



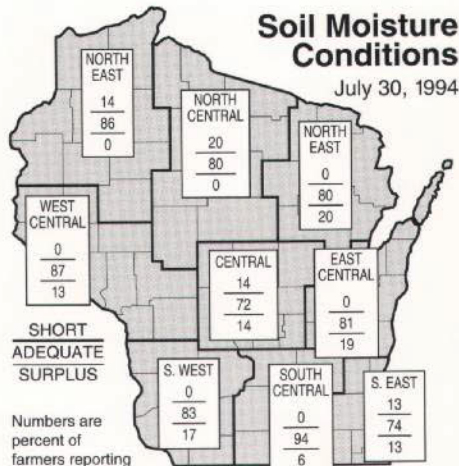
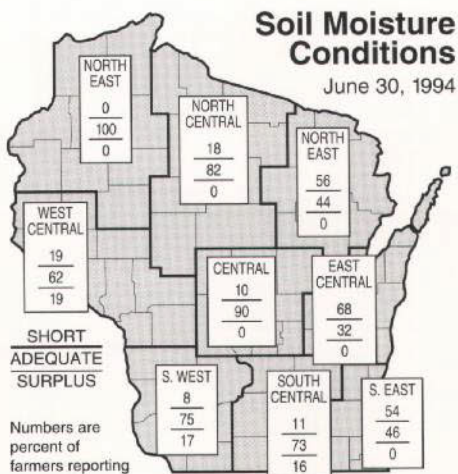
NOW THAT WAS A SUMMER!

By Monroe S. Miller

The summer of 1994 won't be remembered, by me at least, for any one thing; you know—the flood of 1993, the drought of 1988, the politics of 1992. No, this was a summer that had a little of everything for Wisconsin golf courses.

We had the brutal heat of June and the drought of May. If you are Ric Lange or Mike Handrich, the drought was more extended than that. Some areas—more frequently found in southeastern Wisconsin—had 7 inches and more of rain in July. We had cutworms—two or three generations—and brown patch. Smoke from the forest fires in Washington and Oregon and Montana covered the Wisconsin sun with a haze for days on end. We had September in the last week of July. The Poa seeded all summer, and grass roots in general got shallow. The challenges were endless, but the rewards were there, too.

And the courses were busy. Full schedules of invitationals, pro/ams and member/guest days fit around regular play. Equipment and supplies salesmen were smiling most of the time. Business was good and with the onset of the budget process, it looked to get better. That's good for the turf manufacturers that call Wisconsin home.



Tom Harrison and I celebrated July 28th, the day the average daily high started to decline, if only by one degree. Mark Kienert enjoyed that same emotion on July 26th in the Rapids. The days are shorter and the nights are longer and cooler. Happy days aren't far away!

The season got off to a good start in most places in April; let's hope it ends as well in November.

The moisture status record for sections of Wisconsin for June, July and August are included here for your information, from the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.

In case you were curious, Phil Pellitteri said there were more insects around than usual this summer. The favorable weather produced three generations of some species. It doesn't seem possible that this personable and popular UW-Madison staff member has run the insect lab in the Entomology Department for 17 years already. From that perspective, Phil offers this list of our state's most pesky insects: mosquitoes, earwigs, yellow jackets, caddis flies, black flies, deer flies, deer ticks, house centipedes, lake flies and aphids.

In case you haven't opened your mail for a month or two, or perchance you haven't seen Bruce Worzella for six months, here's a reminder about the 11th annual WGCSA Autumn Extravaganza (aka dinner dance).

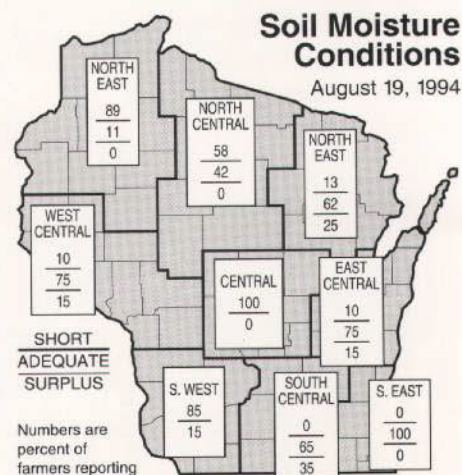
The 1994 event is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 7th and 8th at the Mead Inn in Wisconsin Rapids. Mark and Karen Kienert are the hosts, and the golf event will be played at the Bull's Eye Country Club.

If you have any questions, call Bruce Worzella at 414-338-0540 any time, day or night!

This summer, which was one of the hottest summers ever in Europe, a Swedish shrink advised Europeans to take things easy and slow down and "be mindful that thinking starts to become difficult at 75 degrees. Above 81 degrees, it's difficult to concentrate on anything at all."

Boy, if that's true, we are all dead ducks. And I was worried that my age, somewhere down the line, might have something to do with concentration! Maybe it has something to do with Stockholm, which makes me glad that I've got some Norwegian blood!

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There is never a shortage of bad news anymore—gypsy moths from Michigan, Slick Willie's health care fiasco, ozone depletion and only God knows what else.

The latest worry for golf course superintendents like me is the zebra mussel. Our golf course is irrigated with water from an inland lake and these beasts are going to be trouble.

Zebra mussel larvae have been found in Okauchee Lake in Waukesha County near Oconomowoc, the first time this miserable invader mollusk has been found in one of our inland Wisconsin lakes.

The DNR and the Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute found 500-1000 larvae per CUBIC METER in July. They claim that is only a moderate infestation, but no fluke.

The mussels are a Eurasian mollusk that entered the Great Lakes eight years ago in the ballast of a freighter.

Once they are established in one inland lake, they will be in them all eventually, travelling on the boats and trailers of fishermen and water skiers and others who recreate on the waters of our state.

Zebra mussels use tough, fibrous tendrils to latch onto hard surfaces—

rocks, clams, irrigations system intake pipes and filtering baskets. They filter algae and nutrients out of the water, clarifying it and disrupting the ecological balance of the lake.

One zebra mussel can produce 40,000 young in one season. Each larvae is about the size of the dot over this i, and it will grow into fingernail-sized adult mussels in about a month.

Professor Stephen Carpenter of the UW-Madison Limnology Center has confirmed my worst fears—the mussels will be in Lake Mendota in a relatively short period of time. I can only guess what they will do to the filter system in the pumphouse or the sprinkler heads on the golf course.

It is for sure they will do no good.

If it's not BTA larvae or zebra mussels, then look for verticillium wilt to attack your maples, not unlike DED did the elms in the 1960s and 1970s.

The disease is spread by insects to sugar, red and Norway maples. The vascular system gets plugged, the leaves wilt, shrivel and die. And of course there is no cure. No magic fungicide. About the best you can do is offer a sound water and fertility program for affected trees.

A final note that will make you want to go home on time each day, take a summer vacation and disappear from work on the weekends.

Medical researchers are reminding Type A personalities among us that the trait which can lead to success can also put you in a coronary care unit.

Those highly driven people among us are candidates for heart disorders and sudden death at a rate high than the population in general. Type A personalities tend to be in charge and are the ones likely to run their golf course like a tight ship (my palms are sweating already). Type A people are 'time-urgent' (sound familiar yet?), are always on the run, are ambitious, impatient and strive to be the best.

If you recognize yourself here, better ease up, slow down and smile a little bit. What's that old saying—it's only a game?

That's all folks. WGCSA members will soon be seeing more of one another, as the season winds down—Field Day, Symposium, annual tournament, and before any of us knows it, San Francisco. 🍷

