



HOW TO AERATE AND APPLY COMPOST for a Truly Green Lawn

Tips for River Star Homes

Benefits of Aeration:

- ☼ **Stimulates root growth:** Allows your turf to establish strong deep root systems for a healthy lawn.
- ☼ **Increases microorganism activity in soil:** Helps prevent disease and provides vital nutrients for turf.
- ☼ **Increases water, nutrient and oxygen movement:** Critical for plant growth.
- ☼ **Enhances filtration of rainfall:** Assists in the prevention of fertilizer and pesticide runoff.

How to Aerate Your Yard:

- ☼ **Water thoroughly before aeration:** 1" of water from irrigation or rainfall. *For a dry lawn water every 3–4 days until 1" saturation is achieved.* (You can rent an aerator at a local hardware store such as Lowe's, Home Depot, and Ace Hardware.)
- ☼ **Aerate your lawn in 2 different directions:** Ensures even aeration.
- ☼ **Leave cores on lawn surface, allowing the cores to work back into grass within 2–4 weeks.**
- ☼ **After aeration:** Apply ¼" of compost in an even layer with a rake.



Benefits of Compost:

- ☼ **Raises organic matter levels in soil:** Adds nutrients vital to plant growth.
- ☼ **Compost heats up as it decays,** killing pathogens and weed seeds that compete with your turf.
- ☼ **Reduces the need for fertilizer, aeration and lime.**
- ☼ **Full of microorganisms that are essential to healthy soil:** Creates competition so that diseases are unable to thrive.

How to Apply Compost:

- ☼ **Look for leaf compost that has an earthy smell.**
- ☼ **Use a rake to apply 3/4 cubic yards/ 1000 sq. ft.:** Aim for ¼" thick compost coverage.



Special thanks to My Sister's Garden, a certified organic landscaping company in Virginia Beach.
For more information, visit www.riverstarhomes.org