

The Double Whammy!

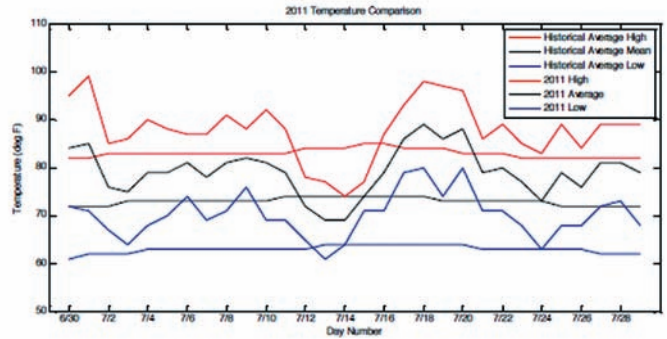
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My last post on weather described winter in detail and poor spring growing conditions. My goal following that press release was to play golf, go on vacation, spend a relaxing summer with my kids, do some research and write some manuscripts. SIX rounds of golf later (as of 8/31/11), I am bitter. This has been one of those years. Many of you have found religion and pray daily for winter. Careful now in what you wish for. We need some time to grow grass before the white stuff falls.

One GM in the metro told me that these sort of press releases are just excuses for the poor playing conditions. Of course they are. As a matter of fact, if Mother Nature wrote doctors notes, she would reference the same material.

The University of Minnesota Turf team compiled comparative historical data for the hottest 30-day span in the last 25 to 30-yrs. As many of you experienced, during these types of conditions, the turf was unable to perform basic physiological processes, disease was rampant, irrigation and fertilizers did nothing but exacerbate the stress and many of you looked at the "I need to buy a really big fan" website.

For the 30-day span starting on June 30 and ending on July 29 the average high was 87.9 and the average low was 70.2. The average high dew point was 70. The highest minimum temperature for July 17, 18 and 20 was 79, 80 and 80, respectively, which were records in Minnesota. What I find fascinating is that the average number of hours with dew points greater than 75 is 18:



we hit 103 hours during this 30-day span!

The heat injury, coupled with the plants inability to recuperate from traffic, ball marking, divots and mechanical damage accumulated during these extreme weather periods.

I assume we are done with this chaos and growing season 2011 will forever be in the record books. However, your wish of winter early this year is also being predicted by Farmers almanac. If you thought the Japanese beetles were bad this year, if we have another early snow that persists without allowing our soils to freeze, call your local vendor because insecticides will be a hot item next year. May want to consider Vegas for the Golf Industry Show this year. I'm betting on...

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Below: Data for hottest 30-day span during 2011 and typical data for that time period.

	Start	End
2011 Hottest 30 Day Span	6/30/2011	7/29/2011
	2011	Normal
HEAT		
Mean High (°F)	87.9	83
Mean Low (°F)	70.2	63
Mean Temp (°F)	79.2	73
Cooling Degree Days (base 65°F)	427	240
Growing Degree Days (base 50°F)	857	690
Min Temp Not Reached	60	60
HUMIDITY		
Mean High Dew Point	69.5	65.5
Mean Low Dew Point	59.5	56
Mean Dew Point	64.8	

Most Hours with DP >=75°F		
Rank	Year	Hours
1	2011	103 (as of 8/29)
2	2001	78
3	1999	64
4	1987	60
5	1995	56
Normal (1981-2010)		18

MONTHLY DATA

Highest Monthly Averages (1986-2011)		
Year	Month	
2006	July	79.6
2011	July	78.8
2010	Aug	77
2002	July	77
2005	July	76.8
1989	July	76.4
2010	July	76.3
1999	July	76.2
2007	July	76

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