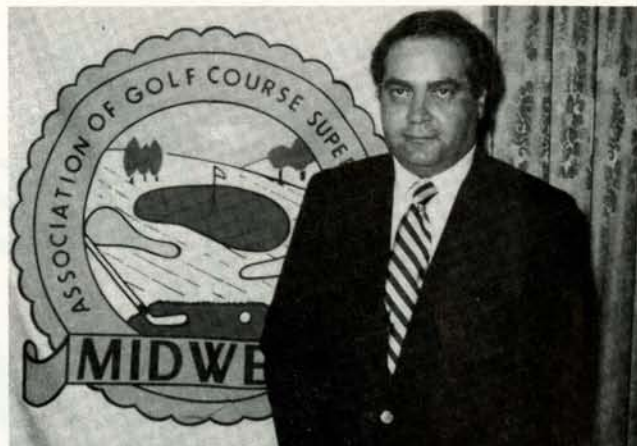


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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
 COMMON SENSE**

Since I'm a proven prognosticator of Golf Course conditions, example: My April forecast for the penal winter we suffered through! I guess it is time to predict the summer we will face up to. This seems fairly easy since we had no spring, at least at the time of writing this article.

Poa Root Systems are far behind last year at this time. By going directly into a summer season and forcing early stress on the Poa with a restricted root system seems like suicide to me. Especially, those of us who water at the drop of a dime! Many of us are in a sorry situation where we are watering to promote bent seed germination as well as encouraging the Poa Germination and a restricted root system. I think it is obvious that after three relatively rainy golf seasons we can anticipate a dry summer. Those of us who promote root growth now, I feel, will be rewarded in the latter part of the summer season with more turf survival. Hopefully, there are a lot of young annual Poa Plants out there who can survive the season. I hope I'm wrong and that we don't have to break the water budgets. However, I'm sure most of you are like me and are preparing for the worst.

Don't flush the toilet if you don't have to!

John Berarducci

WET SOIL AND CARTS

With all of the wet weather this winter, someone called to discuss effects of cart traffic on fairways. The superintendent had made a decision to close the course to all cart traffic. Rain twice a week for several weeks and the night before had saturated the soil. The members called two area clubs and found their carts running, then confronted the superintendent with this information. The superintendent realized the two area clubs had paved cart paths from tee to green. This club did not. Next question: It isn't raining now. Why can't we take the carts now? Answer: Water-saturated soil is much more easy to compact than damp or dry soil. The water acts as a lubricant between soil particles. Weight from above, forces soil particles into empty spaces. The soil particles move easily, forcing out free water and any air in the spaces. Granular structure of a good soil is ruined. Pore space for air and water is taken by soil particles, making the soil more compact and dense. Reduced pore space means less room for roots to enter the soil. Result: poor grass growth. A day of running carts on saturated soil could require several years of cultural practices, such as slicing, core aeration and tilling, to correct the soil for good grass growth.

Landon's Turf Tips