

Breaking Down the Benefits of Aeration



Whether you're new to aeration or have seen it done every year, do you ever wonder exactly how it works?

Lawns in most need of aeration have a thick layer of thatch, shallow roots, and hard, compacted soil. Heavy rain pushes air out of soil, which is what leads to compaction.

Grass constantly is putting out new roots, which need room to grow, and if the soil is hard and compact, the roots have nowhere to grow.

This creates a shallow root system, with some roots growing into the thatch layer, which is made up of dead and decomposing plant material. All of this results in a weak lawn that is especially susceptible to drought, disease, and pests.

Aeration cuts through it all. A power aerator will cut into the soil one to six inches deep and remove plugs about half an inch in diameter, depositing them on the surface. These holes break up the compacted soil, allowing air, water, and nutrients to enter. This creates more space for the new roots to grow, and grow deeper.

The thatch layer also breaks up through aeration. As the plugs break apart, that soil mixes with the remaining thatch, encouraging decomposition. In the end, you are left with looser, more nutrient-rich soil, deeper roots, and a minimized thatch layer.

As you can tell, this process will rejuvenate your lawn at every level, giving you a lush, robust turf ready to withstand any season's toughest challenges.

Make a Difference This Fall... Plant a Tree!

Planting a new tree will not only enhance the looks of your landscape, but it can help you save money on your energy bills while improving the environment we all share. Consider these statistics on the value of planting trees:

- The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to 10 room-sized air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- If you plant a tree on the west side of your home, your energy bills should be 3% less in five years. After 15 years, the savings will be nearly 12%.
Source: Dr. E. Greg McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research
- Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values up to 20%.
Source: Management Information Services/ICMA
- One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people.
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- There are up to 200 million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential for absorbing 33 million more tons of carbon dioxide per year, which would save \$4 billion in energy costs.
Source: National Wildlife Federation
- The planting of trees improves water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. Wooded areas help to prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams.
Source: USDA Forest Service

It's a fact...if you plant a tree (or trees) this fall, everyone wins!



Tree planting is a great way to improve environmental quality while enhancing the looks of your landscape.