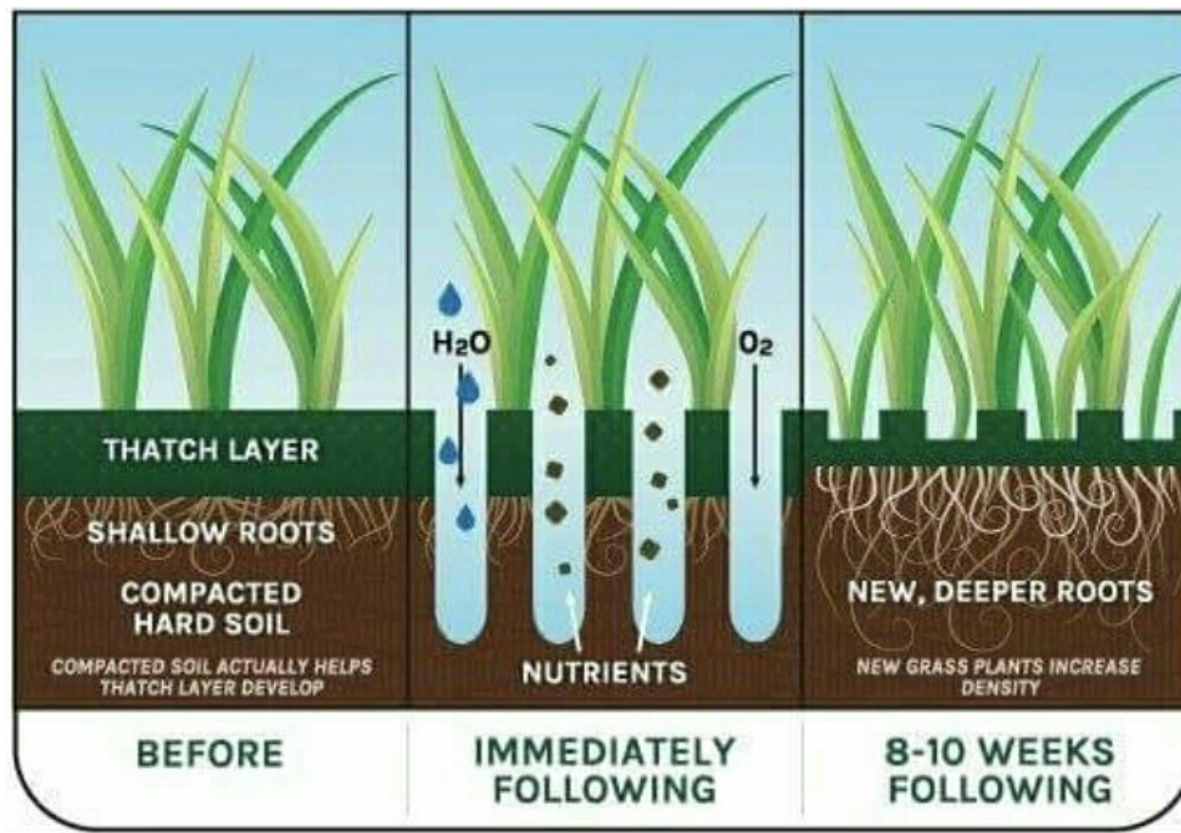




It only seems that the season has just started and here we are in mid-June. The weather is cool and wet, but the green is bowling OK, and starting to look like a typical green would at the end of July! Wear is starting to be seen and I think that the plant density is a little low, so I have been over seeding and will continue to do so as long as we have some rain in the immediate weather forecasts. The down side of over seeding in season is that **“grass grows by the inch and dies by the foot!”**. An age old saying, but nevertheless very true. The other downside is that to achieve my target 80% germination rate, I will have to keep the green a little wetter than I would have liked. If I can achieve a 80% germination and a 40% establishment rate, then I will be happy. With grass seed, after last years drought, now costing nearly £200 per bag, it only makes economic sense if a 40% minimum establishment rate can be achieved, so fingers crossed.

Over the years a very common question has been why do I aerate so much? Well the other day I was trawling through my Twitter account and the many grass geeks that I follow, and saw this:



Well that is why I aerate so often in a very simplistic way. But It is only to get as much oxygen into the soil profile as possible. Improved root growth; improved drainage; improved drought resistance; improved disease resistance; thatch degradation, etc..... So you can see how important it is, but not quite that simple in practice!

As a Club we need more members, so do 90% of all bowling clubs, but hopefully the bowling experience at Ringwood BC is one of the better ones, and that will encourage more members. We all need to be enthusiastic and to try to introduce a friend or tow as well!!

Paul Wright

June 2019