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Golf Course News From the Superintendent

Aeration improves soil health by creating pore space, it also allows us to incorporate sand into the holes which dilutes the organic matter and helps maintain the greens mix. This process while it seems very invasive is only able to



make fractional improvements each time, which means it must be performed more than once and must be done year after year to keep up with the thatch production and maintain the desired greens mix. These practices also need to be done during the prime growing season to facilitate rapid recovery when the plant is actively growing which in Southwest Florida is May through September. Once these practices are completed it takes about two weeks for the greens to heal and for us to condition the playing surface to prepare it for play once again.

There is no cookie cutter plan that fits every golf course, with different construction methods, different expectations on playing conditions, number of rounds played, age of the greens, grass type, as well as geographic location and budget it is almost impossible to compare one courses agronomic practices to another.

What can be compared is hard numbers based on soil testing and the USGA's recommendations. We test soil at least twice a year to evaluate the green mix with the most important component being the organic matter content. We then adjust our agronomic plan accordingly to try and maintain the USGA recommendations to provide optimal playing conditions and plant health which provides our members with a course that can thrive during the non-growing season of Southwest Florida when golf is at its peak. Please explore the publications from the USGA Green Section attached to the email for even more information. Rest assured that your Worthington Golf Course Maintenance department does follow the USGA's recommendations to provide superior playing conditions as well as plant health.