



Lawn Aeration

Aeration is a process of providing air. For our lawns aeration is a process to provide air to the roots of the grass.

All plants, including grass, absorb oxygen from the air through their roots. When the soil around the roots gets too compacted the roots cannot get the oxygen as well as water and nutrients they need and the grass suffers.

Most soils in the Kingston area are very clayish. The tiny particles compact very readily under pressure. On our lawns this pressure comes from walking on the lawn, and the weight of the lawn mower wheels or other equipment passing over it again and again.

This repeated compaction of the soil leads to a hard layer of soil forming on the surface. This hard layer is frequently referred to as a pan. During rain or irrigation most of the water runs off instead of soaking in. Air has a difficult time getting to the roots depriving the grass of oxygen. Nutrients are also not penetrating the pan to the roots.

A power aerator sometimes referred to as a core aerator, helps to break this pan. This machine has sharp spoon shaped prongs spaced on a roller. As the aerator moves forward, the prongs penetrate the soil pan pulling up the 'spoon' full of earth commonly called a plug. The plugs are deposited on the lawn surface. The numerous small holes created by the prongs allow air, water and nutrients into the soil.

Once the aeration is completed the plugs are raked. The lawn may now be fertilized and watered if needed. Topdressing the lawn and over seeding it will also help thicken the lawn.

Lawn aeration is normally performed in the spring and again in the fall. If the soil is badly compacted, the aeration can be done more frequently until the pan is completely broken.