The 100-year summer strikes

Continued from page 1

“If you had bentgrass greens, you were basically fine. But if you had poa annua greens, it’s been a real problem. And, in certain places, you were in trouble with ryegrass on the fairways because of a disease called Pyricularia grisea (gray leaf spot) found normally in Bermudagrass and centipede. This year ryegrass got it from the Mid-Atlantic to Kentucky. I’ve seen this disease twice on ryegrass in 24 years.

"Put these ingredients all together and you have some hurting golf courses. All have suffered... There weren’t many unblemished rather than the drought.

Bob Brame of the USGA North-Central Region agreed. “It was so bad... Greens, green embankments, fairways — there are scars everywhere,” he said. “A number of courses got the moisture to the root zone — aggressive overseeding and some sodding — and using temporary putting surfaces while renovating their permanent greens.”

We have a lot of problems because “there’s no way to treat it. It happens when soil can’t drain, and it kills the grass quicker than anything. Usually you see very little of it, never to the extent we’ve seen it this year.”

“Two have been here two years and we’ve had a 50-year ice storm and now a 50-year drought,” lamented superintendent Dan Papp of Worthington (Del.) Country Club. “We’re looking at more financial losses this year for two years it will help,” he said. “We got hit with the highest dew point numbers on record, which there is no good chemical control. We had soil temperatures at one point above 100 degrees. It was pretty dramatic in how much you lost.”

Brute conditions across the country

In many places across the country, the weather elements were savage. For instance, by mid-September:

• In Delaware, “water police” were checking neighborhoods ensuring that people held to water restrictions put in place beginning Sept. 1. “This was very understanding and reasonable,” said Dan Pierson of Wilmington (Del.) Country Club, who had feared the worst. “Courses are limited to watering between 5 and 8 a.m., greens and tees only. But we can use the automated irrigation systems for delivery.”

Delaware surpassed the 50-year drought stage and moved to an all-time unbroken 100-year drought. “We were 7 inches above normal rainfall in mid-May,” Pierson said, “and now we’re 12-1/2 inches under.”

• Philadelphia marked nearly 50 days exceeding 90 degrees, including a record 27 in a row. “We have broken every record in Philly,” said Paul B. Latshaw of Merion Golf Club. “Of the last five years, four have been the hottest in the history of Philadelphia. This year was the hottest and the worst drought on the record books.”

• August was the driest month on record in many parts of Pennsylvania. “Data from 1985 to 1995 shows Minnesota had the hottest August in the last 10 years, the hottest July since 1989 and the hottest June since 1991.”

• Just 7/10 of an inch of rain was measured from the first of June to mid-September at Waterville (Maine) Country Club. “Business is great. The golf course has had it,” said superintendent Kyle Evans.

• “We had 15 consecutive days where we set record highs for heat and humidity,” said Kirby Putt of Chester Valley Golf Club in Malvern, Pa. “It’s the fourth-worst drought in 101 years.”

• Columbus, Ohio, is 12 inches over normal in rainfall — normal being 36 inches.

“Put these ingredients all together and you have some hurting golf courses. All have suffered... There weren’t many unblemished rather than the drought.

Bob Brame of the USGA North-Central Region agreed. “It was so bad... Greens, green embankments, fairways — there are scars everywhere,” he said. “A number of courses got the moisture to the root zone — aggressive overseeding and some sodding — and using temporary putting surfaces while renovating their permanent greens.”

We have a lot of problems because “there’s no way to treat it. It happens when soil can’t drain, and it kills the grass quicker than anything. Usually you see very little of it, never to the extent we’ve seen it this year.”

“Two have been here two years and we’ve had a 50-year ice storm and now a 50-year drought,” lamented superintendent Dan Papp of Worthington (Del.) Country Club. “We’re looking at more financial losses this year for two years it will help,” he said. “We got hit with the highest dew point numbers on record, which there is no good chemical control. We had soil temperatures at one point above 100 degrees. It was pretty dramatic in how much you lost.”

Brute conditions across the country

In many places across the country, the weather elements were savage. For instance, by mid-September:

• In Delaware, “water police” were checking neighborhoods ensuring that people held to water restrictions put in place beginning Sept. 1. “This was very understanding and reasonable,” said Dan Pierson of Wilmington (Del.) Country Club, who had feared the worst. “Courses are limited to watering between 5 and 8 a.m., greens and tees only. But we can use the automated irrigation systems for delivery.”

Delaware surpassed the 50-year drought stage and moved to an all-time unbroken 100-year drought. “We were 7 inches above normal rainfall in mid-May,” Pierson said, “and now we’re 12-1/2 inches under.”

• Philadelphia marked nearly 50 days exceeding 90 degrees, including a record 27 in a row. “We have broken every record in Philly,” said Paul B. Latshaw of Merion Golf Club. “Of the last five years, four have been the hottest in the history of Philadelphia. This year was the hottest and the worst drought on the record books.”

• August was the driest month on record in many parts of Pennsylvania. “Data from 1985 to 1995 shows Minnesota had the hottest August in the last 10 years, the hottest July since 1989 and the hottest June since 1991.”

• Just 7/10 of an inch of rain was measured from the first of June to mid-September at Waterville (Maine) Country Club. “Business is great. The golf course has had it,” said superintendent Kyle Evans.

• “We had 15 consecutive days where we set record highs for heat and humidity,” said Kirby Putt of Chester Valley Golf Club in Malvern, Pa. “It’s the fourth-worst drought in 101 years.”

• Columbus, Ohio, is 12 inches over normal in rainfall — normal being 36 inches.

“If you had bentgrass greens, you were basically fine. But if you had poa annua greens, it’s been a real problem. And, in certain places, you were in trouble with ryegrass on the fairways because of a disease called Pyricularia grisea (gray leaf spot) found normally in Bermudagrass and centipede. This year ryegrass got it from the Mid-Atlantic to Kentucky. I’ve seen this disease twice on ryegrass in 24 years.

"Put these ingredients all together and you have some hurting golf courses. All have suffered... There weren’t many unblemished rather than the drought.

Bob Brame of the USGA North-Central Region agreed. “It was so bad... Greens, green embankments, fairways — there are scars everywhere,” he said. “A number of courses got the moisture to the root zone — aggressive overseeding and some sodding — and using temporary putting surfaces while renovating their permanent greens.”

We have a lot of problems because “there’s no way to treat it. It happens when soil can’t drain, and it kills the grass quicker than anything. Usually you see very little of it, never to the extent we’ve seen it this year.”

“Two have been here two years and we’ve had a 50-year ice storm and now a 50-year drought,” lamented superintendent Dan Papp of Worthington (Del.) Country Club. “We’re looking at more financial losses this year for two years it will help,” he said. “We got hit with the highest dew point numbers on record, which there is no good chemical control. We had soil temperatures at one point above 100 degrees. It was pretty dramatic in how much you lost.”

Brute conditions across the country

In many places across the country, the weather elements were savage. For instance, by mid-September:

• In Delaware, “water police” were checking neighborhoods ensuring that people held to water restrictions put in place beginning Sept. 1. “This was very understanding and reasonable,” said Dan Pierson of Wilmington (Del.) Country Club, who had feared the worst. “Courses are limited to watering between 5 and 8 a.m., greens and tees only. But we can use the automated irrigation systems for delivery.”

Delaware surpassed the 50-year drought stage and moved to an all-time unbroken 100-year drought. “We were 7 inches above normal rainfall in mid-May,” Pierson said, “and now we’re 12-1/2 inches under.”

• Philadelphia marked nearly 50 days exceeding 90 degrees, including a record 27 in a row. “We have broken every record in Philly,” said Paul B. Latshaw of Merion Golf Club. “Of the last five years, four have been the hottest in the history of Philadelphia. This year was the hottest and the worst drought on the record books.”

• August was the driest month on record in many parts of Pennsylvania. “Data from 1985 to 1995 shows Minnesota had the hottest August in the last 10 years, the hottest July since 1989 and the hottest June since 1991.”

• Just 7/10 of an inch of rain was measured from the first of June to mid-September at Waterville (Maine) Country Club. “Business is great. The golf course has had it,” said superintendent Kyle Evans.

• “We had 15 consecutive days where we set record highs for heat and humidity,” said Kirby Putt of Chester Valley Golf Club in Malvern, Pa. “It’s the fourth-worst drought in 101 years.”

• Columbus, Ohio, is 12 inches over normal in rainfall — normal being 36 inches.