

SHARP BROS. SEED CO.



101 E. 4th Street Road
Greeley, CO 80631
970-356-4710
Buffalo.GXY@SharpSeed.com

WHY AERIFY?

By Jason DePaepe, University of Colorado

Finally the grass is starting to turn green. After a long off-season, it's time to get back into the swing of things. Mowing, watering, fertilizing, and spraying all have begun and the reasons why we do each of these are very obvious. Aerifying is another management practice we use this time of year but sometimes the multiple reasons why we aerify get overshadowed by the need to alleviate compaction. We all know aerification reduces compaction, why else should we aerify?

Compaction is the most important reason we need to aerify our sports fields. Loosening of the soil through coring is the best way to combat compaction without damaging the turf canopy. Deep-tine aerification has also proven to be an effective control for compacted soils.

Reducing thatch build-up is also a benefit of aerifying. Too much thatch can cause excess evaporation and poor water infiltration. Another benefit of

aerification is increased rooting. Rooting is increased due to less compaction and open channels to extend roots downward.

Aerification is also important for water infiltration. If a field's pore spaces are decreased due to infrequent aerification and overuse, the amount of water that will infiltrate the soil is greatly reduced. Too much of the water will run off rather than soak into the soil. Lastly, aerification is greatly beneficial to the seeding process. Aerifying and then broadcast seeding afterwards provides excellent results as the seeds germinate in the holes provided by the aerifier. The crowns of the plants are protected as the holes close up and get filled in over time. These seedlings will grow into strong, durable grass plants.

As our machines roll into action this spring, don't forget to pull out the aerifier and poke some holes. Then after you have your holes get some seed in them and you will see the results.