

# WORCESTERSHIRE BOWLED OVER BY GRADEN!



**CHRIS WOODS**  
Head Pitch Inspector  
**ENGLISH CRICKET BOARD**

*"In order to raise the standards of cricket pitches, a clean surface free of organic matter is essential. At last we have a machine with a principle that cricketers have been waiting for, an aggressive scarifier beefy enough to tackle compacted heavy loam squares and facilitate the important overseeding and integration of top-dressings."*



Worcestershire County Cricket Ground, on the banks of the River Severn is regarded as one of the finest locations for cricket in the U.K. The innovative Graden Scarifier/Aerator was demonstrated to Head Groundsman, Tim Packwood. This was used in the practice nets area plus remedial scarification on the squares following the final game in late September.

The unique attraction of the Graden machine is that its power and technique avoids having to pre-water in advance of groundscare maintenance. The 12mm depth of penetration (up to 45mm is possible with the Graden) is also likely to remove the vast build-up of silt (caused by last years winter flooding) and ensure a 'sticky free' wicket in April 2002. By using the Graden immediately after play, Tim will be able to maintain a dry surface throughout the summer months.

## USGA RECOGNISE THE BENEFIT FROM THE GRADEN

A recent article by Chris Hartwiger and Patrick O'Brien published in the USGA Greens Section Record show the benefit of using the Graden. Table 1 compares the amount of surface area impacted using different tine sizes and spacings when coring. There is also a comparison showing how much more surface area is impacted for material removal and aeration using the Graden compared with conventional practices.

**Table 1**  
The impact of tine size and spacing on the amount of surface area impacted by core aeration and dethatching

Tine Size Diameter (inches)	Spacing (inches)	Number of Holes per Square Foot	Surface Area Impacted by Core Tine (square inches)	Percent Surface Area Impacted	Number of Aeration Runs Needed to Reach 20% of Surface Area Impacted
%	1 x 1	144	0.049	4.91%	4.1
%	1 x 2	72	0.049	2.45%	8.1
%	2 x 2	36	0.049	1.23%	16.3
%	1 x 1	144	0.110	11.04%	1.8
%	1 x 2	72	0.110	5.52%	3.6
%	2 x 2	36	0.110	2.76%	7.2
%	1 x 1	144	0.196	19.63%	1.0
%	1 x 2	72	0.196	9.82%	2.0
%	2 x 2	36	0.196	4.91%	4.1
%	1 x 1	144	0.307	30.68%	0.7
%	1 x 2	72	0.307	15.34%	1.3
%	2 x 2	36	0.307	7.67%	2.6
Dethatching Machine* % Blades	1 x 1	NA	NA	14.10%	1.4
Dethatching Machine* % Blades	1 x 1	NA	NA	7.0%	2.0

\*Graden vertical mower