



Aerification

I would like to take this opportunity to explain the importance of this process and the subsequent goal we wish to achieve by utilizing it here at Willow Creek.

First of all, in order for grass to be maintained at 3/16 of an inch (sometimes even lower) deep, healthy roots are a must. These strong roots require oxygen. Therefore we will aerify with ½ inch coring tines and go 3 to 4 inches deep. This procedure opens the root zone, and in return allows us to work in more top-dressing sand. The benefit of top-dressing sand is the creation of tiny air pockets between the soil and the sand particles. This procedure improves efficiency of water flow, which should be downward into, and below the root zone. The deeper the flow of water, the deeper the roots will be. However, too much moisture can reap more havoc than good. Soils may become compacted, mostly by unavoidable disturbances such as mowing equipment and foot traffic. And when such mishaps occur, the air pockets in which these roots depend are crushed. When the air pockets are crushed, the excess moisture can accumulate, and will be confined in the top 2 or 3 inches. As a result, the roots will wither and the plant will die.

In summary, the condition of a green depends upon the activity beneath the surface. Therefore, keep in mind, that the process of aerification requires a short-term disruption that will render long-term benefits. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.