 16 inches. Compact for easy maneuvering. Working width of 60 inches, similar to the 105.145 model. Creeper not necessary; gearbox provides a better connection to the tractor and a higher speed of the crankshaft. Ideal for football fields, golf courses, municipalities, places where there are narrow entrances.

Way Easy, Inc.
(770) 591-5999
Circle No. 264

Hooker Pro Model 38 Aerator mounts behind large, commercial walk-behind mowers. 38 inches wide, with small curved, hook-like tines which pierce 3 inches deep and hook under soil, to lift and loosen from underneath. Individual catering heads allow zero turning and/or reversing. Stable and easy to handle going up or down hills or crossing the slope. Each tine rotor assembly is independently suspended which allows it to lift over an obstacle while the others continue to work. **LM**

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sq. ft./hr

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operation

PRO AIRE 27

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System

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fatigue

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