



Irrigation by Rain Bird®

From the beginning, Rain Bird® golf irrigation has been focused first on the needs of the golf industry and then on developing products that meet these needs. Perhaps that's why you'll see Rain Bird products in use on world-class tournament courses, local country-club courses and municipal courses across the country and throughout the world.



The Rain Bird commitment to product innovation, after-sales service and the wise management of nature's resources allows us to better meet the irrigation needs of the golf world.

Call your Rain Bird distributor to find out why so many golf courses choose irrigation by Rain Bird.

RAIN BIRD
GOLF IRRIGATION



(800) 373-4120

3105 N. MAIN
EAST PEORIA, IL 61611
PHONE: (309) 699-4120
FAX: (309) 694-1009

1600 SHORE RD., UNIT A
NAPERVILLE, IL 60563
PHONE: (630) 637-9029
FAX: (630) 637-9409

27225 150TH AVE.
LONG GROVE, IA 52756
PHONE: (319) 285-5808
FAX: (319) 285-5809



2000 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Donald Ferreri (Geri)
Seven Bridges G.C.

Home: 630-357-7964, Office: 630-852-1746

VICE PRESIDENT

Brian Bossert (Pam)
Bryn Mawr C.C.

Home: 847-492-1138, Office: 847-677-4112

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Luke Strojny (Debbie)
Poplar Creek G.C.

Home: 630-830-7370, Office: 847-310-3618

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

George Minnis
MAGCS P.O. Box 760
Batavia, IL 60510

Office: 630-406-5356, Fax: 630-406-5456

BOARD

Fred Behnke (Nancy)
Mount Prospect G.C.

Home: 773-774-1486, Office: 847-632-9331

Kevin DeRoo (Cheryl)
Bartlett Hills G.C.

Home: 847-697-0595, Office: 630-483-4991

Thomas Fahey (Bridget)

Marquette Park & Columbus Park G.C.
Home: 630-920-9935, Office: 312-747-6493

John Gurke
Aurora C.C.

Home: 630-801-0786, Office: 630-892-3600

Michael Mumper (Donna)
Ravisloe C.C.

Home: 312-248-8683, Office: 708-957-6652

Greg Thalmann (Trudi)
Fox Run Golf Links

Home: 847-394-5410, Office: 847-228-3541

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Robert Maibusch (Cheryl)
Hinsdale G.C.

Home: 630-789-1651, Office: 630-986-1323

COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Paul Yerkes
LESCO Inc.

Office: 630-904-5255

TURFGRASS ADVISOR

Dr. Randy T. Kane
University of Illinois & CDGA
630-954-2753

EDITOR: **Cathy Miles Ralston**

276 Lincoln Terrace
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
Phone & Fax: 847-537-7883
E-mail: on_course@hotmail.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: **John Gurke**
E-mail: Boomding@aol.com

GRAPHIC ARTIST: **Mark Karczewski**

This publication is not copyrighted. We would like to share our articles with any who would like to use them, but please give the author and *On Course* credit.

FEATURES

Now on the Internet
www.magcs.org

FRONT COVER

Meet your 2000 Board of Directors, pictured at Medinah C.C. in November. Front row (L to R) Secretary/Treasurer Luke Strojny, President Don Ferreri, Vice President Brian Bossert. Back row (L to R) Executive Secretary George Minnis, Director Kevin DeRoo, Director Greg Thalmann, Director Tom Fahey, Director/*On Course* Contributing Editor John Gurke, Director Mike Mumper, Director Fred Behnke, President Emeritus Robert Maibusch, *On Course* Editor Cathy Miles Ralston. (Photo by Bill Ficht)

2 ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Donald Ferreri

5 DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Greg Thalmann

6 FEATURE ARTICLE: Reflections on an Aberrant Autumn

Cathy Ralston

11 Dry Weather Elicits a Deluge of Postings on MAGCS Web Site

15 ASK THE "EXPERT": How to Create an Equipment Replacement Program

Mike Mumper

18 A Splendid Evening . . . The MAGCS Fall Dinner Dance

John Gurke

20 Scenes From the First Annual West Side Holiday Party

John Gurke

26 THE BULL SHEET

John Gurke

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

The MAGCS member is also an environmental steward. We strive to uphold and enhance our surroundings by promoting flora and fauna in every facet in a manner that is beneficial to the general public now and in the future.



Donald S. Ferreri
Seven Bridges G.C.

Happy New Year and best wishes to all. I would like to welcome everyone to the new millennium; apparently, we made it through Y2K, or at least *On Course* did. My favorite Y2K story is of an actual working computer program to help your personal computer reach compliance. It achieves exactly what it says it will do, change all the Ys to Ks. And you thought you had problems before?

This is the lull in my year between the holidays and the GCSAA Conference when I sit back and evaluate every aspect of our golf course. I review all of my operational decisions, as well as labor, projects, course set-up, etc. I sit down at length with all of my key staff and take a close look at every department they manage. By doing so, I am able to determine what we are doing right and also what we will need to improve upon. We create new projects and decide whether or not to incorporate new techniques or ideas. In essence, we start to build a new game plan, or foundation, if you will, for the upcoming golf season. This same format is being applied to building the foundation for our Association as we enter the 21st century. I have always found this approach to be very successful, and


I am expecting similar success from the program when it comes to the MAGCS. I have been very close to the workings of the Association for seven years; now, it is time to step back and evaluate our mission.

This is where you come in. You didn't think I would get through a President's Message without asking the membership for something, did you? That was my campaign platform. (See, you really do need to attend the elections.) Very likely, some of you remember our last survey, which was taken in 1995. It yielded volumes of information; whether or not it was useful information, I am not sure. A great deal of time and expense went into the compilation of questions and returns. Although the results may have been interesting, I do not think they were able to guide us very far as an organization. The Board of Directors is more than willing to lead, but is in need of an updated set of directions. To that end, we feel that we have compiled the type of questions that will elicit information to determine our current needs. We will obtain this information for your personal benefit, to use as you see fit. Among the data we intend to gather: member demographics, comparative information on staff and budgets, descriptions of benefits packages.

Every committee has been commissioned to submit a list of survey questions. The results of the survey will guide us in creating a new long-range plan. I applaud the Board of Directors during the recent history of our Association for the diligence displayed as they took the existing long-range plan and achieved its goals, making it nearly obsolete. I look forward to the challenge we will build for the future.

Another opportunity presented by a new membership

survey is the chance to address our existing standard operating procedures (SOPs). This is the ideal juncture to tell us everything you would like to about our magazine, monthly meetings, education or golf events, just to name a few. Give us your feedback, positive and negative. Answer the survey questions and write down your specific comments on how you would like to see the Midwest operate. We will take all suggestions seriously and give due consideration to adjusting our SOPs accordingly. The Board of Directors will not be trying to fix something that is not broken, but if popular demand indicates we need to make changes or alterations, now is the time.

The above-described endeavor will require a great deal of time on the part of the 2000 Survey Committee, but it comprises a dedicated group of Board members who are ready and willing to make this project a success. Now, to make an obvious request of you, since the results are only as good as the input you give us to work with. Be sure that you fill out the survey and return it by the deadline date. We are aiming very high for a survey return rate: 100%! Why not? It is for you that we compiled the survey. So, take the brief 10 minutes of your time to fill it out accurately and return it to the committee. I want to thank you up front for your time and participation with this project. Meaningful questions and responses mean the results will be very useful for you individually as well as for the membership as a whole. So, wait with anticipation for the MAGCS 2000 Survey to arrive in your mailbox. Return it during your lull and start the new millennium out right. God bless, and have a great year. 

Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc.

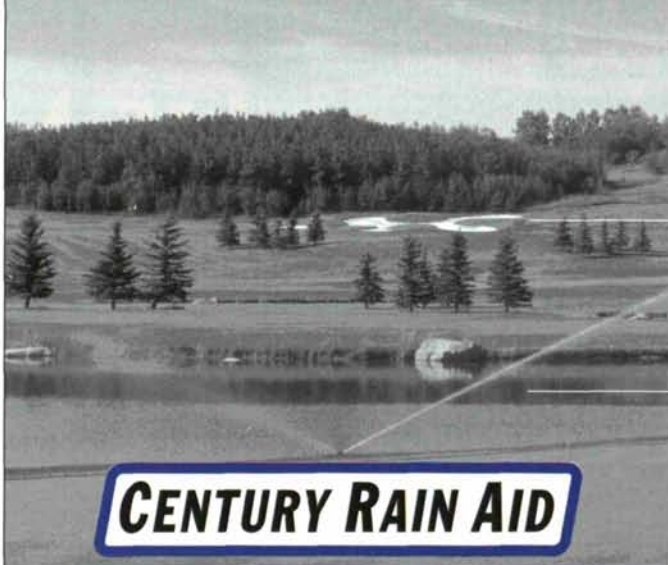
A Tradition — More Than 60 Years
Of Complete, Dependable, Economical Tree Service
For Private Estates, Municipalities, Schools, Industrial Areas,
Parks and Golf Courses
(847) 475-1877
912 Pitner Ave., Evanston, IL 60202

Since 1930

A Successful Season... Starts with Century Golf Course Services

**Sprinklers • Valves • Controllers
Pump Stations
Controller Board Repairs • Fountains**

An inviting, well-maintained course means challenging play...and a profitable season. As a golf superintendent, you can achieve this success with Century Golf Course Services. Century's team of professionals can help you solve irrigation or drainage problems and show you what's new in clubhouse lighting, water features and more. Call today for a free catalog and on-site consultation: **800-347-4272**.



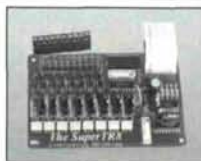
Legacy Golf System

Century offers the complete line of Legacy Golf products to help you control water, labor and energy costs. Featuring Legacy rotors and valves, Genesis central satellite and Viking decoder control systems.



SyncroFlo Eagle Pumps

Efficient and economical, SyncroFlo VFD pumping stations are the solution to many golf course irrigation problems.



Controller Board Repairs

Call the Century National Service Center for repairs or upgrades on Toro and Rain Bird golf controller boards. Replacements in 24 hours. Toll free 888-855-9132



800-347-4272
www.rainaid.com

CENTURY GOLF PROFESSIONALS ♦ ILLINOIS/INDIANA
> CAMERON BLAYNEY • ED KRUSE • MIKE PATTON ☎ 630-515-8555
> RANDY LANE ☎ 765-743-9599



Give Your Greens an Electrifying Cut!

Ransomes® E-Plex™ II

Mow up to 20 greens on one charge with the E-Plex II riding electric greens mower. The ultra-quiet E-Plex II is perfect for residential areas and early morning cutting. With fewer moving parts than its combustion-driven competitors, the E-Plex II is easier to maintain. This economical unit features an easy-to-service, swing-out center reel and quick-attach reels. And to ensure a precise cut, the E-Plex II allows you to control the clip rate by the ground speed. To make a big impact with little noise, come in or call today.



**World
Class Turf**

**Illinois lawn
equipment, inc.**

800-969-TURF

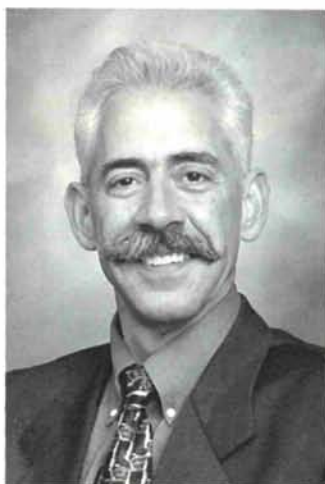


© 2000 Textron, Inc. All rights reserved. Textron, Turf Care and Specialty Products
are registered trademarks of Textron, Inc. in the USA.

RANSOMES

TEXTRON

TURF CARE AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS



*Greg Thalmann, CGCS
Fox Run Golf Links*

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this article, the ground will be covered with snow, a scene that I have been praying for since the beginning of August. This is the second year in a row that the mild fall temperatures have extended


into December. While this is great for increasing the number of rounds, which will boost revenues, negative effects are many, like greens not recovering as fast from traffic and ball marks and superintendents being under prolonged stress from the extended playing season. Add to this the lack of rainfall this year, and I imagine there is a group of burned-out and tired greenkeepers out there, just like me.

This is the time of year I start working around the house, finishing inside projects that are not completed yet. It's difficult for me to get motivated on weekends during the winter months—I would rather just sit around watching football or take a nap.

My wife Trudi and I visit friends and entertain more during the off-season, too. Compared to

the rest of the year, it's a lot easier for me to stay awake past 10:00 p.m. I can't tell you the number of times I have fallen asleep at a friend's house or a family get-together. Our friends and family are used to me nodding off after dinner, but I'm still embarrassed by it.

I also try to get caught up on my reading, leafing through all the trade magazines and articles that have piled up in my office. This stack seems to multiply each year. This year, as one of my New Year's resolutions, I plan to read everything immediately. That will free up more time to watch football.

Of course, the most important thing to do at this time of year is to relax and recharge ourselves for the upcoming season. In fact, that sounds like such a good idea right now, I think I'll go take a nap. See you later. 

Palatine Oil Company, Inc.

"One call does it all"

We specialize in full service.

Over
25 years
of caring service
and
delivery of quality
products.

- Gasoline
- Diesel fuel
- Motor oil
- Grease
- Anti-freeze
- Batteries
- 24 hour delivery
- Tank installation
- Leak detection systems

- Design and layout consulting
- E.P.A. required tank upgrades
- Card lock pump control systems
- Tank removal and disposal
- Above ground tank specialists
- Contaminated soil remediation
- Bio-Remediation Products
- Cleaner & degreaser
- Parts washer
- Absorbent for spills

Recipient
of the I.L.C.A.
1995
**DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE
AWARD**

◆ **State registered and certified tank contractor** ◆

◆ **Toll free 888-358-POC1** ◆

847-358-3600



Palatine Oil Co., Inc. ◆ P.O. Box 985 ◆ Palatine, IL 60078

Reflections on an Aberrant Autumn

A warm, excessively dry fall saw many area superintendents irrigating in November and wondering what might be next.

by Cathy Ralston

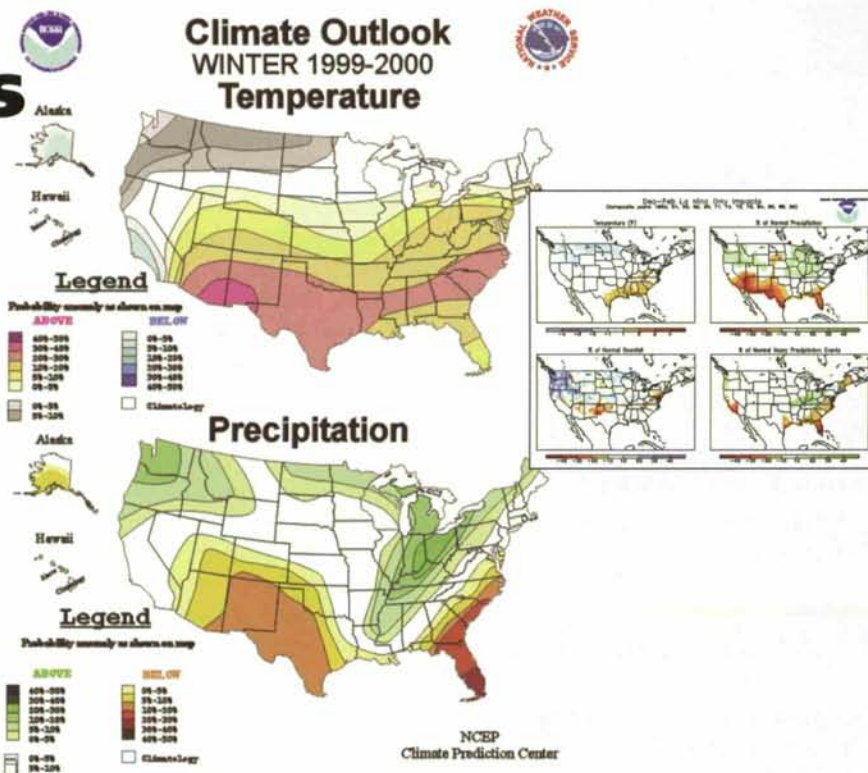
“Can you believe this weather?”


In October and November, we in the Chicago area could not help but greet each other thus. Many, like me, felt incredulous and giddy, cherishing the reprieve from autumn’s standard fare: steel-gray skies, chill rains, early invasions of Arctic air. Golf course superintendents, meanwhile, were alternately amazed and dismayed, delighted and disgusted, bemused and baffled with one of the strangest fall seasons ever documented.

The statistics speak volumes. Statewide, November was the third driest November recorded since 1895. The July through November period was the fifth driest ever. In the Chicago area, November 1999 set a new record for percentage of possible sunlight and was completely snow-free. Temperatures teased us, reaching into the 60s and 70s on more than 30 occasions.


The weather not only lured mothers and tots to the playgrounds, but also saw droves of

(continued on page 8)





GOLF CREATIONS



Golf Course Construction, Renovation and Restoration

18250 Beck Road Marengo, IL 60152
 Phone 815.923.1868 Fax 815.923.3662



SINCE 1956

Meadow Equipment Sales & Service, Inc.

Well Drilling/Pump Service
27 W. 021 St. Charles Road
Carol Stream, IL 60188

- Water Well Drilling / Rehabilitation
- Pump Sales and Service
- Large Selection of Pumps
Line Shaft / Submersible
- Booster Pumps
- Servicing all Makes and Models
- Complete Water Well Systems
- Design and Consulting
- Maintenance Programs
- Special Rates on Winter Servicing
- 24 Hour Emergency Service

**Authorized Sales and Service
for Leading Pump Manufacturers**

CAROL STREAM: (630) 231-6250

**TOLL FREE
(800) 704-2415**



*"Where Meadow Goes,
the Water Flows"*

Introducing Landpride Multi Injection Systems



The Only Unit On The Market
To Inject Dry Or Liquids
To The Root Of The Problem.
And Introducing The Star Of
The 1998 Masters - **SubAir
Control The Root Zone
Through Science**



Give Your Roots Some Air
With SubAir Precision
Injection Of Dry Or Liquid
Amendments With LandPride
Exclusively Distributed

By: Lewis Equipment

55 E. Palatine Rd.

Prospect Heights IL 60070

(847)537-6110 fax:(847)537-5736

Represented By: John Berarducci

Call The Bear:(847)367-7728

mobile:(847)347-5105

Reflections on an Aberrant Autumn
(continued from page 6)

golfers descending upon area golf courses. As a result, superintendents faced the prospect of an extended season—deja vu of 1998, but with a twist: a significant rainfall deficit.

Said Jim McNair, Orchard Valley G.C., "We had September weather, so we did September work."

Indeed. And Jim wasn't alone in that sentiment, judging by the comments peppering the MAGCS message board in early November (see related article, page 11) and conversations with several other superintendents.

"We just officially closed on Sunday, December 5," noted Rick Reed, Arboretum G.C. "We had shut our water system down the first week in November, but we came close to turning it back on. Instead, we did some watering with a 300-gallon tank on tees and greens.

"Rains typically help the turf heal after aerifying—no chance for that this year," Rick said. "As far as snow mold spraying, we usually do that before Thanksgiving. This year, the window of opportunity is closing pretty quickly."

Commented Dan Dinelli, North Shore C.C., "Many people scheduled to blow out and winterize their irrigation systems at times they are accustomed to doing so. Some pushed back the date, others followed the plan. Among those who followed the plan, in about two weeks many recharged their irrigation systems to begin watering again—which is what we ended up doing here."

On the other hand, the weather was a boon to certain types of projects. "The warm, dry
(continued on page 30)

Illinois Climate Network (ICN) October 1999 Monthly Summary for St. Charles			
DAY	MAX AIR TEMP OF	TOTAL PRECIP IN	TOTAL EVAP IN
1	59.6	0.00	0.11
2	52.2	0.00	0.06
3	44.8	0.55	0.01
4	54.5	0.05	0.09
5	63.8	0.00	0.13
6	60.7	0.00	0.12
7	72.3	0.00	0.13
8	65.5	0.00	0.04
9	66.7	0.00	0.04
10	76.7	0.00	0.12
11	69.3	0.00	0.13
12	75.3	0.00	0.12
13	64.2	0.05	0.03
14	59.8	0.01	0.11
15	80.3	0.00	0.13
16	67.4	0.09	0.03
17	51.3	0.01	0.06
18	52.2	0.01	0.07
19	58.6	0.01	0.09
20	51.0	0.00	0.08
21	67.8	0.00	0.10
22	57.5	0.00	0.06
23	47.6	0.01	0.07
24	50.9	0.00	0.09
25	65.0	0.00	0.10
26	60.4	0.00	0.09
27	62.1	0.00	0.09
28	79.8	0.00	0.12
29	77.3	0.02	0.09
30	75.0	0.15	0.09
31	69.4	0.00	0.10
TOT		0.96	2.70
AVG	63.2		0.09
MAX	80.3		
Total Heating Degree Days: 447.4 Total Cooling Degree Days: 4.0 Total Hours of Wind > 8 mph: 310			

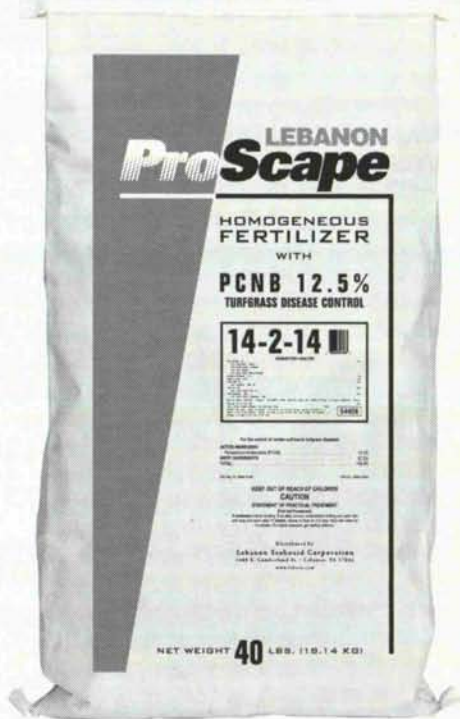
Illinois Climate Network (ICN) November 1999 Monthly Summary for St. Charles			
DAY	MAX AIR TEMP OF	TOTAL PRECIP IN	TOTAL EVAP IN
1	72.1	0.01	0.05
2	45.0	0.00	0.07
3	46.3	0.00	0.07
4	63.8	0.00	0.09
5	64.2	0.00	0.08
6	55.2	0.00	0.08
7	57.7	0.00	0.08
8	73.5	0.00	0.09
9	73.1	0.00	0.09
10	66.6	0.01	0.08
11	46.9	0.03	0.03
12	59.2	0.01	0.06
13	70.3	0.00	0.08
14	57.8	0.01	0.07
15	50.2	0.00	0.06
16	45.9	0.00	0.06
17	48.3	0.00	0.06
18	70.4	0.00	0.08
19	55.9	0.05	0.03
20	45.0	0.01	0.02
21	50.6	0.02	0.04
22	60.5	0.02	0.06
23	61.3	0.38	0.02
24	44.7	0.00	0.04
25	46.3	0.00	0.05
26	46.1	0.02	0.03
27	46.4	0.01	0.05
28	43.4	0.00	0.05
29	36.6	0.00	0.05
30	38.7	0.00	0.05
TOT		0.58	1.77
AVG	54.7		
MAX	73.5		
Total Heating Degree Days: 673.6 Total Cooling Degree Days: 0.0 Total Hours of Wind > 8 mph: 298			

Water and Atmospheric Monitoring Program Networks. (1999).
WARM Program Office, Illinois State Water Survey, 2204 Griffith Drive, Champaign, IL 61820.

La Niña Should Influence Winter Weather

How are long-range predictions measuring up to our winter reality? In late October, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued its winter forecast for the U.S. The La Niña phenomenon figured prominently in NOAA's forecast. A NOAA press release said, "La Niña will alter the strength and pattern of the Pacific jet stream over North America to give us a warm and dry winter in the southern half of the nation, but more snow and rain to the Pacific Northwest and Great Lakes. We expect considerable month-to-month variation in temperature, rainfall and storminess in the central, northern and eastern states, which means days of warmer-than-normal temperatures followed by bouts of bitter cold." Specifically, the Midwest should expect near-to-above-normal temperatures from north to south, and above-normal precipitation for the entire region.

Size Does Matter



The only thing you should see on your greens, tees and closely mowed turf is, well, green - not fertilizer and especially not snow mold. Using homogeneous Composite Technology™ ProScape 14-2-14 with PCNB delivers a complete fertilizer/fungicide combination in an inconspicuous SGN 100 granule. ProScape 14-2-14 provides a perfect mix of IBDU and Meth-Ex 40 for dual action nitrogen release that can be applied on cold, windy days when sprays or dusty, light-weight products aren't practical. For the best PCNB combination product on the market, contact your Lebanon Turf Products Distributor. Or call 1-800-233-0628.

Lebanon
TURF PRODUCTS

Hollembeak Construction, Inc. Golf Course Construction and Remodeling

"We believe in a quality job and take pride in our finished product."

- New Construction
- Feature Shaping
- Bunker Sand Replacement
- Pond Dredging
- Pond Construction
- Boulder Features
- Cart Paths
- Drainage



Mike Hollembeak

P.O. Box 103
Big Rock, Illinois 60511
Phone (630) 556-3891

Jeff Hollembeak



**Aerate 18 greens in 3 hours
without disrupting play**
or an average fairway in about 2 hours

For greens and tees, AerWay's new tow-behind Greens Express penetrates 6" without cores, and won't disrupt play.

The roller leaves greens instantly playable. Aerway lets you aerate whenever you want, for better turf conditions, and happier golfers.

For fairways and roughs, patented AerWay Shatter Tines relieve compaction 7" and deeper. Recovery is fast: a mowing pass the opposite direction and you're ready for play. No complex machinery. No cores. No PTO. Take a look at Aerway today.

For the name of your nearest dealer contact:

Tee Shot Marketing Inc.
800-950-4288

AerWay

Turf aeration easy enough to do today

www.aerway.com

AerWay is manufactured by the Holland Group of companies.

Migratory Bird Management

Have Dogs Will Travel



Border Collies

GOOSE CONTROL

Harold Frederickson

If we don't answer our phone

we're on another wild goose chase

708-361-6772



"The Water Quality Company"

Testing • Evaluation • Treatment



Exclusive Distributor of the
Prime Turf Series 800 Injection Station

For All Your Water Quality Needs Call:

14200 S. Parker Road • Lockport, IL 60441
(800) 677-8097 • Fax: (708) 301-3351