

A DRY START TO A LONG SEASON

By Monroe S. Miller

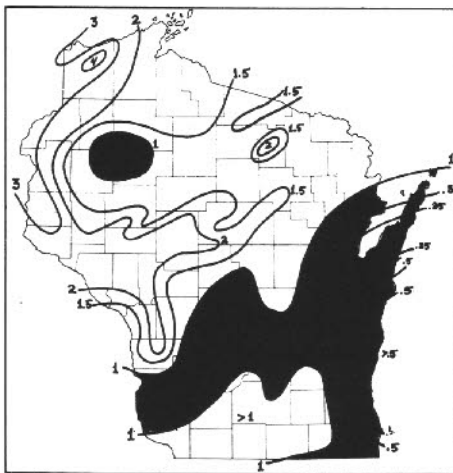
Day follows day in parched monotony,
Its sights and sounds etched subtly on
the brain.

The dying fields lie gasping in the sun.
Above them floats, as if to ease their
pain,
Suspended there in haunting harmony,
The robin's poignant, plaintive prayer for
rain.

Marie Olson

If you thought May was unusually
dry, you were right. It will go into the
record books and remain in the minds
of Wisconsin's Golf Course Superin-
tendents as a difficult month.

Milwaukee had its driest May in 103
years—only 0.50 inches of rain was re-
corded at Mitchell International Airport.
That was prosperous compared to the
0.06 inches of moisture reported by the
National Weather Service in Green
Bay. Madison recorded 0.92 inches of
rainfall, giving the capital city its fourth



Map/Douglas Clar, UW Extension

Shaded areas received less than an
inch of rain in May.

driest May on record. You need to go
back to 1925, when 0.38 inches of rain
fell, to find a drier May. That, in fact,
was the record year for the city.

The lack of rainfall was accompa-
nied by extremely hot weather, espe-
cially in the last half of the month when
85-93 degree temperatures were com-
mon. The miserable weather created
problems getting aerification com-
pleted. It accelerated disease and in-
sect problems. Many water supplies for
golf courses were dangerously low go-
ing into the demanding summer sea-
son, amplifying concerns for those golf
courses.

The only good that came from the
dry weather was the chance for those
involved in golf course construction
projects to get them done quickly. The
redemption is that it can't get much
worse. A normal July and August would
be very welcome.



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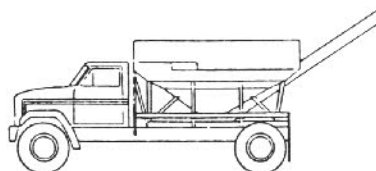
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