

MIDWEST BREEZES

Charles Anfield, CGCS, Heritage Bluffs Golf Course



“What Worked for You This Year?”

As the 2010 golf season gets put into historical perspective, it's been compared to 1988, 1995 and 2005 as difficult seasons to maintain cool season turf. I decided to not dwell on the carnage, destruction and havoc wreaked by Mother Nature. We all found out the hard way how much control over our turf we really have. That being said (probably not for the last time), this season is over.

It's time to look forward and find ways to improve and learn from our collective experiences. It's always nice to try to put a positive “spin” on a season like this past year and believe it or not, there were success stories out there. So I asked a bunch of “seasoned veterans”, what worked for you this year?

John Gurke, CGCS, Aurora Country Club: “I'm convinced the phosphites are all you need to control pythium”. We had great success with them for pythium control on our fairways with regular applications. I also used a TIP spiker once a week and I feel this helped our greens make it through in good shape”.

Todd Schmitz, Phillips Park Golf Course: “We used our Bannerman once a month on greens and this worked very well”.

Greg Johnson, Eagle Brook Country Club: “Communication was very important”. Greg said he had more course tours, sent more emails and wrote more newsletters than ever before.

Tim Anderson, CGCS, Naperville Country Club: “I was glad I had a large nursery. I also used moisture meters for irrigation management and they really helped me dial in my green irrigation.”

Don Ferreri, Seven Bridges Golf Club: “My mechanic really did a great job”.

Andy Weadge, Morris Country Club: “I spent a lot of time on communications, emails, on the telephone and posting CDGA Interactive Turf Reports. We added a bunch of drainage and are taking a hard look at tree removal”.

Chuck Barber, Indian Lakes Resort: “Rolling in place of mowing greens during certain times worked terrific. Solid rollers on the greens mowers worked well and I needle tined my greens once a month. Umaxx nitrogen applications worked great”.

Brian Thompson, CGCS, Biltmore Country Club: “Raising the height of cut on the greens”.

Scott Witte, CGCS, Cantigny Golf Club: “The phosphites worked well and I went to exclusively foliar applications for nutrients”.

Dan Sterr, Stonebridge Country Club: “It was a good year to have a lot of bentgrass. Water management was very important. I tried to be more dry than wet, so if we did get a summer thunderstorm we had a better chance of absorbing the water. Correct hand watering technique and application volumes were critical. It's more difficult to do than it appears. It's an acquired skill”.

Charles Anfield, CGCS, Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Club: We have a Turfbreeze II fan on our seventh green that can blow 5 M.P.H. of air, 125 feet. I compared it to other greens that were tucked in low air movement microclimates and the performance of the green with the fan was remarkably superior to the greens that did not have a fan. Also, the ladies that played our course this summer were so nice. They are just so glad to be out, playing golf, having fun and socializing. They were very sympathetic and understanding of the imperfect turf conditions. They realize it's the same playing conditions for everyone. They get “it”. Golf is not so much about chasing a little white ball as it is the people they are playing with. **-OC**