

**Grounds Association**

**Pitch Advisors September Blog**

**September Solace**

This is probably the most crucial month in the Groundpersons calendar. Last month’s blog describes the autumn renovations procedure and here are a few hints to follow that programme.

* Top-off the new germination of grass to around 25/30 mm with a rotary cut, but it is vital that the blade is razor sharp otherwise a blunt unit will just tear the new growth and cause disease.
* When conditions allow solid tine aerate on a monthly basis until the end of January or if you use a lighter loam, i.e. Mendip, aerate until the end of February.
* Plan for a November autumn/winter fertilization of 3.6.8+Fe NPK to help strengthen the new growth over the winter months.
* Out of season machine service and maintenance could be negotiated with your contractor/dealer for a financial benefit to your Club.
* At this time of the year morning dews may actually last well into the afternoon so regular brushing will remove this excess moisture, helping control diseases such as Fusarium.
* This month usually provides the last month for spraying weeds. Please only do this yourself if you have the correct spraying certification, otherwise a contractor will be required.