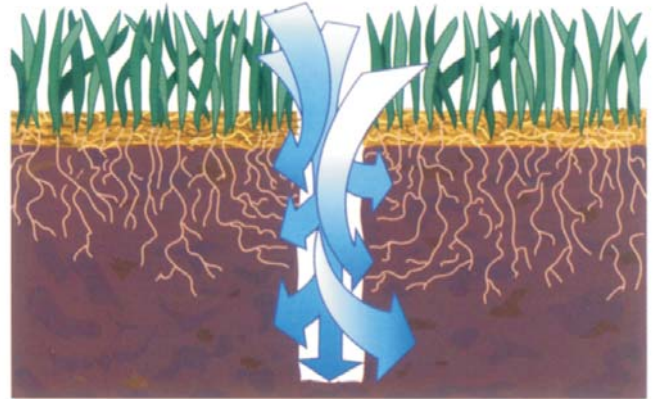


# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF AERATION?

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Core aeration can help make your lawn healthier and reduce its maintenance requirements by providing the following:

- \*Improved air exchange between the soil and atmosphere.
- \*Enhanced soil water uptake.
- \*Improved fertilizer uptake and use.
- \*Reduced water runoff and puddling.
- \*Stronger turfgrass roots.
- \*Reduced soil compaction.
- \*Enhanced heat and drought stress tolerance.
- \*Improved resiliency and cushioning.
- \*Enhanced thatch breakdown.



**ROOT GROWTH** - Core aeration allows air, water and fertilizer to better reach the root zone. This stimulates root growth to create healthier, stronger turfgrass plants.

In most home lawns, fertile topsoil may have been removed or buried forcing grass to grow in subsoil that is more compact, higher in clay content and less likely to sustain a healthy lawn. Walking playing and mowing will compact soil and stress lawns. Rain and irrigation further compact the soil, reducing large air spaces where roots readily grow. Compaction is greater on heavy clay soils than on sandy soils, and it is greatest in the upper 1 to 1 1/2 inches of soil. Aeration can help relieve soil compaction,

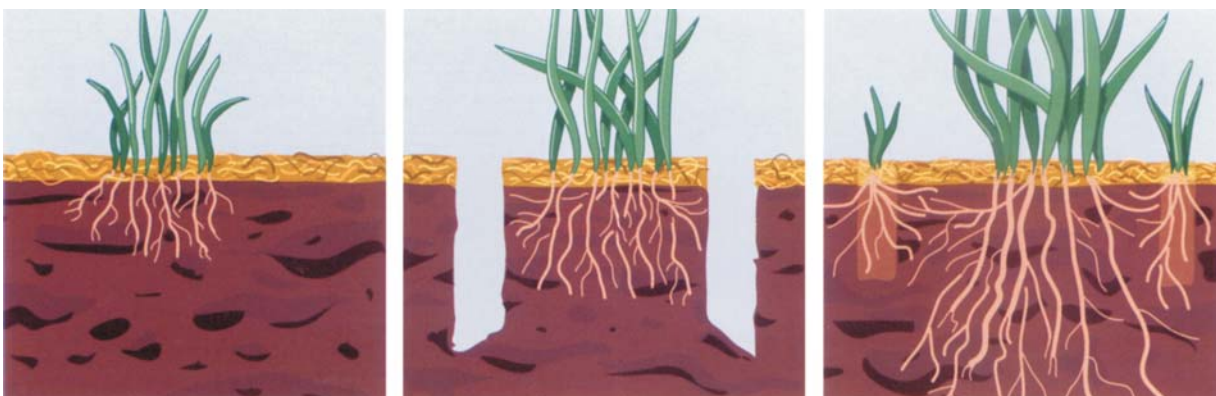
Most lawns are subject to thatch accumulation. Left unmanaged, it impedes water, fertilizer and pesticide effectiveness. Core aeration combines soil with the thatch debris, so soil organisms are better able to break down the thatch and reduce its accumulation.

Most lawns benefit from annual aeration. Applying fertilizer after aeration helps the lawns compete against weeds. Water the lawn after aeration, particularly in areas where drought and high temperatures are common.

Immediately after aeration, your lawn will be dotted with small plugs pulled from the soil. Within a week or two, they break apart and disappear into the lawn. About 7 to 10 days after aeration, the holes will be filled with white, actively growing roots-a sign that the turfgrass is receiving additional oxygen, moisture and nutrients from the soil.

On compacted soils and on lawns with slopes, you will see a difference in water puddling and runoff after irrigation or rainfall. After aeration, your lawn should be able to go longer between waterings without showing signs of wilt. With repeat aerations over time, your lawn will show enhanced heat and drought stress tolerance.

Remember, most lawns benefit from annual aeration. And while you should not expect miracles, especially with poor soil, lawns that receive this care will be healthier, more vigorous, easier to maintain and have fewer pest problems.



**SOIL COMPACTION** - Turfgrass in compacted soil (left) grows slowly, lacks vigor and becomes thin or does not grow at all. Core aeration (center) removes small cores of soil, depositing them on the surface of the turf. This improves the depth and extent of turfgrass rooting (right), and it can help save money on your water bill.