

Dry Weather Elicits a Deluge of Postings on MAGCS Web Site

While fall 1999 rewrote the record books, area greenkeepers went online to commiserate and share coping strategies with colleagues. The following are excerpts from comments posted on the MAGCS message board during the first two weeks of November.

Anyone else winterized their irrigation system and concerned about having blown it out too early? We have enough moisture in the soil for about one week without rain. We will be hauling water in our 1,500-gallon hydro mulcher in the near future if this unseasonably warm and dry weather continues much longer.

Oscar Miles
The Merit Club

Blew our system at Arlington Lakes the last week in October as we normally do. Have old VT II hydraulic and have no head control when it freezes. Started system back up on 11/5 because of lack of moisture. Not sure when I'll winterize it again. Blew nine-hole course on landfill on 11/2 and may turn this on again if dryness continues... In 20-something years have never seen it this dry in late October and early November.

Jules "Butch" Peuvion
Arlington Lakes G.C.

With tee reconstruction projects, a rather large sewer construction project (Village of Glencoe), tree removal (155 so far!), stump grinding, tree transplanting, etc. the dry conditions have been a bittersweet welcome. We too are experiencing rather dry conditions in fairways and roughs. I've watered greens, tees

and approaches moderately and fairways sparingly. Our water reservoir is dependent on rainfall to recharge and I can supplement with purchased village water but am trying to make it through without having to purchase anymore this year... I usually do not blow out until Thanksgiving week or later as we usually are doing something that requires sod to be watered. Trying to finish reconstruction of the last of five tees then I do hope we get some good rains before freezing conditions prevail. I don't suppose freeze-dried soil will fracture and aerate all that well. Hoping for hydration!

Don Cross
Skokie C.C.

Our system here at Midlothian C.C. is still live and very active. Three nights in a row we have irrigated greens, tees and fairways. We are also running roller-base sprinklers in our roughs and hand-watering our five newly sodded greenside banks. All of this with limited crew...while also maintaining suitable playing conditions for the membership. We have averaged around 80 rounds a day for the past week or so and it doesn't look like it will let up anytime soon! Oscar said he has not seen anything like this in 40 years of golf course management. Let's just look at it as a "CHARACTER BUILDER" for all of us, especially for all the other assistants out there who are trying to work their way up the ladder of success. Let's keep the faith and chalk this up to "EXPERIENCE."

Tony Frandria
Midlothian C.C.

We are going to winterize tomorrow. I have been watering the

soil a little each night this week due to the lack of moisture. Hopefully this week will be the end of 70-degree weather. We had 40 golfers on Saturday and 55 on Sunday.

Stacy Wallace
Northmoor C.C.

I had planned on blowing our systems out this week but with 70-degree temperatures forecast for the next several days, we will probably wait another week... Hope the mercury doesn't drop too fast. We had over 100 golfers a day on both Saturday and Sunday at two of our courses.

Kerry Satterwhite
City of Bloomington, IL

Assistant John recharged system this morning. Watered tees the past two days with water sprayed from hydro mulcher. Very, very dry fairways. John is running sprinklers as I write. Raphael is putting soaker hose and sprinklers back out and watering rough and new trees. Tentatively expecting to reblow system "turkey" week. How is everyone else faring during these exceptionally warm, dry and windy weather conditions? In 40 years of golf course management, I haven't experienced unusual weather conditions like this. Is this a result of the "greenhouse effect" and what are we to expect in Y2K?

Oscar Miles
The Merit Club

We here at Stonebridge C.C. watered almost everyday last week and early this week. We had no choice but to blow out the system today. I hope the temperature on Saturday is the end of the warm

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spell. 77 degrees for a high in addition to windy conditions. If Oscar is right, maybe I have to wait another 40 years for these dry conditions. I never wanted snow more in my life than I do right now.

Greg Clark
Stonebridge C.C.

We are still watering every night. Aerified rather late, and holes are still open. I am glad that I did not blow out the system. We even have some serious localized dry spots (hydrophobic areas) on greens. Today we had three men out watering all day. I have never seen it so dry for November. Tomorrow we will be watering our pines.

Brad Anderson,
Midlane C.C.

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