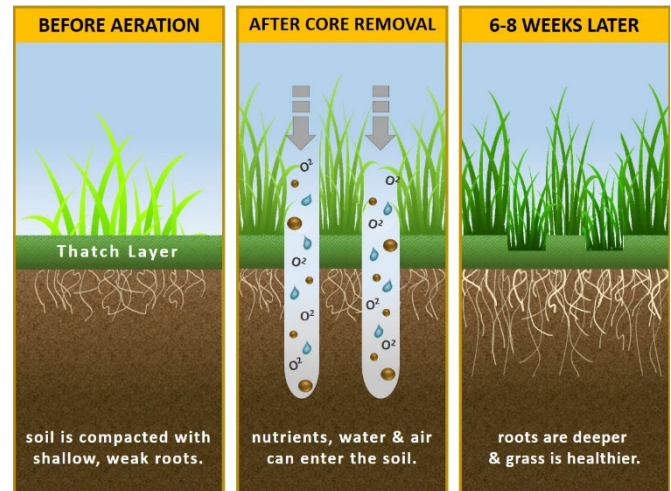


# Soil Saver Rebate

*Healthy soils mean healthy plants, and healthy plants require less water and are better able to withstand stressors such as drought. One of the best ways to build healthy soil on existing lawn areas is to aerate and top-dress with compost. Core aeration removes plugs of compacted soil and thatch to allow air, water and nutrients to penetrate deep into the soil. Compost is decomposed, nutrient-rich material that functions as a natural lawn and landscape fertilizer. Mulch helps to build healthy soils around trees and in landscape beds by insulating soil and roots, reducing water losses from evaporation, and adding nutrients as it decomposes. This program encourages development of healthy soils by providing rebates for core aeration of lawn areas, top-dressing lawn areas with compost, and using mulch on beds, gardens and trees.*



## Eligibility

Program is open to existing SMTXU water utility customers with an account in good standing.

## Qualifying Products

**Core Aeration:** Rebate applies to core/plug aeration only, not applicable to spike, liquid or chemical aeration.

**Compost:** Rebate applicable to lawn top-dressing (1/4 to 1/2 inch) or landscape beds (1 to 2 inches).

Compost should be finely screened, and mixes or blends must contain at least 50% compost.

**Mulch:** Rebate applies to plant-based mulches such as wood chips or shavings, not applicable to stone, landscape fabric or rubber mulches. Recommend 2 to 4 inches around trees and in landscape beds.

## Rebate Amounts

### **Single-family residential:**

- Core aeration - 50% of the cost of service or equipment rental, not to exceed \$50
- Compost application – 50% of the cost of service or material purchase price, not to exceed \$75
- Mulch application – 50% of the cost of service or material purchase price, not to exceed \$75

### **Commercial and institutional:**

- Core aeration - 50% of the cost of service or equipment rental, not to exceed \$200
- Compost application – 50% of the cost of service or material purchase price, not to exceed \$200
- Mulch application – 50% of the cost of service or material purchase price, not to exceed \$200

# Soil Saver Rebate

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## Rebate Process

**Step 1:** *Before aerating*, make sure you or your contractor mark all irrigation heads and valves, meter boxes, shallow electric or communication wires, exposed tree roots, etc.

**Step 2:** Hire a contractor to do the work, or do the work yourself. Core aerators can be rented at many equipment rental stores.

**Step 3:** Submit completed rebate application along with itemized invoices and/or receipts, and photos of completed work. Make sure invoices contain specific information such as type and quantity of materials used, and labor costs if any. Application and invoices must be submitted within 30 days after purchase or work completion.

**Step 4:** Conservation staff may schedule a site inspection to verify work.

**Step 5:** Rebate is issued as a credit on customer's utility bill.



## Additional Terms

- Rebates are offered on a first come/first serve basis and are subject to availability of funds.
- SMTXU may alter program requirements at any time without prior notice.
- SMTXU reserves the right to deny any application or refuse incentive payment for installations that do not conform to all program requirements, terms, rules and specifications.
- Rebated products must be installed within the SMTXU water service area, and must remain in use at the specified address for the lifetime of the product.
- Rebate amount is pre-tax and is for purchase of landscaping materials and installation only. Rebate is not applicable to maintenance agreements, warranties, tax or any other items.
- Applicant and contractors must comply with applicable local, state and federal regulations, and must obtain all required permits and inspections.
- The City of San Marcos does not endorse specific brands, products, contractors or dealers; nor does it guarantee materials, workmanship, performance or durability of rebated products.

**Send completed application packet to:**

[idelacruz3@sanmarcostx.gov](mailto:idelacruz3@sanmarcostx.gov)

**SMTXU Conservation Department**

**630 East Hopkins**

**San Marcos, TX 78666**

**512-393-8310**



# Soil Saver Rebate

## Customer Information

Applicant name: \_\_\_\_\_ SMTXU water account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Business name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Installation address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Contractor Information (if applicable)

Business name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Rebate Information (check and complete all that apply)

Core aeration

Description of area aerated (front yard, back yard, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate square footage of area aerated: \_\_\_\_\_

Compost

Description of compost application area (lawn, garden, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate square footage of application area: \_\_\_\_\_

Mulch

Description of mulched area (trees, beds, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate square footage of application area: \_\_\_\_\_

***I have read, understand, and agree to the SMTXU Soil Saver Rebate Program requirements and terms. I understand that incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant, and that my application is not complete unless I have included the following:***

- ***Itemized invoices/receipts***
- ***Photos of completed project***

**SMTXU water utility customer name (printed):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_