



PEER-TO-PEER: BETTER TURF THROUGH NETWORKING

MGCSA members were asked:

What was your biggest surprise this summer? ...what worked beyond your expectations?

Biggest surprise of this summer at **Stillwater CC**? Does this last snowstorm count? Maybe the the extra 3 weeks of spring when we opened the 3rd week of March? The relentless disease stress? This whole season has been one big surprise after another. What worked beyond my expectations this year at Stillwater Country Club had to be Civitas. We used it every three weeks on our fairways and had excellent disease control and beautiful turf. Also, this was one of the few years I haven't seen pythium on our fairways. Civitas does not control pythium, but maybe the healthy turf helped control the disease? This could also be considered one of my biggest surprises?!

- Marlin Murphy
Stillwater CC

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At **Oneida**, this spring I very hesitantly decided to change my normal greens aeration process, only because they came out of the winter so well and the previous year's process had taken so long to heal. I used the small needle tines instead of my normal 0.400" hollow tine and we made it through the wettest summer on record without any issues at all. For the first time since I have been keeping track, the HOC on our greens remained below 0.100" for 77 consecutive days. Not that aeration is the only factor, but I figured it was a bigger factor than it turned out to be. I will see if it going to have an accumulative effect as I do the same process again next spring. This was definitely my biggest surprise of the summer.

- Mark Storby
Oneida Golf and Country Club

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At **Bully Pulpit**, it was the lack of localized dry spot, and the emergence of new pests on the golf course even with warmer than average temps. Over the years here, we've added a few tools to the tool box. Using an injection pump coupled with the constant release of penetrants has really increased the efficiency of our water window. We weren't quite as hot as years past, but still hot enough to drag hoses

most days of the week to cool greens in the afternoon. The increased frequency of needle tining our greens coupled with the improved infiltration of water and nutrients kept our greens top notch until the end of the season. I now keep a standard subsurface summer solid tine aeration practice in our program, not just at the top 1" of the surface. Even our fairways and roughs stayed wetter, a phenomenon I relate to our injection system as well. I feel as many do in the humid Upper Midwest summer did, my philosophy of leaner plays better bit me a some as we had a larger than normal outbreak of low N diseases such as redthread, dollar spot, and Red leaf spot. Putting surfaces spoon fed with Phosphite based liquids came through unscathed, but the approaches, tees, and fairways got hit pretty hard. Luckily, spot feeding with quick release fertilizers masked that and we still put the course to bed healthy. I will also say I'd endorse Instrata for snowmold and disregard the use of Civitas at all during the season from experiences with long deep snow winters and decreased green speed while using even trace amounts of Civitas.

- Kyle Fick
Bully Pulpit GC

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A nice surprise at **Somerset** was the product Acelepryn. We applied it for the Japanese Beetle (grub) and got excellent control for Cutworms too, it was quite incredible. I had a hard time getting regulation on the greens with Legacy alone, I needed to spike it with Primo. I underestimated the humidity and therefore the pythium on fairways. I didn't inject our Linden trees soon enough for the feeding Japanese Beetle but spraying the beetles with Sevin sure worked. And finally, I sure like the looks of ferrous sulfate on the fairways.

- James Bade
Somerset Country Club

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My biggest surprise of the past year was the intense Dollar Spot pressure we experienced at **The Jewel in Lake City**.

Granted, it was a very moist year in SE Minnesota and leaf wetness time was a huge factor certainly, but I now have a greater appreciation and fear of what dollar spot can do – and in a short period of time when the conditions are favorable.

- Doug Mahal CGCS,
The Jewel in Lake City



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