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WEATHER

After an extended period of drought, we in the Chicago area were deluged over a period of eight days with a total of up to 10 inches of rain. On the eve of July 13 it began to rain and it continued to rain off and on for eight days. The southwest side of the city was hit with three rains of over 2 inches each.

Much of the turf remained under water for several days. Hot humid weather prevailed for several days after the rain. Many of the low areas now have dead grass in them. Disease in the form of Pithium was quite prevalent for almost a week. Large areas of fairway turf have been thinned out. Greens are sick. Hungry turf was attacked by Dollar Spot. All in all, most of the courses that received over four inches of rain are suffering through some type of trouble directly related to the excessive rain. Beverly Country Club, Calumet Country Club, Ravisloe Country Club and Idlewild Country Club had several feet of water in many of the areas on their courses.

Some Superintendents reported success in combating Pithium with Parzate. Others spot treated the worst areas with Dyrene and had fairly good results. Some of our top Agronomists suggest Acti-Dione Fertilized mixed with Captan. Some of the old timers recall 1955 when similar conditions were present and whole fairways died in the matter of a few hours. Let's hope that this year is not as severe as 1955.

The official weather bureau announces that we have had 15 days of temperatures of 90 degrees or higher. The hottest day was July 1 when it reached 99 degrees. The far south side reports 21 days of 90 or higher with the hottest day being July 1 at 103 degrees. The far North side (along the 4 mile strip adjacent to Lake Michigan) reported 11 days of 90 degrees and higher with the hottest day as July 1 at 93 degrees. The mean temperatures between North and South varied as much as 15 degrees on seven of these days. The biggest influence of course is the Lake and its breeze. When there are stiff breezes from the Southwest, temperatures are pretty uniform throughout the area.

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