



# BRACE YOURSELF

By Michael Semler



I had saved the *Wisconsin State Journal* from December 27, 1993 for a particular reason. I had this feeling that in July and August I might want to reminisce about the way things were and the way things might be in the future. You see, I am one golf course superintendent who absolutely, positively hates the months of summer. Never mind what I wrote back in May about the new season and the new challenges. I truly hate the summer months and I am sure this makes some people in the golfing community think I am just a little crazy.

The reason for this is quite simple. While I am watching everyone else around me enjoying themselves golfing, boating, at picnics, traveling, and doing other "normal" summer events, I, like all other superintendents, am working hard trying to keep the golf course playable and in the best possible shape through the most difficult months of the year. Now understand, I truly enjoy my job and the rewards that go with it. It is just that I am bracing myself for the difficult months of July and August.

Golf course superintendents may understand why there are people like me around. When you must face two months like July and August in the golf course management business, there are bound to be a few superin-

tendents with an attitude like mine. You see, I can't get excited about the prospect of having pythium on fairways, crews that seem to lose that little extra something as the summer wears on, and the endless hours I must spend at the golf course to make it perfect. The time commitment involved is very large and the days seem to run together, with no end in sight.

I know that those plans that I talked about back in May are still in place; we are still striving to make progress on the golf course. However, these are some of the most difficult days for golf course superintendents and sometimes things get a little hectic.

Now you see why I am treating myself to the newspaper from December. Because on that day the reported low temperature in Madison was a -12° F. Triple A reported having to make 900 calls to stranded motorists who could not get their cars started. The Wisconsin Badgers were excitedly preparing for the Rose Bowl and the Packers had just clinched a playoff berth. With those thoughts in mind, I will take a goose down parka over a golf shirt any day!

And so, tonight I am going to retire to my basement, make sure the air conditioning is set as cold as it will go, brew a pot of hot coffee, and remember how things might be in the

near future. I may even start a fire in the fireplace. Sometimes this is what it takes for me to make it through these tough days of July and August.

Oh yes, I almost forgot, I could really use a "New Year" right about now. 🙄

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