

June 5, 2005

**NEWS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF:**

***DENNIS SMITH  
COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT  
GREGG COUNTY***

**Aerification—A Very Important Component of Lawn Management!**

Do you have areas in your lawn that receives a tremendous amount of traffic? Have you ever noticed the turfgrass declining in this area? Your lawn may be suffering from soil compaction.

When soils become compacted, several things occur. First, oxygen within the soil profile becomes depleted. Oxygen is very important in maintaining a healthy root system. Second, the rate at which water moves into the soil and through the soil profile is hindered. This is referred to as the infiltration and percolation rates in soil. To overcome this problem, you may want to core aerify your lawn. Core aerification not only works well to break through the compaction, but will also assist in thatch management and with soil layering issues. The best time to perform this task for all warm season turfgrasses is during the active growing season—preferably in the spring. Some of the equipment rental businesses have core aerification machines. Make sure you have a moderate amount of moisture and watch out for tree roots and irrigation pipes. Your lawn will definitely appreciate this cultivation practice!

To learn more about "aerification" , go to the Aggie-Turf web site at <http://aggie-turf.tamu.edu> and click on "Answers 4 You", then "Cultivation".

*Dennis Smith can be contacted at the Gregg County Extension Office by e-mail at [dg-smith@tamu.edu](mailto:dg-smith@tamu.edu) or telephone at: 903-236-8429.*

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.