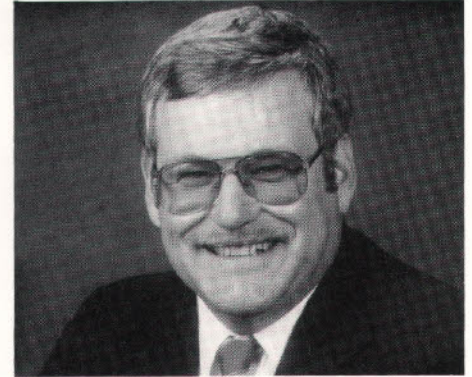




## HERE COMES SUMMER

By Roger Bell



As I write this message to you, there has been no significant rainfall on my golf course in recent memory. I have lived in Wisconsin long enough, though, to know that I may have duck ponds on my fairways by the time you read this, however. Weather, like death and taxes, is inevitable—and just about as manageable. There is the distinct possibility that we are facing another hot dry summer like last year.

There is no doubt that weather can make a superintendent's job a real nightmare. Rain, either too much or too little, damaging winds, lightning, humidity or ice can wreak havoc with

even the most proficiently maintained course. On the other hand, grass does quite well on its own if all hazards are excluded—but golf course superintendents wouldn't be needed if golf courses were situated under laboratory-perfect conditions.

Fortunately for us, though, golf courses are built in the real world where there are diseases, drought, and a host of other problems to contend with. We are given the opportunity to demonstrate our talents in the cultivation of fine turf under less than ideal conditions. With our technical knowledge and expertise, we can have our

courses as oases of green—in spite of whatever Mother Nature dishes up.

We don't have to be perfect—we just need to make our courses the best they can be under the conditions we have to work with. We do have to keep our golfers abreast of how we're trying to accomplish that goal and enlist their support. And we need to stay informed about the latest technical and legal developments that affect turf science.

Here comes Summer—with all its challenges and opportunities. Let's get out there and give it our best shot—and, oh yes—wouldn't you love to see about an inch of rain as a good soaker?

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