

Aerators

Product briefs on aeration equipment available from 14 different manufacturers.

Bannerman Ltd.

The company's BA-600-S/S-H Super-Ject Aerator is available with five different tine styles and two transportation modes—Category 1 or 2 three-point hitch, or tow-behind with hydraulic lift. More specifically, users can choose between .75-inch core tines, one-inch renovation tines, 5mm slitter slicer tines, 8mm slitter slicer tines, or fracture tines. Some of the benefits of slitter tine aeration include clear cut entry and exit of the tine, the ability to play on the surface immediately after aerifying, drainage of excess surface water, conservation of water during irrigation, elimination of core residue, and compaction relief. Bannerman calls the unit the most versatile six-ft-wide aerator you'll ever own, and offers a number of options to help customize the model selected.

Website: www.sportsturfmagic.com



BlueBird International

The BlueBird TA10 towable aerator, which can aerate up to three acres per hour, is ideal for aerating larger commercial areas. The TA10 hooks up to a 16-HP or more tractor, permits a variable aeration depth of up to three inches, and features an aeration width of 36 inches. Tip wheels allow the machine to easily pass through narrow openings, and an easy-access hand crank enable simple raising and lowering of tines.

Five optional weight containers provide optimal soil penetration, and the rugged design of the TA10 ensures years of low-maintenance productivity. The company also offers walk-behind aerators offering aeration widths of 17 inches to 25.5 inches.

Website: www.bluebirdintl.com



Bush Hog

The Verti-Cut machine promotes lush, green growth in fairways and other sports turf areas by removing thatch build-up, allowing grass to access water, air and nutrients. Three- and five-gang models, with aeration widths of 76 to 138 inches, are available for tractors with 24 HP to 45 HP. Depth adjustments can be made quickly and easily, allowing operators to set the machine for fine grooming or a more aggressive cut according to turf conditions. Standard blade spacing is 1.25 inches, but spacing can be adjusted to 2.375 inches, 3.5 inches or 4.625 inches. The Verti-Cut features rugged Bush Hog construction, uses belt drives for reduced tractor stress and heat build-up, and can be easily converted to a reel mower.

Website: www.bushhog.com

Grasshopper

The Aera-vator attachment for Grasshopper zero-radius power units aerates compacted soil, yet it leaves little surface disruption and no cores to clean up. Turf is ready for use immediately following treatment.



The Aera-vator's forged-steel tines vibrate in a rapid oscillating motion, and are powerful enough to loosen traffic-packed parkways and areas where obstructions such as small rocks are present. Upon penetrating the soil, areas around and between the holes become fractured, relieving compaction and creating openings for root growth and absorption of water, air, nutrients and chemicals. The unit utilizes the Grasshopper Quick-D-Tach mounting system, which enables operators to quickly switch between the Aera-vator, cutting decks and other attachments.

Website: www.grasshoppermower.com



Hines Manufacturing

The Hines Drill Aerator has been upgraded and redesigned to make it simpler to operate, lighter weight and smaller than previous drilling equipment. The machine relieves

subsoil compaction, improves drainage and air exchange, and provides faster healing times than other types of aerators. Instead of removing cores, the machine gently folds back the healthy grass surface during the aeration process. The Hines system can be adjusted to drill from one inch deep, up to 15 inches deep in the hardest subsoils. The unit weighs under 3,000 lbs, and applies just a nine-PSI footprint on soft turf surfaces. The extended drill depth allows penetration of hard pan layers. Hines has eliminated the cumbersome drill box present on some other drill aerators, instead using a lighter system of stripper bars that prevent any uplifting of the surface during the upstroke. The Hines Drill Aerator is gentle enough to aerate freshly laid sod, and is also recommended to relieve "hot spots."

Website: www.hinesmfg.com



John Deere

The Aercore Aerator 2000 features an 80-inch coring swath, makes holes up to four inches deep, and can cover 100,066 sq ft per hour. This tractor-mounted attachment delivers high productivity—a swath 20 inches larger than the company's 1500 model—without sacrificing hole quality, durability or ease of service. The Aercore 2000 is durable due to its heavy-duty frames and tine rams, and is versatile due to its adjustable hole spacing—a 2.4-inch pattern, or a 3.2-inch pattern, depending on speed of movement. Because the aerator is powered by belts, instead of chains, it operates quietly and smoothly and does not require lubrication. Rear cowlings on the Aercore 2000 lift simply, to make daily checks and routine maintenance easy. John Deere's patented Flexi-Link design ensures tines stay perpendicular to the ground, thereby producing consistently round holes and leaving little or no scuffing at the top of each hole.

Website: www.deere.com



Millcreek Manufacturing

Millcreek Core Plug Aerators are available as three-point hitch, front-mount or tow-behind models, and all in different widths. The Model 630 is ideal for athletic fields, weighs 410 lbs, features 72 total spoons on 12 spoon wheels, and provides a coring width of 60 inches (total width equals 63 inches). Millcreek spoon wheel sets—mounted in pairs for maximum penetration, easier turning and minimized turf damage—can be replaced one pair at a time, which reduces parts costs as compared to replacing an entire section. Each Millcreek Core Plug Aerator comes equipped

with a sturdy protector shield that protects workmen, children and animals from being injured by sharp aerator spoons. The shield fully encloses the spoon wheels on the top, front and back of the unit. Other features of the units include Teflon-coated, oil-impregnated bearings, or greasable bearings in commercial units; temper-hardened, long-life spoons; 1.5-inch solid square bar which forms the main frame; and a convenient weight rack that provides control of core depth, up to four inches.

Website: www.millcreekmfg.com

Redexim Charterhouse

The manufacturer's Verti-Drain Mustang (Model 7117) aerator allows turf managers to perform deep tine aeration at speeds exceeding 2.75 MPH—a speed which the company believes is at least 80% faster than competing methods. The Verti-Drain Mustang offers a shorter throw and penetrates to a shorter depth (down to six inches) than other Verti-Drain models. The unit requires a 25-HP tractor, can be equipped with either

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Soil Reliever Model 75 Heavy Duty



For deep tine aeration in the toughest conditions, you can't beat the performance of our new SR75 HD.

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solid or hollow tines, and features ten arms that permit spacing of just over two inches between tines. Exceptionally smooth operating characteristics are the result of a sophisticated crank system and, like the company's other models, the Verti-Drain Mustang's heaving action can be adjusted using a single lever.

Website: www.redexim.com

Sisis

Deep, clean penetration and rugged engineering for a long working life are some of the qualities of the Sisis Deep Slicers. Three tractor-mounted models are available, including the Sisis



Megaslit, Sisis Multislit and Sisis Maxislit. The Sisis Maxislit, a deep slicing aerator designed for outfield turf, offers seven or nine inches of penetration and a 63-inch working width. Plates in the machine incorporate a wide rim to reduce surface marking in soft or undulating conditions, and tines can be fitted for use on fine turf or in shallow soil conditions. The Maxislit's rear safety guard is removable for easy tine fitting, and side guards add to operator safety. An optional floating roller provides a smooth finish and a striped cosmetic effect.

Website: www.sisis.com



Southern Green

The manufacturer's Soil Reliever 75 Heavy Duty (SR 75HD) is the newest addition to its aerator product line. The SR 75HD is a six-arm aerator with about 78 inches of working width. Designed to do deep tine aeration in the toughest conditions, the additional weight of the SR 75HD gives it the power to penetrate extremely compacted soil surfaces, and to a much greater depth than is possible with other machines. The machine operates on a standard 45- to 50-HP tractor, and is ideal for any

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AE-60



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large turf area where severe compaction is a problem, such as athletic fields, fairways, sod farms and orchards. Southern Green says the machine is especially adept at reducing the severe compaction problems found in new constructions and laser-graded surfaces.

Website: www.soilreliever.com



T.I.P.

The company's Greens Spiker/Seeder can aerify 18 golf greens in under three hours, is less disruptive to the putting surface, and is also a

good choice for athletic fields. Three-point hitch and towable models are available. The machine relieves surface compaction, improves drainage, solves dry spot, and reduces seed and chemical costs. By percolating and loosening the soil, the Greens Spiker/Seeder promotes healthier turf, improves seed to soil contact and raises germination rates. The unit comes equipped with replaceable stainless steel spikes. T.I.P. also offers a self-propelled, walk-behind model for hard to reach areas.

Website: www.tipinc.net

Toro

The ProCore 660 aerator relieves compaction, controls thatch and enables positive gas exchange leading to healthier turf. Due to its unique RotaLink centering mechanism, the ProCore 660 produces excellent hole quality over a 60-inch swath. RotaLink, which requires no maintenance, ensures tines remain vertical as they enter and exit the ground, producing a consistently circular hole as the tractor moves forward. To change the hole pattern



from one- to five-inch spacings, operators can simply speed up or slow down. Aeration depth can be adjusted—with a simple locking crank handle and without the need for tools—to a depth of up to 4.25 inches. The ProCore 660 features individually floating turf holders to keep the turf secure as each tine is withdrawn, preventing turf lift and maintaining a true and level surface. The machine can be easily installed on any compact tractor, and three sizes are available to suit any sports field application.

Website: www.toro.com

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Turf-Tec International

The six-ft-wide Verti-Slicer features 18 blades on four-inch spacings. The blades can slice from one inch deep, up to five inches deep. The aerifying tool opens turf to allow air, water and nutrients deep into the soil, and it can be operated just prior to the turf area being utilized. Neither shallow nor deep slicing will interfere with play. The Verti-Slicer can be attached to any three-point tractor, can operate at normal mow-

ing speeds, prunes grass roots and reduces thatch, and is ideal for broadcast overseeding.

Website: www.turf-tec.com



Turfco Direct

The company's Aerator TM-42 provides quality aeration on a budget, and is available in tow-type and three-point hitch type (category 0, 1, 2 or 3) attachments. The machine is ideal for large area aeration, sports turf, lawn care, rentals, schools and most commercial applications. Regardless of attachment type selected, each TM-42 comes with storage legs, making hook-

up quick and easy. The unit operates at speeds of up to five MPH, covers 92,400 sq ft per hour, and uses .75-inch tines for aeration depths of up to four inches. The aeration pattern created is 5.5x8.0 inches, and tines are mounted six to each wheel in sets of two wheels.

Website: www.turfco.com

Editor's Note: *The inclusion of the 14 companies above does not imply endorsement of these manufacturers' products over aeration equipment offered by other manufacturers not listed.*

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Water Reels



Kifco has introduced two models to their popular line of Water-Reels. The new B110 and B180 extend the product line to ensure there is a Water-Reel to fit your needs. Machines are compact, easy to use, operate unattended, and shut off automatically. They are suitable for all types of sports turf and are easily transported from one area to another. Water-Reels combine outstanding features that come from more than 25 years of traveling sprinkler engineering.

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