



## Difference of Opinion

Let me step aside for a moment and give the bulk of this space to some feedback I received about Dave Minner's "Q & A" from March 2000. Let me also add that I would appreciate more feedback on the magazine—positive and negative—and, while I can't promise all letters to the editor will be published in the magazine, I will include them for review on our Web site.

Dear Editor,

We have just concluded reading the article "Dealing with Hardpan," and offer the following additional comments for your consideration.

Dr. Minner's response was informative as far as it went, but the table which he used for his basis was obviously out-of-date. The chart may have been produced prior to the advent of the AerWay Shattertine technology as it discussed only the traditional turf cultivation equipment. As the question related to the AerWay, the use of the chart and subsequent conclusions may be misleading to your readership.

If the chart were updated to include the AerWay Shattertine, it would show that, for cultivation between playing seasons, it does create large and deep openings for the effective use of soil amendments. Its use does promote deep rooting (re: Robert Carrow studies) and it greatly improves not only water infiltration but also percolation to maximize the removal of standing water.

For cultivation during the playing season, depending on the organic matter and moisture content of the soil in a particular field, the use of the Shattertine will promote water movement. Also, as a result of the lateral fracturing of the soil between the tines, the soil profile is loosened to a depth of 7 inches, promoting lateral growth of sod forming grasses.

Dr. Minner related to the "...tufts of grass...in hollow core holes." Our question has always been, "What happens between the holes?" Root development has been shown to remain within the void, and clearly illustrates the need for the lateral breakdown of the soil profile to encourage root growth outside of the coring hole boundaries.

In response to Mr. Hanawalt's question, the "chunk" of soil pulled out of the ground is a clear indication that his field is severely lacking organic matter. Consistent use of the AerWay Shattertine and application of appropriate topdressing material will alleviate the problem, but it will take time. Under the existing circumstances, mid-season use may be limited to the AerWay Sportstine to reduce surface compaction and encourage a deeper root system. One frame with two-tined rollers is a relatively inexpensive investment to accomplish aeration throughout the year.

I might also point out that, considering the hardness of the soil alluded to in Mr. Hanawalt's letter, a hollow tine might be ineffective until soil conditions are improved.

Thank you for allowing us to add to the information provided by Dr. Minner.

Paul Gillen  
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## Calendar of Events 2000

### June 19-20

Floyd Perry's Spring Sports Short Course, Atlanta, GA. Future dates and locations: June 22-23, Louisville, KY; Aug. 21-22, Prince William, VA; Aug. 24-25, Cary, NC; Sept. 7-8, Pasadena, TX; Sept. 25-26, Moses Lake, WA; Sept. 28-29, Kent, WA; Oct. 2-3, Springfield, OR; Oct. 5-6, Reno, NV; Oct. 9-10, Lodi, CA; Oct. 12-13, Menio Park, CA; Oct. 23-24, Phoenix, AZ; and Oct. 26-27, Albuquerque, NM. For more information, call (800) 227-9381.

### June 26-29

Floyd Perry's Groundskeepers Management Academy, Wooster, OH. Future dates and locations: Aug. 1-4, Cooperstown, NY; Aug. 7-10, Framingham, MA; Aug. 14-17, Florham Park, NJ; Aug. 28-31, Orlando, FL; Sept. 11-14, Dallas, TX; Sept. 18-21, Denver, CO; and Oct. 16-19, Cerritos, CA. For more information, call (800) 227-9381.

### July 12

Sixth annual Ohio Lawn Care Association (OLCA) Diagnostic Seminar, Ohio Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. Contact Kareena Gibson: (800) 510-5296, ext. 3180; fax (740) 452-2552; kgibson@offinger.com.

### July 19-21

Turfgrass Producers International's (TPI) 33rd annual Summer Convention and Field Day, Spokane, WA. Contact TPI: (800) 405-8873/(847) 705-9898; fax (847) 705-8347; Turf-Grass@msn.com. Web site: [www.TurfGrassSod.org](http://www.TurfGrassSod.org).