

## A Word From Blake



As summer winds down, we are preparing for the busy fall season. This month is the ideal time for cool season lawn rejuvenation services like aeration and overseeding. There are many important things to keep in mind whether you are performing your own aeration and seeding or having us take care of it for you. Take a look at the articles on page 2 for a few tips on the aeration and seeding process. If you are one of Murray's turf care customers, please take a

look at the note at the bottom of this page for important information to ensure the aeration and seeding process moves smoothly in your lawn. Fall is also an excellent time to enhance your landscape by installing new plants or transplanting the ones you currently have.

If you are interested in aeration and seeding services or landscape enhancements, contact us today so we can get you on our fall schedule!

*Blake Murray*, Owner

## What We'll Be Working On Over The Next Few Weeks

(or what you can be doing, if you don't currently have landscape services with Murray's)

- Renovating Lawns (Installing Plants, Trees, & Beds)
- Applying Post-Emergent Weed Control
- Fertilizing Warm Season Turf
- Liming
- Aerating & Seeding Cool Season Turf
- Scouting for Turf Disease
- Mowing Turf

## It's Time for Aeration

Call Us Today To Schedule Your Fall Aeration and Seeding!  
**919-795-9885**

### Benefits of Aeration

- Reduced Soil Compaction
- Improved Rooting
- Improved Water Penetration
- Increased Absorption of Oxygen
- Reduced Water Run-off & Puddling
- Better Resiliency & Cushion

## A Note to Murray's Signature Turf Care Customers:

This month we will be performing aeration and overseeding for all of our cool season lawn care customers. In order for the process to move smoothly and to ensure the best results possible, we have a few tips and requests. First, any customers who have an irrigation system or invisible dog fence should mark all areas that could be impacted by aeration (this includes irrigation heads, valve boxes, and fence perimeters). Aeration can damage these systems and require costly repairs. Murray's is not responsible for damage to unmarked systems. Next, it is very important to water your lawn regularly after aeration and seeding. If watering is neglected, seeds may not germinate and results will suffer. Lastly, aeration is often a muddy, messy process. We do our best to clean up any mess or tire marks left behind. We look forward to renovating everyone's lawn this month!

*Southern Service, Professional Results!*

# Cool Season Turf Renovation 101: Aerating & Seeding

With warm days and cool nights, fall is the best growing season for cool season turf and is the optimal time to renovate and rejuvenate your lawn. Aeration reduces lawn compaction to give new seedlings a better growing environment. Overseeding ensures a full, lush lawn and helps fill in any bare spots caused by turf disease or the heat of the summer. Keep reading to pick up some tips and learn more about the process.

## Seed Selection - Keep Your Lawn Conditions in Mind!



Selecting the right seed for your lawn conditions is an important, but often overlooked, step in the aeration and seeding process. Many people believe cool season turf doesn't need much sunlight, however, most varieties of tall fescue require 8+ hours of full sunlight per day to thrive. If your parts of your lawn are shaded, it may be best to consider a blended seed mix for those areas. Blended seed mixes can tolerate shade better than a full Fescue seed. There are dozens of varieties of cool season shade mixes that incorporate fine fescue or Kentucky blue grass varieties, (which are more shade tolerant) along with full fescue seed. These blended seed mixes will allow you to have a full lawn even in shady areas.

### Full Sun Tall Fescue Seed Varieties:

- Escalade Tall Fescue
- Wolfpack
- Kentucky 31 Fescue

### Shade Tolerant Seed Mixes:

Many varieties. Brands are usually specific to retailer but are denoted by names like "shade mix," "90/10 blend with blue grass," etc.

## The Aeration & Seeding Process

**Preparation:** Prior to aeration and seeding, make sure to mow your cool season turf lower than normal. Mowing at a height of 2.5 to 3 inches (about 1-1.5 inches shorter than normal) will allow sunlight to more easily reach new seedlings.

**Aeration:** Aeration creates the best conditions in your lawn to foster new growth. Over time the soil in your lawn becomes compacted which makes it difficult for grass to establish deep roots and for nutrients to reach those roots. This results in a shallow root beds and an unhealthy lawn. By removing small cores of soil, aeration makes room for oxygen, water and other nutrients to reach deep down into the soil which provides for a stronger, healthier, and greener lawn.

**Seeding:** Overseeding typically follows aeration to fill in weak spots and ensure a lush and healthy lawn. Seeds germinate more efficiently in the open spaces because of greater soil contact. Overseeding also aids in weed prevention because the new grass is able to crowd out potential weeds. Make sure to choose the proper seed given your lawn conditions. The main thing to keep in mind is the level of sunlight that reaches the turf.



## Landscape Tip: Post-Aeration & Seeding Lawn Care

1. Do not mow lawn for 2 weeks after aeration and seeding.
2. Water new seed every other day for 5-10 minutes to prevent desiccation (the drying out of seed).
3. Avoid excessive lawn traffic (foot traffic, lawn tractors, raking, etc) for a few weeks because seedlings can be easily pulled out due to light rooting.
4. Do not apply any chemicals to your lawn until after the 3rd mowing post- aeration. Chemicals (including post-emergent weed control) will damage new seedlings.

*Southern Service, Professional Results!*