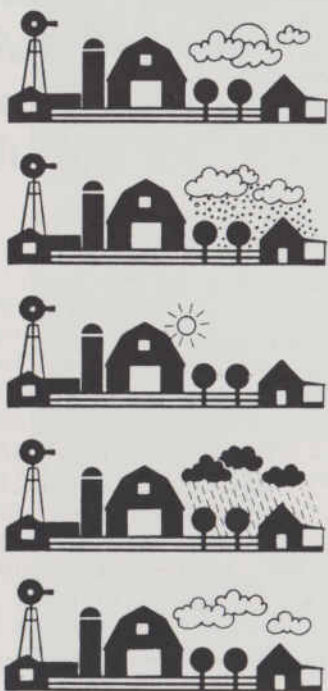


Wisconsin Weather



Book Cover of "Wisconsin Weather"

WE AREN'T THE ONLY ONES

Apparently Golf Course Superintendents aren't the only people affected by the weather. Researchers at the University of Delaware have discovered what many of us, as well as many other employees and supervisors, were pretty sure of already — the weather affects our work, and even whether we show up at all.

The new study by Delaware geographers doesn't deal with weather disaster — which would obviously affect work attendance — but rather with day-to-day changes in summer weather.

Using five years' worth of daily work records of 6,000 people in 30 cities, it was discovered that rainfall during the morning rush hour brings absenteeism of 2 to 3 percent.

Unmotivated or dissatisfied employees probably find the an-

ticipated stress of driving in rain an easy excuse while others feel rainfall is depressing and reduces motivation to work.

It was found that the timing of the rain is important. When rain is forecast but doesn't fall, during rush hour, attendance wasn't affected. Also, daytime weekend rain leads to a dip of 2 to 3 percent in Monday work attendance, but weekend rain at night has no effect. This may result from a loss of relaxation "recharge" time when it rains in the daytime on weekends, or so it was speculated.

Believe it or not, hot weather does not lead to added absenteeism. In the Sun Belt, attendance may actually rise, undoubtedly due to air conditioning in the work place. But work attendance in these areas drop off when the weather cools and people can enjoy the out-of-doors in their free time.

On the other hand, heat waves in northern cities lead to declines in work attendance, although isolated hot days do not. The major factor in lowering work attendance in these areas seems to be hot, muggy nights that lead to sleeplessness and stress for people unused to the heat.

This study concentrated on middle- and upper-income employees who worked indoors in large cities. Now if they really want to find out how weather affects "normal" people, they should concentrate a study on WGCSA members!

A.M. Weather Is Worth Watching

The kind of accurate and thorough television weather reporting and forecasting that is important to Golf Course Superintendents generally isn't available during local news telecasts. We usually need more information than is put forth. The best way to get really good weather information that is current and short term is from a private consultant. However, there is an interesting public television program that

reports weather information not available on commercial television. It is called "A.M. Weather." It's a 15 minute report televised Monday through Friday mornings. This doesn't help much for weekends, but it does offer a comprehensive look at the national weather picture for the work days of the week. The beauty of it that I enjoy is that it focuses on agricultural weather, an umbrella we easily fit beneath. It is financed, at least partially, by the Continental Grain Company. They made an underwriting grant for the program to help insure that these excellent forecasts will continue to be available to the nation's farmers. We may as well take advantage of it, too.

Check your local television schedule to see if the public television station in your area carries the program. It usually is shown in the earlier morning hours.

BRACE YOURSELF!

The National Weather Service released its 90 day weather outlook on June 1st, and it looks as though it could be another long, blistering summer. For the second consecutive year, the Eastern and Midwestern states are in for a long, hot summer that could be bad news for Golf Course Superintendents. If the NWS's long-range forecasters are right, hotter than normal weather will plague the Corn Belt from Iowa to Ohio, the Great Lakes states, and the East Coast from South Carolina to New England during June, July and August.

Once again, the hot zone will be centered over Iowa and northern Illinois, areas that were seared by last summer's near record drought.

"Summers have a tendency to resemble each other for a number of years," chief NWS long-range forecaster Donald Gilman commented. "It happened that way in the 1930's and the 1950's and it looks like its happening again. The summer of 1984 looks like it's going to be a replay of the summer of '83. Gilman added that the NWS really worries about their forecast for Iowa and surrounding states, including Wisconsin.

THE WEATHER"

REFRESHING WORDS

For an issue of the **GRASS-ROOTS** that covers the two hottest and driest months of the year, and an issue that is placing emphasis on the weather, the following poem seemed to be perfect for a moment of enjoyment. It was written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

*"How beautiful the rain!
After the dust and heat,
In the broad and firey street,
In the narrow lane;
How beautiful the rain!
How it clatters along the roofs,
Like the tramp of hoofs;
How it gushes and struggles
out
From the throat of the over-
flowing spout."*

WEATHER WISDOM AND FOLKLORE

*A sunshiny shower
Won't last half an hour.*

*Rain before seven,
Fair by eleven!*

*The South wind brings wet
weather,
The North wind wet and cold
together;
The West wind always brings us
rain,
The East wind blows it back
again.*

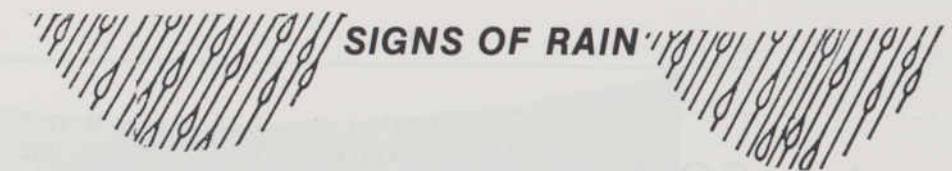
*March winds and April showers
Bring forth May flowers.*

*Evening red and morning gray
Set the traveler on his way;
But evening gray and morning red
Bring the rain upon his head.*

*Rainbow at night is the sailor's
delight;
Rainbow at morning, sailor's, take
warning.*

*If bees stay at home,
Rain will soon come;
If they fly away,
Fine will be the day.*

*When clouds appear like rocks
and towers,
The earth's refreshed by frequent
showers.*



SIGNS OF RAIN

Here is an old rhyme that is so crowded with weather lore evolved from accurate observation that you can almost feel the rain gathering and getting ready to fall.

*The hollow winds begin to blow;
The clouds look black, the glass
is low,
The soot falls down, the spaniels
sleep,
And spiders from their cobwebs
peep.
Last night the sun went pale to
bed,
The moon in halos hid her head:
The walls are damp, the ditches
smell,
Closed is the pink-eyed pimper-
nel.
Hark how the chairs and tables
crack!
Old Betty's nerves are on the
rack;
Loud quacks the duck, the pea-
cocks cry,
The distant hills are seeming
nigh.*

*Low o'er the grass the swallow
wings
The cricket, too, how sharp he
sings!
Through the clear stream the
fishes rise,
And nimby catch incautious flies.
The glow-worms, numerous and
light
Illumined the dewy dell last
night;
And see yon rooks, how odd their
flight!
They imitate the gliding kite,
And seem precipitate to fall,
As if they felt the piercing ball.
'Twill surely rain, I see with
sorrow,
Our jaunt must be put off
tomorrow.*

All the signs and portents in this poem can be sensed and observed before a rainfall, and although the poet did not know the scientific explanation of them, he recognized them as reputable weather signs.

