

It's the Busy Season for Everyone

Dennis Wilson
Sunset Ridge G.C.

*The problem with
common sense is that
it's not very common.*


—Mark Twain

Greenskeepers do not work in a controlled environment. In the summer, we do not leave air-conditioned homes to drive air-conditioned cars to air-conditioned offices. At 5 o'clock, we don't go home because our day hasn't stopped.

Unfortunately, the grass just doesn't know how to tell time or when it's a holiday so that it can stop growing. Even if it's raining and we aren't able to do outdoor work, the grass continues to thrive in the warm, wet conditions.

Professional landscapers send 5 workers to a 1-acre residential lawn. In an hour, they are done. At Sunset Ridge, we have 140 acres and 17 workers. That's about 8.2 acres per man. Of that, 3 acres of greens are mowed every day, and 30 acres of fairways plus 2 acres of tees are mowed every other day. Our crew is also responsible for a countless number of acres of rough, driving range and club lawn. In addition, the 8 tennis courts need to be


swept and rolled daily. All of the flowers are maintained on a daily basis as well.

Mother Nature can be the most helpful or least cooperative factor to greenskeepers. If there is a problem with our golf course, it is usually weather-related. Mother Nature gives us no advance warning of a change in her temperament. 

*Editor's Note: Reprinted from
From the Green*

Director's Column

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Finally, No. 10. I will miss serving on the board. Through it all, it's been a blast. Thanks to all who have served in the past and will serve in the future. The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents has been, and will continue to be, one of the best associations on the planet! 

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