



Jacobsen Aero King 9672 Aerator flexes to follow turf contours; has 12 aeration wheels for aerating 12-foot width.



Gandy Models 4972 and 4996 feature dual-wheel aerating heads which independently follow ground contour. Both mount on Category One 3-point hitch.



John Deere's 800 walk-behind Aercore features a heavy-duty frame, tine rams, and adjustable operating speeds.

AERATION

Turf aeration gets water and oxygen to turf roots and reduces thatch.

By CURT HARLER

Aeration allows oxygen, water and nutrients to reach down to the grass roots, which is essential to maintaining a healthy, attractive turf. But in order to do a good job of aeration, there has to be sufficient rainfall during the season to assure the ground can be penetrated by the equipment.

This past year, some areas of the country had almost no rain throughout most of the month of August and into early September. Such conditions make it difficult to get the job done correctly.

Nevertheless, "plugging" the turf is worthwhile. Not only does it help even the lightest rain get down into the soil profile, but it also improves drainage and intensifies the decomposition of thatch. This latter is especially important in operations which have moved away from raking and sweeping and gone to mulching mowers and the "let it lay there" philosophy of handling clippings.

It's a good idea to aerate general lawn areas at least once a year. Better maintained areas should be aerated twice, once in the spring and once in the fall. High-management areas, like golf course greens, can benefit from as many as four aerations per season to reduce compaction and improve

water percolation.

A host of effective equipment is available to the grounds manager, whether the job calls for a smaller machine to work around buildings and trees or an aerator to pull cores from fairways and open grounds around office park campuses.

TURFGRASS AERATORS

AGRI FAB, INC.
217-728-8388
Circle No. 250

Plug-type and spiker Agri-Fab aerators are available from Ben Meadows Co., 800-241-6401, and other distributors. The spike aerators are recommended for soils which aren't severely compacted. The spikes form small holes which improve nutrient flow. For high-traffic, clayey or severely compacted soil, go to the core-type aerator. The unit's spoons actually pull plugs out of the soil and leave larger holes. Firm has 32-inch, 40-inch and 48-inch wide units available in weights ranging from 40 to 95 pounds.

AGRI-METAL
819-398-6883
Circle No. 251

The FA 720 Fairway Aerifier from AgriMetal, Wickham, Quebec, Canada is designed for large jobs. Unit has 12 cast iron wheels mounted on six axles working independently to ground follow contours. When pulled behind a 20 hp tractor, its six-foot working width covers up to 50 acres per day. Eight tines per wheel are standard, with 16 optional. The FA 720 cores to a depth of four inches.

BLUEBIRD INTERNATIONAL
303-781-44458
Circle No. 252

Try the BlueBird 742 to cover lots of grounds with a walk-behind unit. Seven rows of tines across approximately 26 inches of working width cover to 37,100 sq. ft. of aeration work per hour. The outer tines on each side of the BlueBird 742 free-wheel, allowing tight turns without tearing turf. Two 36-pound and four 18-pound removable weights distribute weight to improve stability when aerating hillsides.

FELDMANN ENGINEERING
800-344-0712
Circle No. 253

The TurfVent Series Two core aerators includes 3-point hitch models for tractors with category 0 or 1 hitches. The new TV 32-H, TV 40-H and TV 48-H models have effective coring widths of 32, 40 or 48 inches respectively. Made in Sheboygan Falls, WI, all provide coring density of 45 vents per square yard. For big jobs, look into the original 64-H with a 64-inch coring width. All units are built with galvanized expanded metal weight tray base, heavy steel adapter for precise connection to the hitch, and TurfVentor Ejector Tines for 3.5 inch coring penetration.



Grasshopper Aera-vator unit

GANDY COMPANY
800-443-2476
Circle No. 254

Designed especially for large turf areas, the Gandy Model 4972 and 4996 feature dual-wheel aerating heads which independently follow the ground contour. The 4972 has a six-foot width, 4996 covers eight feet. Both mount on a Category One 3-point hitch. Interchangeable coring spoons or slicing knives to core or slice turf to reduce thatch build-up and compaction. An add-on package to convert the 4972 to the 4996 and optional weight trays also are available from this Owatonna, MN, firm.

GRASSHOPPER COMPANY
316-345-8621
Circle No. 255

Designed for 700 and 900 Series power units, the 40- and 60-inch Aera-vator attachments from Grasshopper, Moundridge, KS, aerate turf and relieve surface compaction without irrigation, leaving no cores to clean up. Unit's oscillating action loosens soil between the tines, creating openings for root growth. The 40-inch Aera-vator can be equipped with either an electric lift or hydraulic deck lift. The 60-inch model requires hydraulic.

JACOBSEN
414-637-6711
Circle No. 256

Two pull-behind aerators feature sectional design which flexes to follow turf contours and provide consistent aeration. The Aero King 9672 from Jacobsen, Racine, WI, has 12 aeration wheels mounted in six separate sections for aerating a 12-foot width. The Model 6448 features eight wheels in four sections, covering a four-foot path. Both have 72-pound tine wheels to assure penetration even in hard-packed soil. Wheels have sealed ball bearings that require no additional lubrication. Choice of tines and blades allows spiking, coring or slicing compacted turf.

JOHN DEERE
Circle No. 257

The John Deere Aercore 800 is designed for golf courses. It features a heavy-duty frame, tine rams, and adjustable operating speeds. Choose from four aerating speeds. Powered by Kohler Command 18-hp engine with electric solenoid start.



The Toro Company offers two professional turf aerators.

LESCO TURF EQUIPMENT
800-321-5325
Circle No. 258

The Aerator-30 from Lesco, Rocky River, OH, is equipped with a 5-hp Briggs & Stratton IC recoil-start engine. Spoons move in an arc-shaped pattern which shatters and displaces the soil and eliminates glazing of the holes. Since only two spoons are driven into the ground at once, the unit gets deep penetration. The Aerator-30 has an overall width of 30 inches and working width of 28 inches. Each of six 10-inch diameter, quarter-inch disks has five spoons, for a total of 30. These 5/8-inch spoons are made of high-carbon heat-treated steel.

PALMOR PRODUCTS
800-872-2822
Circle No. 259

There are three models of Trac-Vac core plug aerators to choose from Palmor Products, Thorntown, IN. The 352 has 32 tines and a 32-inch width, 358 has 48 tines and 48-inch width, and the 364 has 96 tines and 64.9-inch width. Units penetrate up to 2.5 inches. The offset drawbar may be rotated to accommodate varying tractor drawbar heights. The 16-inch frame holds standard blocks, both Cat-1 and Cat-0, with a 3-point hitch kit available.

RYAN LAWN CARE
800-228-4444
Circle No. 260

The Lawnaire 28 aerator is a walk-behind unit which covers up to 24,000 square feet per hour. Powered by an 8-hp 5-cycle OHV Kawasaki single cycle engine, this 400-pound machine has a zero-turning radius provided by a tricycle front wheel designed for easy maneuverability. It cuts up to 12 holes

per square foot and has a working width of 28 inches. Several other units are available from the 19-inch Lawnaire IV to large tow-behind and 3-point hitch units which core 36 inches at a pass.

THE TORO COMPANY
612-888-8801
Circle No. 261

A 4-hp Briggs & Stratton IC engine powers both of the aerators in Toro's Turf Maintenance Equipment line. The Bloomington, MN, firm offers the Toro 244 with four rows of six tines (24 total). Fold-down handle provides easy transport and storage. Lift handles on both sides of the machine make loading easier. The larger 442 Aerator has seven rows of six tines (42 total). Its unique, free-wheeling outer tine design makes it easier to turn and maneuver than competitive units. Removable weights are available for both machines.

TURF-R-ATOR
414-639-2516
Circle No. 262

Get fast, dependable aeration performance with the Turf-R-Ator line, manufactured in Racine, WI. Available as a pull-behind or a 3-point hitch mounted unit, it is built on a 54-inch by 27.5-inch frame. There are 8 slice or spikes on each quarter-inch by 22-inch solid wheel. Each machine has nine wheels on six inch centers. Built for minimum maintenance, these tough machines have nine half-inch ball bearings. They give a good, clean cut with no unnecessary clean-up after the job. **LM**