



# Mother Nature

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Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, air and soil temperatures will have "normalized," allowing seed and sod to establish in those areas needing assistance. Once again, Mother Nature had the final say regarding the health of *Poa annua*-laden golf courses in the state. Tees and collars were hit the hardest by most accounts with occasional areas of fairways and greens also taking it on the chin. The culprit was one of the two late April snowfalls we experienced this year. In my conversations with other Superintendents

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in the state, the damaged areas tended to correlate with areas of shade that held snow cover the longest. Hydrated *Poa annua* plants combined with a rapid temperature change was the most likely cause of death. Some golf courses also experienced desiccation damage.

## Future of PCNB

During a recent follow-up conversation with Jill Bloom, Review Manager, U.S. EPA, I learned that the 2008 spring decision regarding the future of PCNB has been put on hold. It now appears that EPA is re-examining pesticides that are persistent in the environment and potentially bioaccumulative (like PCNB). Their current task is to establish the best way to characterize the risks such products pose. The time frame for a decision is unclear.

This may all be for naught. One of my highly trusted and well-connected distributor reps has informed me of several changes on the PCNB scene. Apparently



*One-week-old bentgrass seedlings on Keller's 11th tee waiting for some promised heat to kick in.*

AMVAC will be the only remaining manufacturer of PCNB. As the sole manufacturer, they control pricing. Prices this fall will be close to double the 2007 price, pushing \$40/gallon. If this is in fact true, AMVAC, in my opinion, will have shot itself in the foot. PCNB is a very effective snow mold product that was economically priced. Double the price and many other effective products become competitive. How this shakes out remains to be seen.

## Agree to Disagree

In the February issue of *Hole Notes* I asked readers, if inclined, to submit counter-thought responses on any topic presented in *Minnesota in the Crosshairs* or anywhere else in the publication. Well, a

rebuttal to my February column titled "The Ethanol Fallacy" was received and is printed in this issue on Page 12.

The beauty of living in America is that each and every one of us is entitled to an opinion and the ability to express that opinion. It is also acceptable to agree to disagree.

BUT...it is extremely important that these exchanges remain civil and respectful. I will not publicly spar with the author of this piece as we simply disagree on the viability of corn ethanol as an energy source in the 21st century. However, I do take issue with being referred to as deceitful and slanted. Rebuttals are welcome but name-calling is not necessary.

Have a great golf season!!!