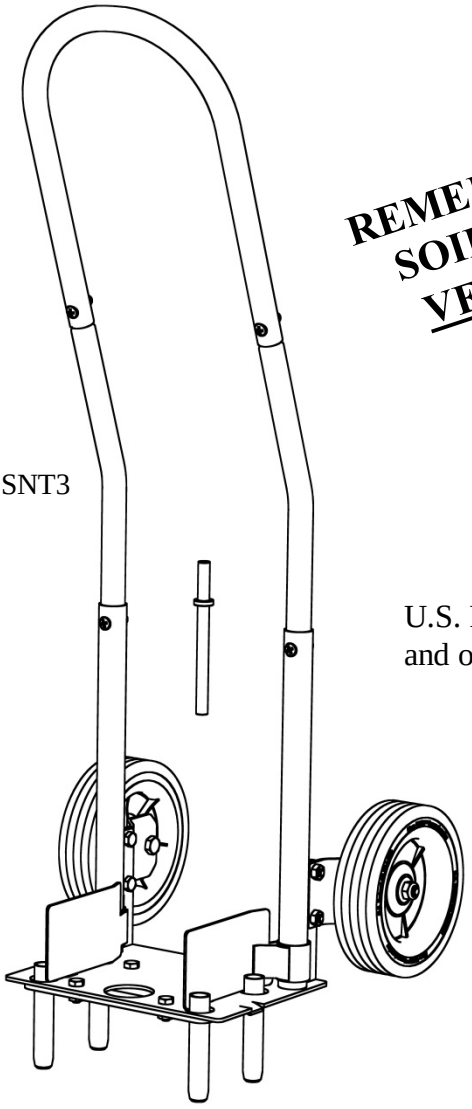
Step 'N Tilt® Lawn Aerator 3

The Easy Way to Revitalize Your Lawn

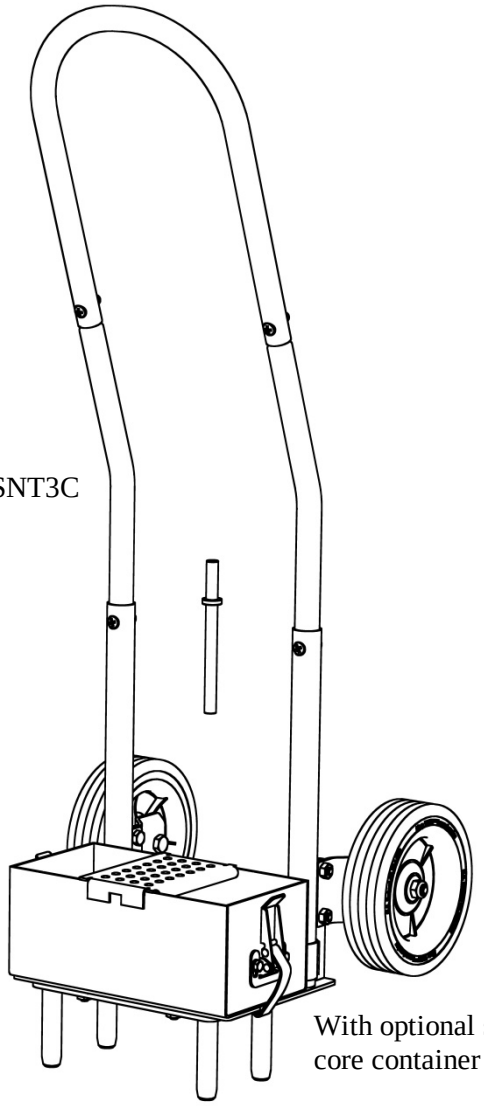
Installation & Owner's Manual

REMEMBER: THE SOIL MUST BE VERY MOIST

Model SNT3



Model SNT3C



With optional soil core container

U.S. Patent No. 8,714,275
and other patents pending

May be used with one or two pairs of tines
Please begin by using one pair of tines only

IMPORTANT: READ THIS MANUAL CAREFULLY BEFORE USING THE STEP 'N TILT® LAWN AERATOR

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Please email cs@corelawnaerator.com for customer support

1. INTRODUCTION

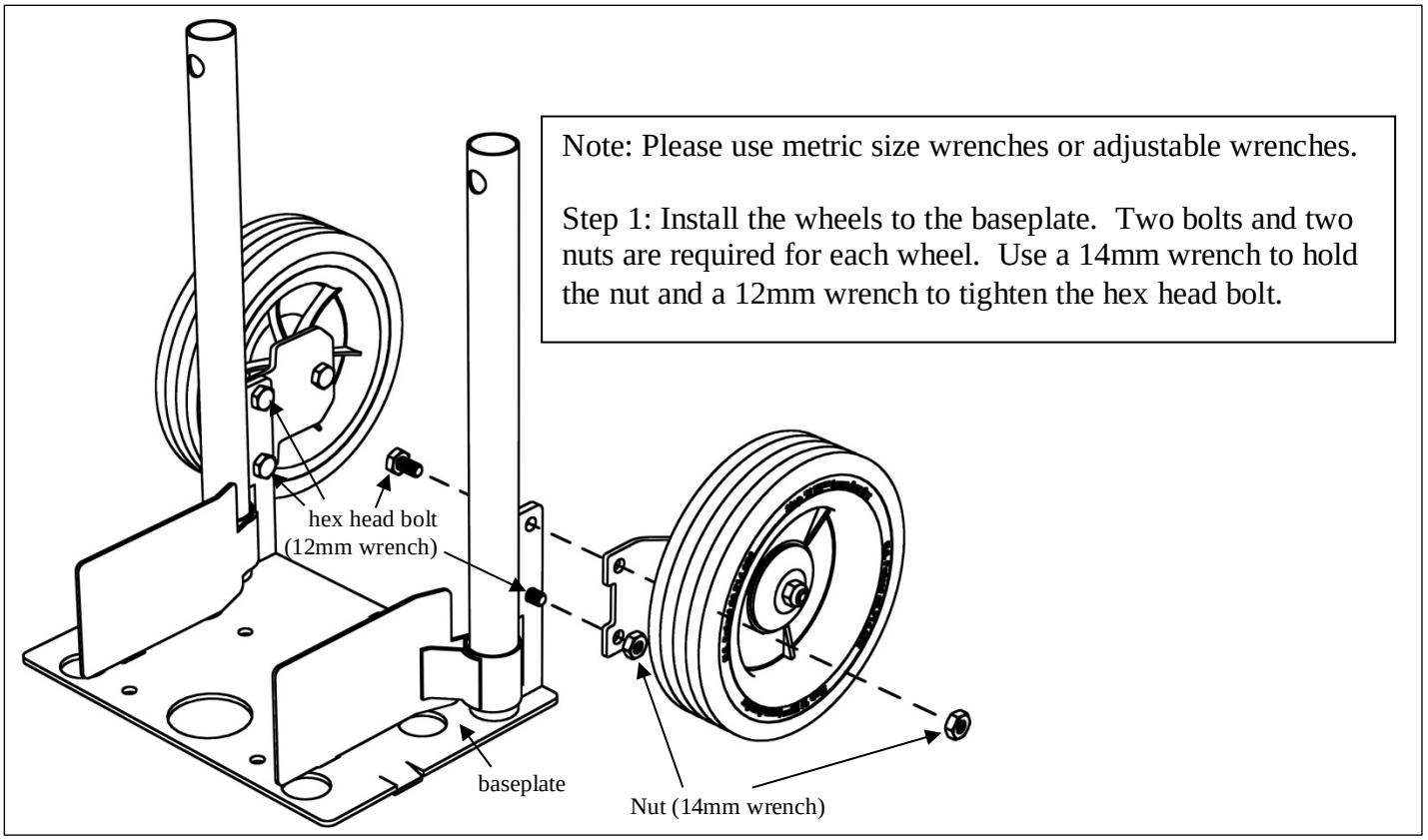
Congratulations on your purchase of the Step 'N Tilt® Lawn Aerator. We are confident that you will be amazed by its capabilities. For your safety, please read and understand all installation and operating procedures in this manual before attempting to install and use your Step 'N Tilt ®. It is designed for operators weighing at least 80 lb and up to 6 feet, 6 inches tall. In addition to lawn aeration, your Step 'N Tilt™ is also a very capable 60 lb capacity hand truck.

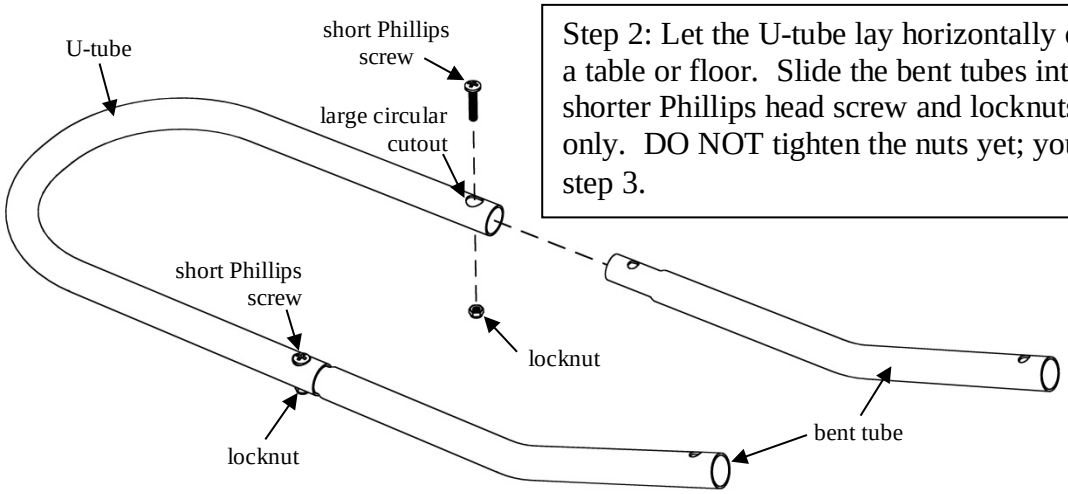
WARNING: The use of Step 'N Tilt® involves physical activity similar to climbing stairs and requires a sense of balance. Do not use if you are unable to climb stairs without holding onto a handrail. Although moderate physical activity such as using the Step 'N Tilt® is safe for most people, health experts suggest that you talk to your doctor before you start a new physical activity or an exercise program. Do not use when the ground is wet or on slopes where you might lose traction, slip, or fall.

Important Helpful Hints:

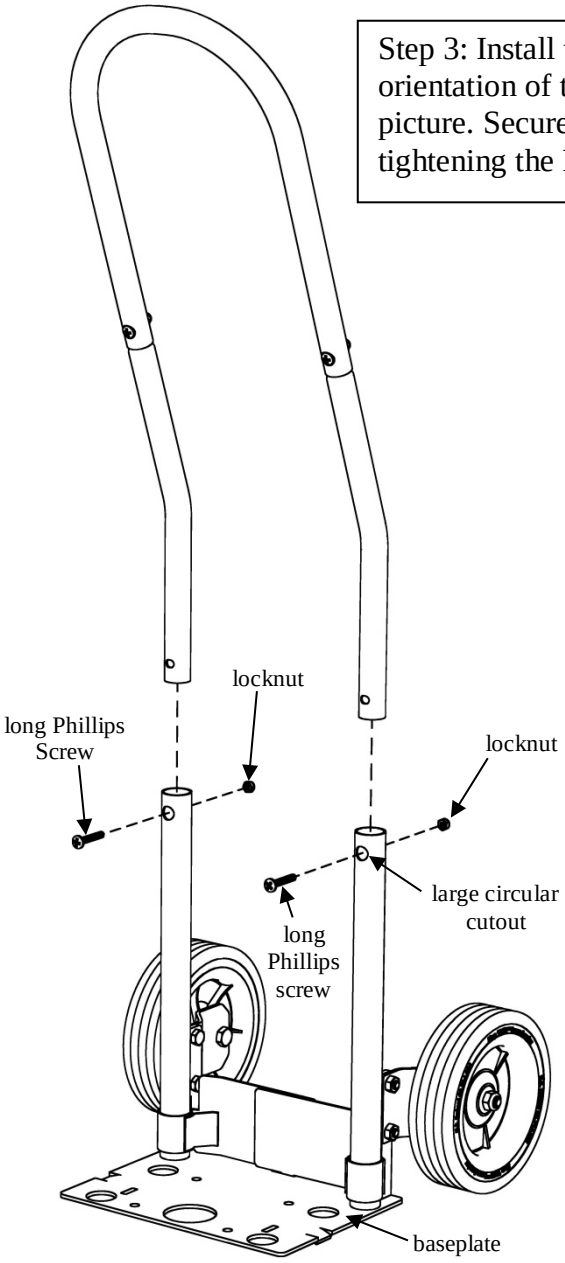
1. Although the tines are designed to prevent clogging in clay soil, the tines may still clog if the soil is too dry or too wet. Please aerate one day after at least one inch of rain or irrigation. If you have a sprinkler system, each sprinkler zone will need to run for 60-90 minutes. In other words, the soil must be very moist. The tines will be able to aerate heavy clay soil without clogging if the soil is very moist, but not soaking wet.
2. If your area has experienced prolonged drought, a short rain or irrigation will not provide sufficient moisture for aeration. If the tines are unable to penetrate the ground, the soil is definitely too dry. The tines may wear prematurely if the ground is too dry.
3. Core aeration should not be performed in bare areas without grass. Please use a tiller to loosen the soil in bare areas.
4. The soil cores left in your lawn as a result of using the Step 'N Tilt® will promote beneficial biological activity that helps decompose thatch and grass clippings. The soil cores will disintegrate back into the soil within a couple of weeks.

2. INSTALLATION

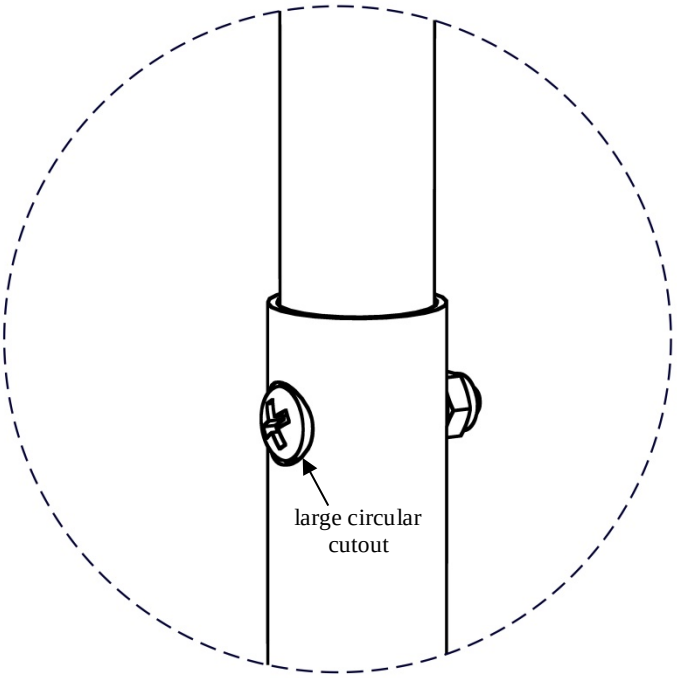




Step 2: Let the U-tube lay horizontally on a flat surface such as a table or floor. Slide the bent tubes into the U-tube. Install the shorter Phillips head screw and locknuts to hand tightness only. DO NOT tighten the nuts yet; you will tighten them in step 3.

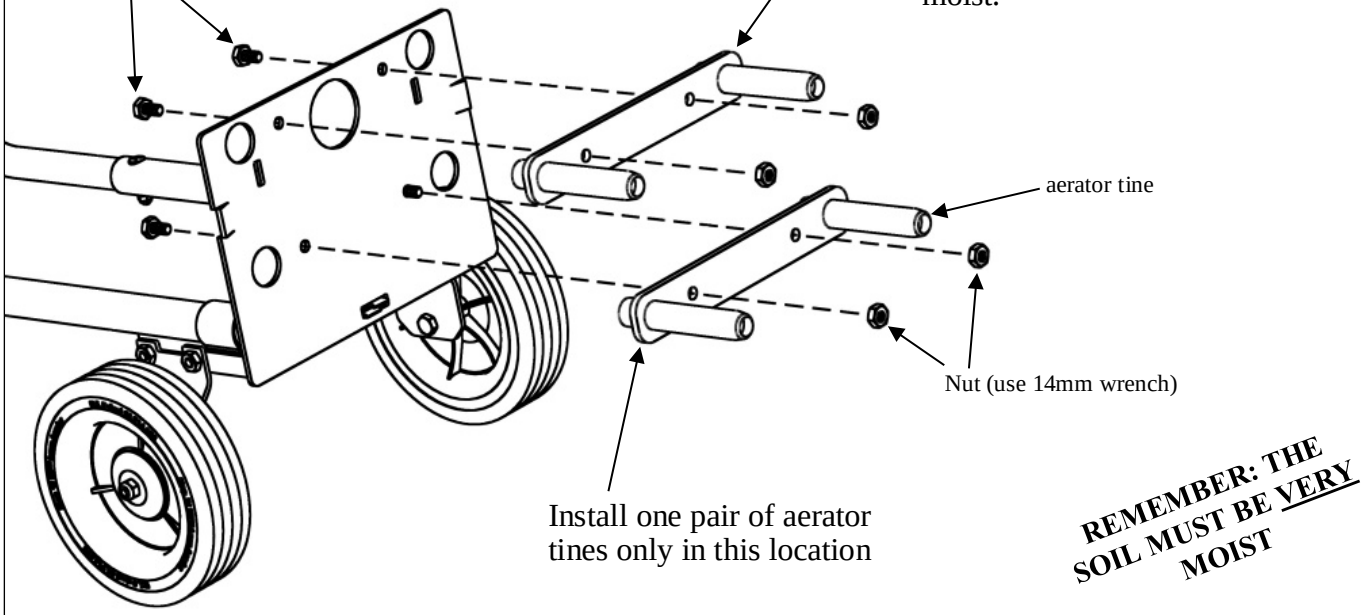


Step 3: Install the upper handle bar onto the baseplate. Take note of the orientation of the handle bar; it should be tilted forward as shown in the picture. Secure the hex locknut with a 10mm or adjustable wrench while tightening the Phillips head screw with a screwdriver (four locations).



The Phillips head will recess in the large circular cutout.

Step 4: Let the Step 'N Tilt® rest horizontally as shown to install the aerator tines. Please begin by using the one pair of tines only. Two pairs of tines may be used after you have become familiar with its operation, if faster aeration is desired.

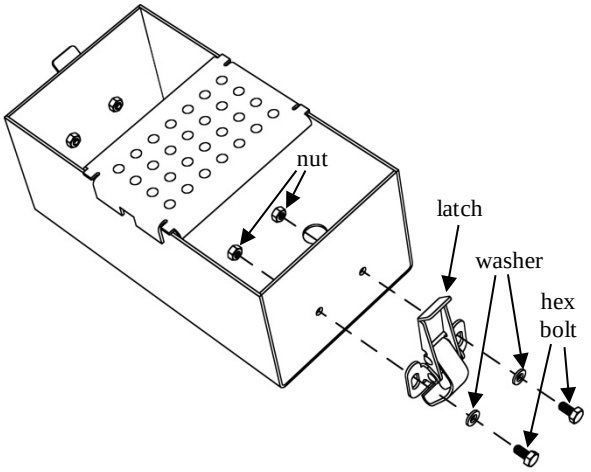


One pair of tines is intended for general purpose use. Two pairs of tines will require significantly more force to push the tines into the ground. It is intended for maintenance of healthy lawn only; it works well on grass with a very healthy root system only. Soil may stick to the spaces between the tines if the root system is poor.

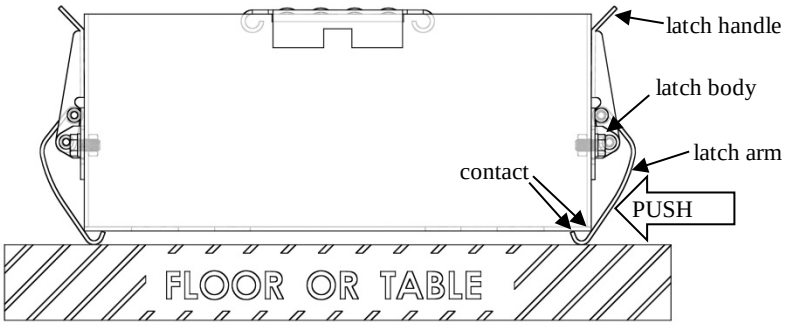
All core lawn aerators require that the soil be VERY moist. This Step 'N Tilt® is no exception. Tine clogging and difficulties in performing lawn aeration are most often caused by insufficient moisture in the soil. Please aerate one day after at least one inch of rain or irrigation. If you have a sprinkler system, each sprinkler zone must run for 60-90 minutes. In other words, the soil must be very moist.

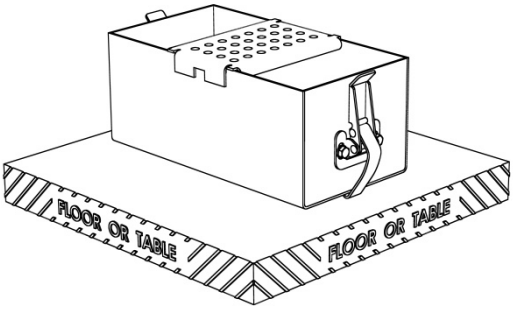
FOR OPTIONAL SOIL CORE CONTAINER ONLY

Step 5a: The height of the latches, which is adjustable, controls the tightness of the latches. The following procedures have been shown to achieve an acceptable level of tightness. Install the latches using the hex bolts, washers, and nuts as shown on the right. Tighten the nuts to the bolts by hand only and then back off the nut by a quarter turn so that the latches can slide freely on the container. DO NOT tighten the bolts and nuts yet; you will tighten them in step 5b below.



Step 5b: Place the container on a table or floor as shown below. Allow the latch body to slide down to its lowest position by gravity. Push the latch arm against the container. Make sure that latch arm is in contact with the edge and bottom of the container and the floor or table as shown. Tighten the bolts with your hand to temporarily secure the latches. Finally, tighten the bolts and nuts with 10mm wrenches.





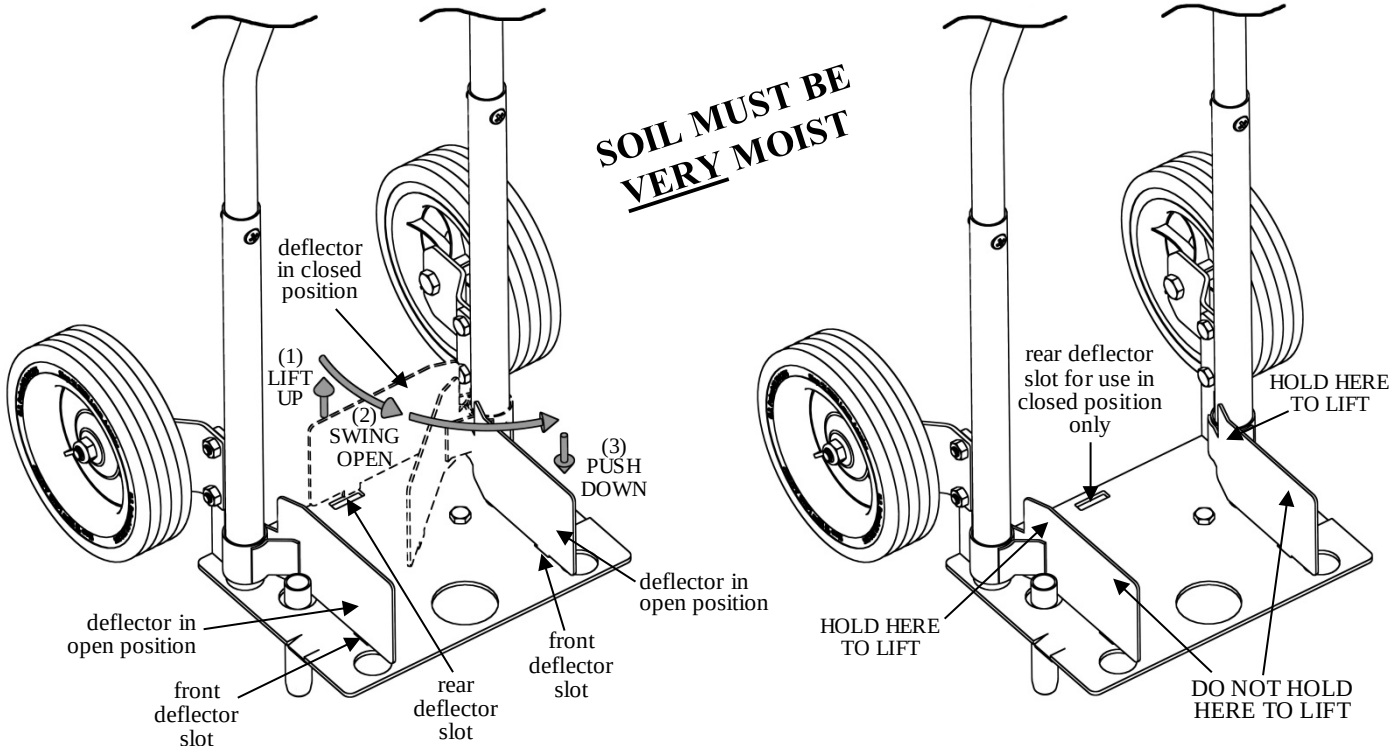
3. USING THE STEP 'N TILT®

Always wear leather shoes or rubber boots while operating the Step 'N Tilt®. The Step 'N Tilt® aerator tines are very sharp. Serious injury to legs and feet can occur if it is not handled carefully.

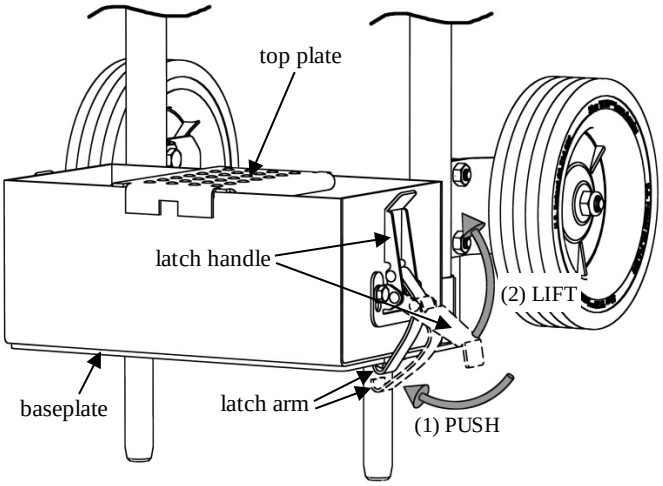
Aerate your lawn one day after an inch (or more) of rain or irrigation. The tines may clog if the soil is too dry or too wet. The tines will not be able to penetrate the ground if the soil is too dry. If the tines clog but can very easily penetrate the ground and the ground is wet and soggy, please wait one day before aerating again. The Step 'N Tilt® lawn aerator tines are designed to aerate clay soil but the moisture content must be at a correct level. The grass leaves should be dry so that you can walk on the lawn safely without losing traction, but the soil should be very moist. Note that the soil cores are usually shorter than the depth of the holes because the soil is compressed during the core removal process.

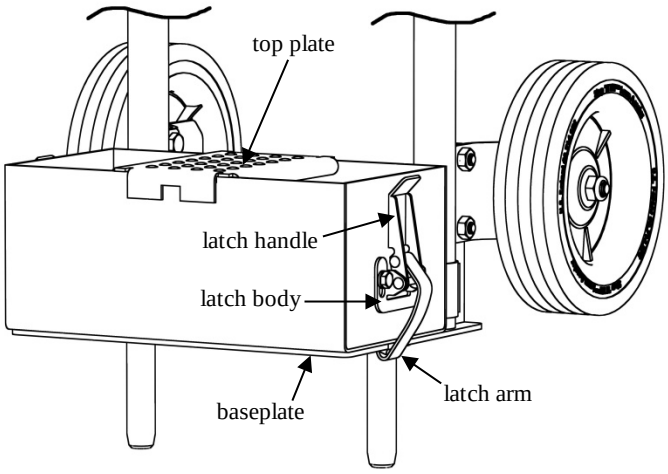
Helpful tips for aerating highly compacted clay soil: If your clay soil is highly compacted or has never been aerated, water may not readily absorb into the clay soil. Water will simply run off the surface of the clay soil during rain or irrigation. Highly compacted clay soil may seem moist at the surface after rain or irrigation but remains dry and compacted underneath the surface. A compacted soil plug may stick to the tip of the aerator tine and impede soil core extraction. We suggest you proceed with aerating the lawn anyway although no soil core is extracted. Use one set of tines only. Note that the tine tips may wear more quickly, especially if the soil contains rock. The tines will create holes in the ground which will serve as little reservoirs to collect water during the next rain or irrigation and allow water to reach deeper into

the ground. A second aeration should yield better results and may extract soil cores successfully. The tine tips may be sharpened with a grinding stone if they become dull or chipped.



If you wish to leave the soil cores on the ground, adjust the deflectors to the open position as shown in the right picture above. To open a deflector, (1) lift the deflector up above the rear deflector slot, (2) swing the deflector open, and (3) push the deflector down to insert it into the front deflector slot as shown in the left picture above.





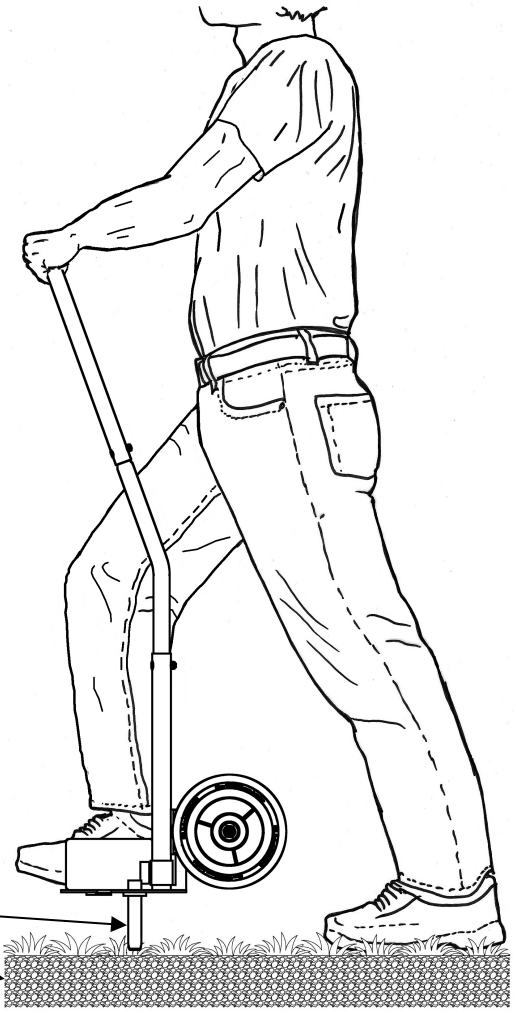
If you wish to collect the soil cores, close the deflectors and place the container (an optional accessory) onto the baseplate. To secure the container using the latches, (1) push the latch arm against the bottom of the baseplate while (2) lifting the latch handle up against the container as shown in the left picture above. The latch handle will snap securely into place if the height of the latch has been adjusted correctly. If needed, readjust the tightness of the latches by adjusting the height of the latch bodies (see step 5b).

OPERATING PROCEDURES

Tips: The aerator tines will penetrate the ground only a few inches so it will typically not damage underground sprinkler pipes because they are typically buried much deeper. However, the aerator tines may damage sprinkler heads. We recommend flagging the sprinkler heads prior to aerating so that you can avoid hitting them during lawn aeration.

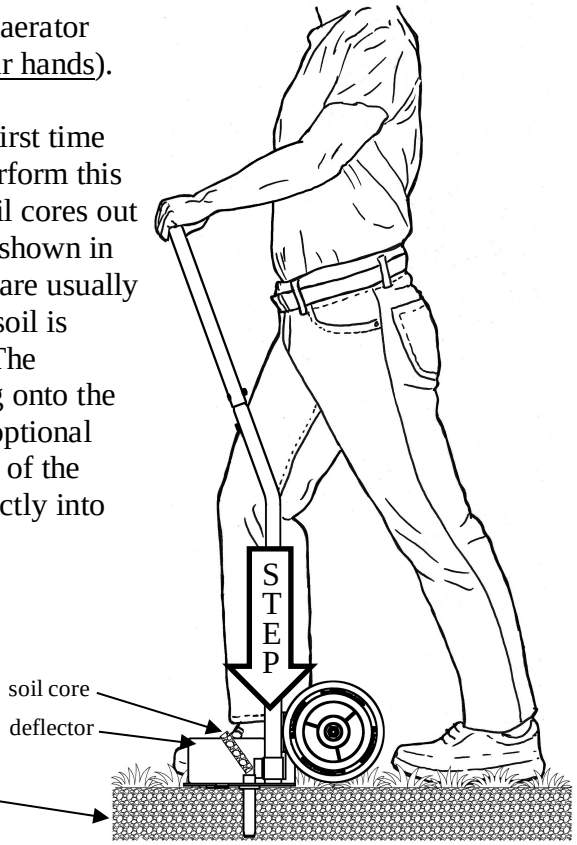
Lawn aeration procedures are as simple and effortless as POSITION-STEP-TILT as follow:

POSITION: Determine a safe location to aerate, position the aerator tines vertically, and place your foot on the baseplate. If you are using the optional soil core container, place your foot on the top plate of the container.

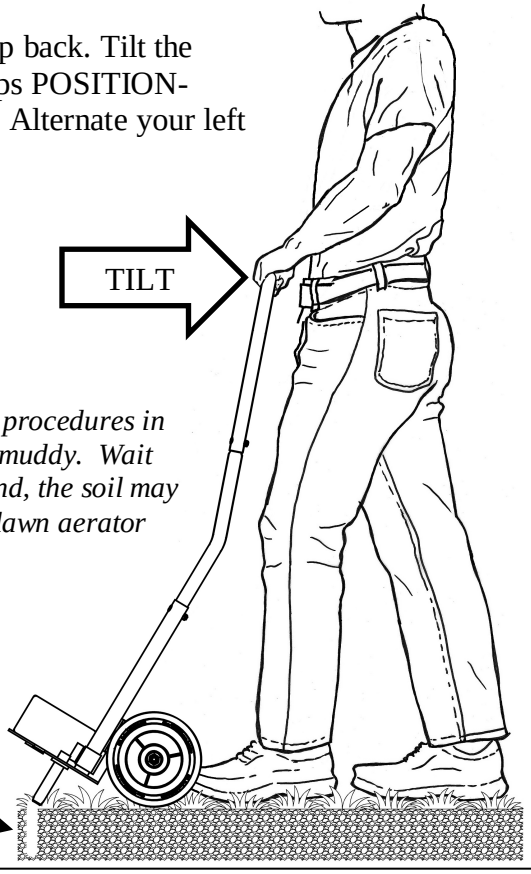


STEP: Step on the baseplate directly above the aerator tines (do not push down on the handle with your hands).

Soil cores will stay inside the aerator tines the first time you perform this task. The second time you perform this task, the second soil cores will push the first soil cores out of the aerator tines through the top opening, as shown in the figure on the right. Note that the soil cores are usually shorter than the depth of the holes because the soil is compressed during the core removal process. The deflectors will prevent soil cores from dropping onto the baseplate so your shoes will stay clean. If the optional soil core container is used, step on the top plate of the container. The soil cores will be deposited directly into the container.



TILT: Remove your foot from the baseplate and take a small step back. Tilt the handle back to remove the tines from the ground. Repeat the steps POSITION-STEP-TILT to create holes that are between 2 to 6 inches apart. Alternate your left and right feet occasionally to reduce fatigue.

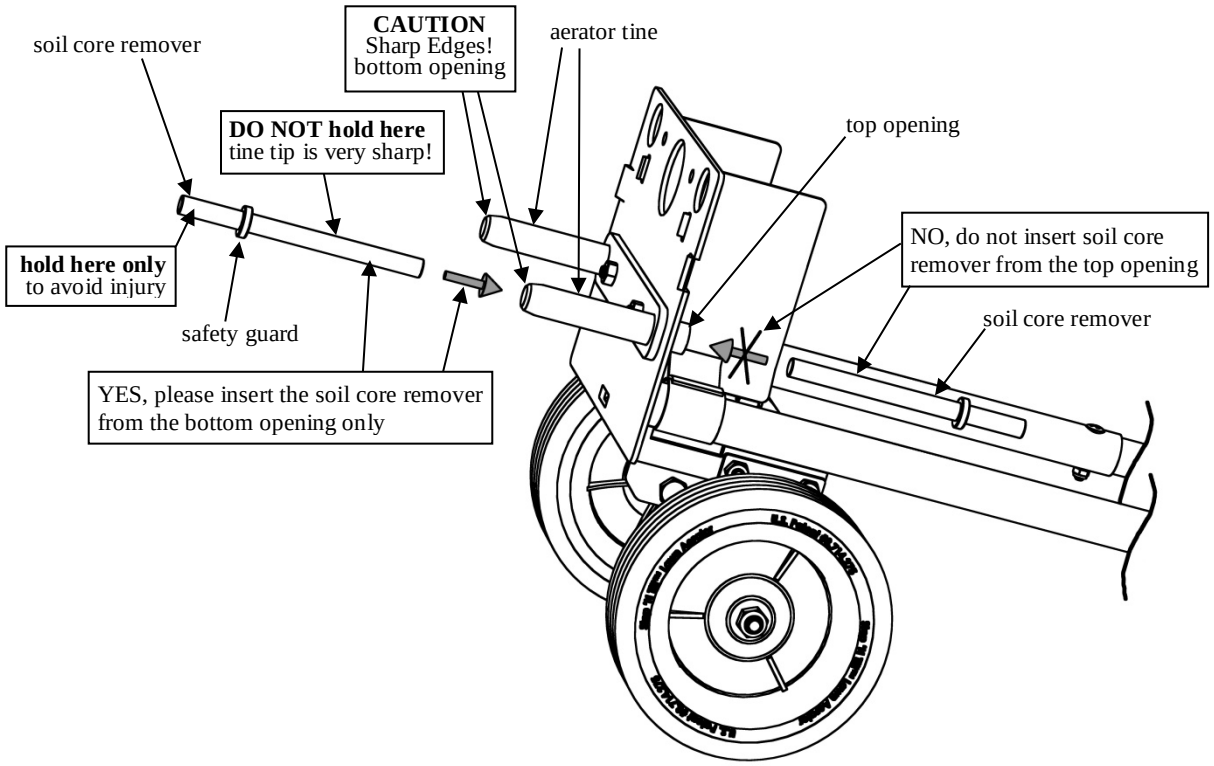


Tips: If the aerator tines clog, remove the clog in accordance with the procedures in the next page. If the tines continually clog, the soil may be too wet or muddy. Wait 1-2 days before aerating again. If the tines cannot penetrate the ground, the soil may be too dry. To avoid excessive tine wear, do not use the Step 'N Tilt® lawn aerator when the ground is too dry.

HOW TO USE THE SOIL CORE REMOVER

CORRECT: Tilt the Step 'N Tilt® to a horizontal position if the soil core is to be removed while the aerator tine is installed on the Step 'N Tilt®. Push the soil core from the bottom opening of the aerator tine. Do not use a screwdriver or any sharp object to remove the soil core as this will cause the soil to stick to the inside surfaces of the tine, which will cause further clogging.

INCORRECT: Never push the soil core from the top opening of the aerator tine; doing so will cause the soil to stick to the inside surfaces of the tine, which will cause further clogging.



4. MAINTENANCE

Remove soil cores from the tines using the soil core remover prior to storage. Spray a thin coat of oil (WD-40 or equivalent) on the inside surfaces of the tines after each use to prevent corrosion/rust. Corrosion on the inside surfaces of the tines may impede core removal and cause clogging.

Occasionally, the fasteners may become loose. Tighten the fasteners as needed but do not over-tighten.

Through the normal use, the powder-coated finish on the aerating tines may deteriorate due to abrasion. In addition, the aerator tines may become dull and require sharpening. The steel tines may be sharpened with a grinding wheel. Due to its high hardness, the tines cannot be easily sharpened with a file. Alternatively, you may purchase replacement tines from https://vibrantyard.com.

5. LIMITED WARRANTY

Vibrant Yard Company, LLC. will repair or replace without cost to the owner any part or parts of the Step 'N Tilt® found to have manufacturing defect for a period of one year from the date of purchase.