

What is Greens Maintenance and Why Must It Be Done While I'm Golfing?

Roughly once a month Broken Tee schedules each green to receive special treatment(s) we have termed "*Greens Maintenance*". It is a series of cultural activities that contribute to the health (#1 reason), appearance, smoothness, and trueness of each green while also filling ball marks and other small imperfections on the surface. This process helps tend the surface of the green. In addition, we use machines that contribute to the vigor and strength of the root system by allowing water, air, and other materials to pass through the soil profile. The practices and equipment we use for "*Greens Maintenance*" are not as aggressive as Spring and Fall aerations. While Spring and Fall aerations take some time to heal, the "*Greens Maintenance*" summer process allows the greens to be played on immediately.

The steps of "*Greens Maintenance*" are described below:

1. **AERATION** - We use a slicing or knifing type of machine that causes little disruption to the putting service. The device penetrates several inches below the surface to improve water infiltration, air, soil amendments and fertilizers. It has become standard practice at numerous courses to aerate at least once monthly. Researchers have found continued aeration throughout the season is best for greens.
2. **VERTI-CUT** - This is what might be termed "power-raking" on home lawns. We nick the grass with special blades to stand it up so it will accept being cut efficiently.
3. **MOW** - Mowing helps clean up any debris left by the verti-cut.

4. **TOPDRESSING** - Light sanding also known as "topdressing" is very important. It fills ball marks, smoothes the surface, fills cultivated areas made by the aerator and verti-cutter, stands up turf for a better cut, and helps reduce thatch levels. A golfer may see the sand, but the application rate is usually light enough the ball will roll in most cases better than one anticipates.
5. **ROLL** - This machine will press the sand into the turf and smooth the playing surface rapidly.
6. **DRAGGING** - A broom or mat may be used to encourage the sand to get to the crown (base) of the plant where it will do the most good as described in #4.

We do the best we can by arriving very early in the day to get the "*Greens Maintenance*" process underway and completed before guests begin play. Sometimes early morning weather conditions (moisture/dew) may hold up the process as we cannot drag sand into the turf when it is damp---therefore we must wait for the sun or temperatures to warm the sand in order for us to proceed. Our goal is to have no and/or little interruption in your round of golf- plus great greens!

Questions may be directed to:

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