

WINDBURN INJURY ON GREENS AND FAIRWAYS

"LET'S NOT ARGUE ABOUT IT"

O. J. Noer

By: Robert Williams

This is another dry spring like 1948, with windy days, but temperatures have been higher than a year ago. Windburn damage was bad last spring. This year the creeping bent on many fairways and in patches on some greens, is brown from windburn. The grass started to turn green, then withered and died for want of moisture. There are no roots of any consequence under the damaged bent. Injury is confined to places and spots where the turf is heavily matted.

The fairways on one watered course were injured last season, but not this year. They were cross-disced in the spring of 1948, aerified then and again last fall. The grass has a better and deeper root system. That is the reason for no damage this spring. There are enough roots in the deeper moist soil to carry the grass through the dry spell.

At another course the greens were badly windburned in 1947. The turf had almost no roots that year. The injury this spring was confined to a few spots of matted grass. These greens were aerified twice last year, once in the spring and again in October. Examination with the profile sampler shows a vastly improved root system.

Most of the windburn spots can be brought back. New growth is starting from nodes. Light watering by hand several times a day is a must on dry hot days and is imperative until the new young plants become well established. Many of them will die unless the soil at the surface is kept moist - but not saturated.

Deep forking by hand of windburned spots in greens, or with the turferator or aerifier should be done promptly this spring in order to develop deep roots. Greens should get the same kind of treatment next fall.

Localized dry spots and wilting may occur on these greens this summer. When that happens, grass will die and turn brown unless watched constantly - seven days a week. A little water must be applied by hand whenever the grass starts to turn blue which is a sign of wilting. Greens must have attention on Saturdays and Sundays as well as the other five days in the week during bad weather.

Windburn fairways should be aerified, cross-disced, or spiked deeply this spring to open the matted turf and permit the entrance of water. They should get the same treatment next fall.

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"Don't worry" is a better motto if you add the word, "others."

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Weather facts concerning the Chicago Area:

Average precipitation:

April thru September - 20 inches

Average date of last frost in Spring:

April 15th to 30th.

Average date of first frost in Fall:

October 10 to 20th.

Number of growing days in the season:

La Grange 167 days.

Chicago University 196 days.

Waukegan 158 days.

Average annual precipitation:

32 to 34 inches.

28% of annual rainfall is in the spring.

32% of annual rainfall is in the summer.

26% of annual rainfall in in the fall.

For the State of Illinois - Weather Averages.

CLEAR on 160 days

PARTLY CLOUDY on 94 days

CLOUDY on 111 days

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Thought and learning are of small value unless translated into action.

--- Wang Yang-Ming

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Norm:

Just a line to say what a grand job you fellows are doing with the Bull Sheet. I get a real bang out of it each time and, for the first time, we are able to keep up with your thinking and your developments. The Bull Sheet, and other periodicals like it are significant factors in the educational phase of the broad turf program. They fill in the more intimate details of turf management which the national publications never will be able to do. More power to you.

I'm looking forward to my visit in June at Medinah.

Sincerely,  
Yours for better Turf.  
Fred V. Grau, Director  
United States Golf Assn.  
Greens Section

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