

Summer Woes

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I'm sorry I shouted at you the other day when you questioned me about whether we were having any trouble with the course. However, I don't think it was necessary for my assistant to grab me on the pretense that I was about to start swinging.

Yes Sir! We have been having some trouble with the course, in fact several of the members have suggested that we are stretching the truth by calling it a golf course. As you may remember, it rained the entire month of July-record amounts. Well, during the first two weeks of August, while you were away on vacation, it turned hot and dry. Now I know you have said there's nothing unusual about such weather at that time of year, and I guess there isn't, but after ten inches of rain? Let us say in layman's terms the grass just didn't have the ambition, or the guts to survive. We literally saw aerial roots growing to nowhere on the Bent, and the Poa (which comprises most of our turf population, regardless of what you think I told you in the spring) had just enough roots to keep it from tipping over. It sure was interesting to watch the man syringing fairways with the wilt both ahead and behind him. Of course, as I told you earlier, I was very glad to be able to get back to watering seven nights a week. That \$18 item under Misc. last month was for a case of 6-12.

Then at the end of August we went back to our normal climate for this year, late abysmal swamp. I imagine one of the things you were questioning me about the other day is called "wet wilted, rotten, dead grass." It's not very attractive, and from what I'm told is very difficult to play from. In fact, I've been told the latter so many times that I suggested to three of the worst offenders that they resign-they already had.

Those large brown thin areas on the greens are disease. We realize that fungicides should prevent them, and I have written several pointed letters to the manufacturers of the 5 chemicals we applied in two weeks. The small tan spots on the fairways are called "dollar spot." As soon as we get the sprayer out of the mud on the 17th fairway, we'll get right on those areas.

We do hope to get the greens top-dressed this fall, however, it may be a little difficult as the operation really takes six men, and we only have four since our "summer professionals" have left for school. I sure hope we can get Mr. Looney's son back next year. I can't quite agree with the Board that just because he cut that word in the 9th fairway with a greensmower, he should not be asked back. After all he is a member's son, and certainly was a help on those weekends that parties didn't interfere.

In closing I certainly want to thank that kind member, who sent me the case of beer the day we lost 5 greens and 11 fairways to disease and wilt. I really wasn't feeling too chipper anyway, and his note—"You might as well drink, you haven't done very well at anything else," really set me up.

Respectfully submitted
Greens Superintendent
(Anonymous)

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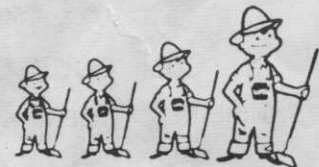


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