



Aerating Your Lawn

What is aerating?

Aerating your lawn is the second most important maintenance task for a healthy lawn. Of course, proper mowing practices would be the most important, but that will be covered on another hand-out. Aerating removes small cores of soil from your lawn to reduce soil compaction and promote root growth for healthier grass. Aeration helps grass roots reach the essential air, water, and nutrients they need. Removing these cores can also help relieve soil compaction, allowing your grass to grow deeper roots, creating a sustainably thicker, greener lawn.

How to prepare for aerating:

- Look for the utility markings in the yard
 - We have public utilities marked through MO-One Call (1-800-DIG-RITE) to avoid shallow telecommunications lines
- Flag or spray turf-safe paint on any irrigation heads not along a curb or concrete edge, on invisible dog fences, or on any other private underground lines
- Make sure ground is soft for best results
 - Water a few days prior to aerating service if necessary
 - Please don't water the day of aerating services
 - "Soaked" and "soft" are not the same

What to do after aeration occurs:

- Water in seed immediately
- Continue normal watering schedules until the beginning of November (if weather permits)
- Mow yard once or twice immediately afterwards
 - During the first 8-10 days the yard can still be mowed
- Avoid mowing and other traffic on lawn for the following 10-14 days after that initial 8-10 day period
- Regular mowing can resume around the 3rd to 4th week following aerating services