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and
BETTER
OFFERS**



Supplied
complete
with
**BIGGA
LOGO**
attached

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dry when it's wet in our special

RAINSUITS

Supplied by top manufacturers ProQuip

Comfortable, practical and stylish – that's the all-weather Neptune II rainsuit specially designed for greenkeepers and guaranteed to keep you dry. Now BIGGA have teamed up with manufacturers ProQuip to bring you these weatherproof jacket and trouser sets at an unbelievable low price. They're available in Navy/Silver or Navy/Jade with different styles for men and women. And because of a cancelled export order, orders for women's rainsuits will be supplied with an extra pair of trousers – absolutely free! These quality workwear garments are fully guaranteed for a year.

All rainsuits are supplied complete with BIGGA logo
– as seen on national TV at Royal Birkdale during The Open.

LIMITED OFFER - ORDER TODAY

HIGHEST quality for the
LOWEST price you'll find!

£74.⁹⁵
Inc.
P+P
Men's style

Colours: Navy/
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trousers are Navy.
Sizes: Men's: S (38"/
40"); M (42"/44");
L (44"/46"); XL (46"/
48"); XXL (48"/50")
Women's: 10, 12,
14, 16, 18.

£69.⁹⁵
Inc.
P+P
Women's style

**- includes extra
pair of trousers
absolutely FREE**

TO ORDER Simply complete
the Order Form
card in this issue and post in an envelope,
enclosing a cheque made payable to **BIGGA**.
Prices include VAT, postage and packing.

Just where is all our WATER?



They're telling us the water problems won't go away, the water companies and the NRA now fearing that much of our fair land could face yet another year – the fourth – of water shortages (and resulting restrictions) following yet another exceptionally dry spell over the past two months.

Let's you think this is no concern of yours, consider the facts: ground water levels are extremely low in places and still diminishing. Six and a half million households are affected by hosepipe bans, East Anglian farmers banned from using irrigation sprays.

Worst still, the rainfall for August in England and Wales was only 32% of the average when taken long-term and according to the Met. Office the rainfall for the first 19 days of September was a miserable 1% of this long-term average.

It doesn't need me to tell the greenkeeper that a short-term lack of water doesn't pose a great threat, nor a threat of shortage. What this latest spell does, however, is create the nail in the coffin after something approaching four years of below average rainfall, which first began as long ago as winter 1988.

We all remember the summer of '89, though no doubt many wish they could forget it, and the spark of hope that the winter of '89 brought when slightly more than average rain fell, followed by the all-time dry spell that stretched throughout all of last year.

Follow this with the dry year so far (forget the wee wet spell of June, it barely touched the surface and did no more than give the *Poa annua* a quick fix) and we have a long, patchy drought which now affects most if not all of the south and east of England, though Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were much less affected. The main sufferers clearly are the south-east and East Anglia, already reeling from hosepipe bans and tougher restrictions set to be imposed.

Gardeners and car wash freaks were hit by hosepipe bans, which reduced the demand somewhat, though underlying short-fall remains a serious problem. River flows are said to be only about 50% of the annual average, reservoir levels in the south west and a large chunk of Wessex are decidedly sickly and in the Southern, Anglian and Thames Water Authority areas the ground water levels are falling and approaching all-time record lows.

In the severe drought of '76 the levels recorded in Kent aquifers were then at an all-time low, though this year's levels have surpassed even those and are giving great cause for concern over recharge.

In pure layman terms, the NRA authorities are saying that if and when the rains come it will be several weeks – or months – before the water gets to a point of actually percolating into the aquifers and being stored, the dry spell creating such dry hard pan surfaces that millions of gallons will be simply soaked up by the rain.

Writing this on September 18th, the forecast for most of England reads doom laden for the greenkeeper – continuing dry!

DAVID WHITE