



Why do we aerify greens twice a year? Having been working on a golf course for almost 50 years, it never fails that every spring and fall at least one or more golfers will always ask, “why are you aerifying the greens, they’re perfect right now?”

Greens aerification is the process where we mechanically remove cores of soil and replace them with sand topdressing that is drug into the open holes to leave a smooth surface upon healing. There are several amendments that are added to the soil during the process, fertilizer, gypsum, water penetrant, and bentgrass seed. The entire process helps to alleviate soil compaction and allow for better water and air movement through the soil, which results in healthier turfgrass plants and a putting surface that can better withstand the pressures of pests, weather, and golf traffic. The roots of the turfgrass plant increase in length and mass because of the process which is a great advantage during the hot summers we often experience.

Greens aerification is a very necessary cultural practice, however it comes with it’s drawbacks. Golfers become frustrated with the putting surfaces just after aerification and through the healing process which usually takes about two weeks. The greens are somewhat bumpy and slow until they have fully recovered. We tend to lose rounds and revenues until the greens are back to normal. WildHawk offers discounted rates during the first week to help keep the customers happy.

Keeping putting greens in optimal condition is a year long battle that requires many inputs to be successful. The next time you are out playing Wildhawk Golf Club in the middle of August and it’s 110 degrees out, remember the hard work of the maintenance crew during aerification and on a daily basis while you are enjoying some of the best kept greens in the Sacramento area. There is a method to our madness!

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