



Turf Talk

Aeration & Overseeding

What is Aeration?

Core aeration is the process of removing 1" diameter core plugs several inches in depth by operating a heavy, commercial grade machine over your lawn. The machine contains hollow steel teeth that cut into the soil and deposit the cores on the surface of your lawn. The key is to extract a good core, so aeration shoes and lightweight machines just don't work.

Benefits

Increases moisture penetration • Prepares lawn for overseeding (*see reverse side*) • Enhances oxygen exchange, encouraging healthy roots • Reduces soil compaction, especially soils high in clay • Supports penetration of fertilizers and other lawn products • Assists rate of thatch decomposition • Aids in root development

Timing

Aeration is typically done from mid spring to late fall as long as there is adequate soil moisture to ensure good plugs. We recommend an annual aeration, preferably in the fall, or every other year at a minimum.

After Care

The cores do not need to be raked up, as they break down naturally over a few weeks, filtering back into the lawn. Just leave the plugs where they are and mow as usual.

In Combination with Overseeding

Any lawn can be overseeded after aeration, adding hybrid grasses to help thicken thin areas or an entire lawn. Aeration and overseeding are two of the most beneficial services you can provide for your lawn.

Aeration vs. Dethatching

Although aeration is a form of dethatching, it should not be confused with a dethatcher/power rake, that aggressively tears the lawn, potentially doing more harm than good.

What is Overseeding?

Overseeding is the process of adding superior grass varieties into an existing lawn after core aeration. Overseeding

Aeration & Overseeding

Aeration & Overseeding Continued

involves spreading the new grass type(s) from a spreader into the holes made by the aerator. The newly germinated grass in the holes helps improve a healthy lawn's overall appearance and regain lost or thinning turf. Overseeding is not designed to establish a lawn but rather to introduce new grass into an existing turf area.

Benefits

Aids in resisting disease and insect damage • Improves overall appearance with better color and growth characteristics • Regains lost turf in the spring due to winter or ice damage and in the fall due to insect, disease or drought damage

In Conjunction with Topdressing

In the case of damaged patches of lawn or very thin areas, adding a layer of topdressing (soil/compost on the lawn surface) allows the new seed to germinate on both the surface of the lawn and in the aeration holes.

Variety of Grass Blends

We offer a wide variety of grass blends and are able to use these customized mixtures to improve your lawn in nearly any location. A lawn in the shade requires distinctly different grass than turf growing on a sandy slope in the full sun. In unusual cases we may even perform a double or triple aeration followed by an aggressive, heavy-rate overseeding with several turf blends in order to help reestablish lost turf.

Timing

Best results are achieved in late summer and throughout the fall when the soil temperature is warm, the air temperature is cooler and annual weeds like crabgrass are dead or dying.

*Our Consultations
Are Always
Complimentary*



Tree • Turf • Garden • Land • Forest

Concord NH 603.225.9600 • Enfield NH 603.448.4800
Meredith NH 603.279.7400 • New London NH 603.526.4500
Woodstock VT 802.457.5100 • Toll Free 866.683.6222
Website chippersinc.com • Email turf@chippersinc.com
Blog mrgrassblog.net

Accredited NH Better Business Bureau, A+ Rating & Tree Care Industry Association
Sustaining & Founding Member Local First Alliance