



THE PERPETUAL SPRING

By Monroe S. Miller

Often times in Wisconsin, and probably elsewhere too, there is grouching about our spring season. The complaints, distilled down to a common denominator, go something like "we don't have a spring season in Wisconsin. We go from winter to summer in about a week."

That may be true some years, but not this year. In our town, golf courses opened earlier than ever before; winterkill was sparse and hopes were high.

Shortly after that early opening, however, the pleasant weather went south (or some other direction from here), leaving one of the coolest springtimes I can recall. There weren't many players on Wisconsin's golf courses, and the flags of Memorial Day fluttered in temperatures that were barely above 60°.

Everything was delayed—even by Memorial Day weekend not all of the trees were fully leafed out. It seemed to me that the University Arboretum had an exceptionally long and beautiful and late display of apple blossoms and lilacs. That's one thing nobody could complain about. And by June 1st, soil temps at two inches in our fairways were still below 60 degrees F, telling me that summer patch might be controlled by less material this season.

Annual flowers, weed control, aerification and a host of other activities normally completed "by the calendar" were running late this year. The lack of sunshine and enough rainfall to keep conditions wet hampered golf course work in Wisconsin, too. Instead of being done with by Memorial Day, the seeding of annual bluegrass was just reaching its peak. The groomer units were out in full force, trying to thin and speed up greens for holiday events. Pretty much, that doesn't work. Nature has the final say. And on the Memorial Day weekend, rain put the concern about green speed to rest in many parts of the state.

Once again recorded here are the excellent stats from

the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Office and our state climatologist for your edification.

Most members of the WGCSA are well aware of the Wisconsin Department of Justice's public intervenor office. Who could forget the town of Casey suit and how much worry and money were spent as a result? Russ Weisensel was occupied for a couple of years working to solve that dilemma.

In May, the legislature's Joint Finance Committee decided to ax the public intervenor's office from the Department of Justice. It eliminates all but one position and moved it to the DNR.

The new public intervenor would be prohibited by law from taking any action in court or from even participating with other groups. The intervenor would also have to withdraw from current lawsuits.

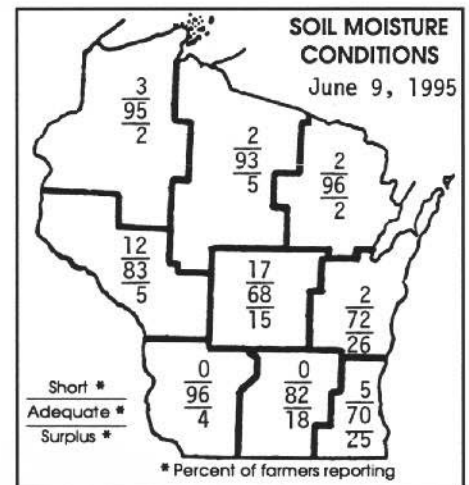
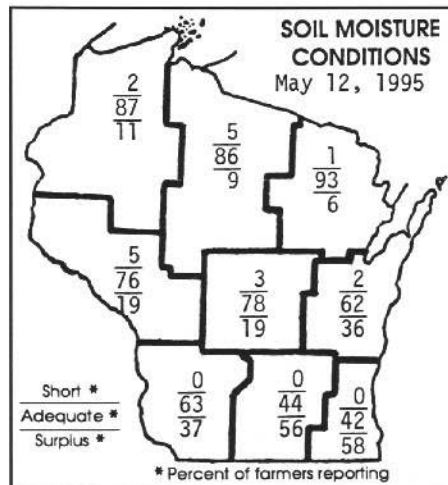
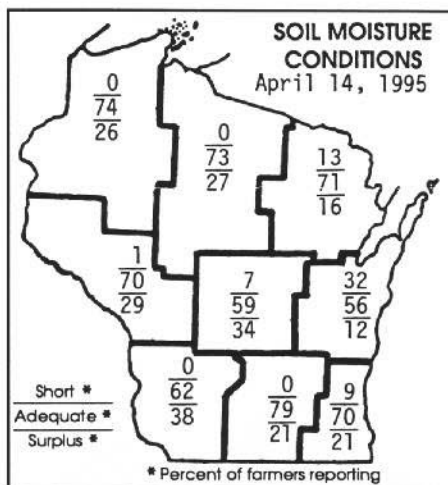
This was just one more move as elected officials work to reduce government, bureaucracies and bureaucrats. Predictably, certain groups were slathered with outrage in this town. It is fun to watch and listen to the goings on.

From the Joint Finance Committee the issue moves to the Senate and Assembly floors. We will watch for the outcome.

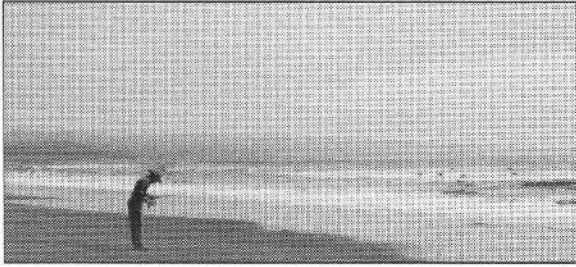
Everything in this life comes at a price, and UW-Madison entomologist Phil Pellitteri says the price for our mild winter past will be more insect problems this summer. He includes on his list some golf course favorites — cutworms and armyworms.

Be prepared; Phil is usually right in his predictions.

(Continued on page 7)



Gone Fishing. Thanks to 7-3-22 with Team.*



For controlling grassy weeds and restoring potash levels, there's no more economical, effective and time-saving combination than Country Club® 7-3-22 with Team* pre-emergence herbicide.

So start applying an advanced herbicide and fertilizer in just one step. And take advantage of all that free time for more leisurely pursuits.

Country Club
7-3-22 LEBANON
WITH TEAM*

*Trademark of DowElanco.
Country Club® is the Registered Trademark of Lebanon Chemical Corporation.

Frank Baden
Territory Manager
Bettendorf, IA
(319) 332-9288

© 1991 Lebanon Turf Products

(Continued from page 5)

The 1995 Masters is past awhile now, but closure for me cannot come without a comment about the winner, Ben Crenshaw. It is safe to say that Ben Crenshaw is a good guy and a deserving Masters champ.

Thanks to Milt Engelke, I was given the opportunity to have breakfast with Crenshaw at the GCSAA conference in Dallas a year and a half ago. He was there for Engelke's Bentgrass Research Inc., which developed Crenshaw creeping bentgrass. He struck me as a thoroughly sincere man who was very interested in bentgrass greens in Texas.

No wonder. This guy showed again, this time at Augusta, that he can putt. No matter that he is 43 years old.

Who cannot be pleased every time you see a nice guy finish first?

I received a great letter from Jim Latham early in May. You'll be glad to know that he and Lois are doing well in retirement.

He reports he is keeping busy scarring up the golf clubs "you kind folks presented to me." He is suffering through undulated, slick greens cut at 7/64 inches that are resulting in six hour rounds.

Redtail hawks, turkey buzzards and bobcats can be counted as neighbors, and his interest in wildlife is growing daily. Jim sounds like a contented new retiree, a well deserved emotion. To all of you he says "keep the peace and give our best regards to all."

Happy trails to you, until we meet again. Seems impossible, but that will be in September/October. My, oh my, where does the time go?! 🍷

