

BY RYAN DYCK

ANOTHER OPTION FOR RELIEVING COMPACTION

Dwight Bond, a Mesa, AZ-based aeration contractor and irrigation professional was looking for a better way to aerate and decompact sports fields so he purchased a Decompactor 7200, the new aeration implement introduced at the 2004 STMA national conference. "The Decompactor allows me to do a good job in less time, and provides a total cost of operation that is less than many mechanical, PTO-driven deep tine aerators," says Bond.

The SMARTURF Decompactor uses 8-in. steel v-shaped spikes (see photo) patterned on a hollow steel drum to eliminate compaction. The configuration of the spikes forces the soil to fracture with minimal disruption to the playing surface. Weighing more than 1800 pounds (2700 lbs. when filled with water for 7200 model), the Decompactor is designed to improve drainage and root growth, and operates at twice the speed of PTO driven aerators.

The Decompactor is designed to operate between 5-7 mph, or 3-4 times faster



than the recommended 1-2 mph for most mechanical driven deep tine aerators. The machine fractures the soil between visible holes to allow faster infiltration of air, water, and nutrients into the soil. This non-localized approach to decompaction allows the SMARTURF to cover more ground in less time, which can conserve resources.

Additionally, tests have shown a reduction of up to 30 percent in the psi readings (compaction levels) on sports fields with conditions being appropriate for aeration. And the unit minimally disrupts the surface so play isn't interrupted.

The SMARTURF Decompactor is available in 4-, 5- and 6-ft. models, with pricing starting under \$10,000. A drop spreader is also available for the implement, allowing simultaneous decompaction and spreading of fertilizer or seed on turfgrass surfaces. **ST**

Ryan Dyck is the General Manager of SMARTURF. For more information, visit www.SMARTURF.com or call 800-351-7942.

AERATOR ATTACHMENT

The Kromer aerator, pictured with a Kromer athletic field maintenance machine, is one of many available attachments, including a dethatcher unit. In addition to its main function of line painting, the Kromer AFM can be outfitted with a variety of spraying attachments, groomers, and an assortment of broom attachments. Kromer Company/800-373-0337 For information, circle 110 or see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/2911-110>



THATCH MASTER

Ideal for frequent, light verti-cutting or renovation. Low maintenance, close coupled, no skids or belts. Thin blades do not leave healing grooves. Used by Invesco Field and many other top athletic fields.

Turf Specialties/800-201-1031 For information, circle 111 or see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/2911-111>

VERTI-QUAKE

The Redexim Charterhouse Verti-Quake is a rotary aerator that decompacts the soil using a set of rotating steel blades. As these blades cut through the soil, they create a wave action that shatters compacted areas and opens up the subsoil. Four models (59-, 63-, 83- and 99-in. working widths) can work at depths up to 22-in. with little or no surface disruption.

Redexim Charterhouse/570-602-3058 For information, circle 112 or see <http://www.oners.ims.ca/2911-112>

