



Who'll Stop the Rain ?!

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My arrival to Wisconsin came on the tail-end of one the coolest summers on record. Last summer we recorded only one day above 90° F! The fall of 1992 brought a few record rainfalls and a nice Thanksgiving snow cover. Many of my friends and colleagues indicated to me how odd a weather year it had been; little did anyone know what was ahead for late winter, spring and now a majority of the summer. Rain, rain, rain, and more rain, not just drizzle, but, more like monsoons. First 0.5" of rain in 1 hour (considered a storm whose likelihood of returning is once every 50 years—a 50 year storm), then 2 days later 0.75" in 1 hour (100 year storm), then one week later 1.25" in 1 hour (250 year storm), then another week almost 5" of rain in a 2 hour storm! A great year to determine weaknesses in your drainage system.

While many of you have been shoveling sand back into bunker faces, pumping water out of low spots, not mowing areas for weeks because of saturated conditions, we have been trying to establish plots at the Noer Facility. Our silty loam soil at the Noer Facility became saturated early in April and only recently (late July) has dried sufficiently for us to work. Several attempts were made during the season to work the land, remove debris, lay out plots only to have torrential rain disrupt the process. For instance, Dr. Julie Meyer and her crew, Scott Mackintosh, and myself were out on a Saturday seeding some plots. Julie, Scott, and the crew had the land prepared and began seeding while I finished hand-raking other plots. By 2:00 p.m. I was ready to seed my plots and went looking for the seed and became frustrated at my inability to easily locate it. To make a long story short, I found the seed a day later and it wasn't at the Noer Facility. Anyhow, just as Julie's crew was finishing up, a nice gentle rain fell on the new seedbed. However, later that night we received almost 3.5" of rain and all the seeded plots washed out. For once my absentmindedness pays off! It's been that kind of year.

On behalf of the entire UW-Turf-grass Group, I am thrilled to report that most of our plots are seeded and establishing well as I pen this article. It has been the kind of season that has brought us all closer as a team, united in helplessness as we watched the rain fall and waited for the soil to dry.

Scott Mackintosh

Scott arrived for work on June 14 and has provided the leadership at the Facility which had been lacking since Tom Salaiz's departure. Scott has come on-board and quietly observed and interacted with all of us, determining priorities and developing new operating procedures that fit his management style. Scott possesses the practical experience necessary to manage the station and the technical expertise to aid in conducting research.

Scott faced many challenges upon his arrival, the least of which was managing the facility. He came without his wife who was in her last month of pregnancy with the twins, and even harder was having to live with the Rossi's (Barbara, Danielle, and me) for a month while he found a place to live. At least I know he ate good. He stayed in close contact with Diane as she was told to stay off her feet, then finally he knew he had to get back. He left on Thursday July 8 and the twins (Morgan and Evan) were born on Tuesday July 13 to a happy and healthy set of par-


ents! Exactly one week before the expected delivery date.

I know you will all join me in wishing the Mackintoshs a warm congratulations. Scott will be back with us before Field Day with Diane and the twins due to arrive in late September.

Thank You's

One behavior that I believe we do not do enough in our day to day lives is show appreciation and thank someone for a job well done. Well it has been the kind of year where people throughout the Midwest have rallied to help their neighbors and people like Mike Carlson and Henry Berg definitely follow in that tradition. While I was on a short visit back East, the flooding was all over the national news. My family and friends commented to me how much they admired the people working together filling sandbags or just consoling a neighbor who has lost everything. I was immediately reminded of the work above and beyond the call of duty that Henry and Mike have provided.

Thank you also go to Dr. Kussow and Ron (his summer employee) for always being ready to lend a hand when needed (while they weren't trying to catch floating barrels). I'm sure I have left someone out and I will apologize in advance. Take a look around you and your crew and give 'em some thanks for a job well done. 🙌



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