



LOOKING FOR SOME WARMTH

By Monroe S. Miller

The Wisconsin State Journal published the winners of their limerick contest in the Sunday, June 2 edition of the paper. A Sun Prairie woman composed one that Wisconsin golf course superintendents will appreciate in a year like this one:

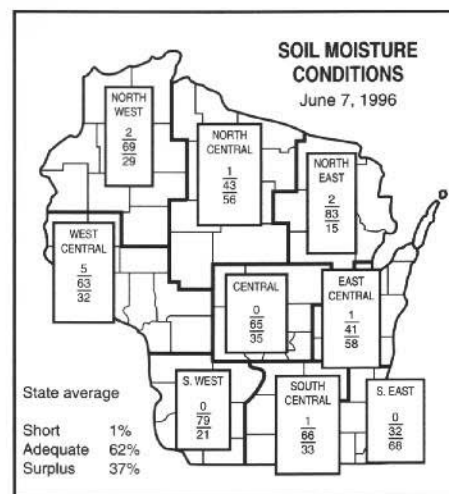
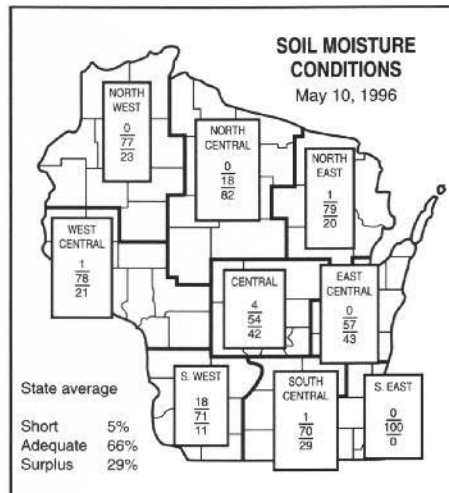
*There once was a season named
Spring
Flowers bloomed, grass was
green,
birds would sing.
Mother Nature cut back
To a three-season track.
It's a late-nineties down-sizing
thing.*

Despite my northern European heritage, I was wishing it would warm up all spring. We had to stay in the shop until nearly 8:00 a.m. on May 30th—heavy frost on the golf course! The few annual beds that had been planted and gardens that were up in our town suffered, no doubt. We were okay at the golf course—our reward for being behind! Everyone in the plant growing business—farmers, greenhouse operators and golf course superintendents—had their patience tried this spring. Around here, in the mid-to late-May period, we experienced 19 consecutive overcast days. Those courses struggling to recover from winter injury continued to struggle in the “spring that wasn’t.”

This spring, the lateness of blossoms on landscape plants was stark. Lilacs were still in full bloom the first week of June. *Poa annua* seeding was retarded by three weeks at my course, and it was greatly reduced in seed production, too. And in the first week or so of June, you could look nearly anywhere and see full, prime blooming tulips!

Such is life in the northern states. By the time the next issue of this journal comes around, I will be looking for relief from the heat and oppressive humidity in a meat locker freezer! Maybe that is why we love Wisconsin so much.

The summary of weather conditions in the past two months comes to you from the good work of the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Office.



Sometimes you have to look hard, but in my experience you can almost always find some good in bad circumstances or conditions. Take the harshness of last winter, for example.

The good that came from the nearly intolerable cold is that insect problems should be substantially reduced this summer. Insect pests that attack woody ornamentals especially suf-

fered from low temperatures in the winter past. We saw no tent caterpillars on ornamentals this year, for example. And entomologists tell us that the subzero days of January killed most exposed gypsy moth eggs that were on tree branches and buildings.

Surface and soil borne eggs masses may survive, but the cool weather will retard development, reducing or eliminating some insecticide applications. Such things make the hearts of Wisconsin golf course superintendents flutter with excitement!

Let's hear it for Edgerton's Steve Stricker! He won his first PGA event on Sunday, May 26 with a three stroke victory in the 1996 Kemper Open. Knowledgeable people around here have been saying, "it was only a matter of time."

Dennis Tiziani is his father-in-law, and Steve's wife Nicki is his caddy. It is a real Wisconsin affair. George

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Magnin tells me that when Steve is in Madison he often visits the golf course maintenance shop at Cherokee to see what's going on.

I don't know the kid, but from all I read and hear, "humility" should have been his middle name. How appealing, especially in the midst of a business so filled with arrogance and ego mania.

It pleased me to notice, as I was tromping through Kohl's Department store with Cheryl, to see Steve even has his own line of golf attire—slacks and shirts and ties. And not a single piece was pink!

Steve Stricker likely will become to Wisconsin what two-time U.S. Open champ Andy North has been—someone for us to watch and cheer for, for years to come, on the professional golfers tour.

Our great state University of Wisconsin-Madison excels at a lot of things, and one of them is securing donations for research, academic and scholarship programs. The golf turf and turfgrass industry are among those donors.

Last year the UW-Madison led the nation among public universities in garnering donations. The school raised \$164.3 million from private sources, placing it fifth overall behind four Ivy League schools. The only Big Ten college in the top ten with Wisconsin was the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, which was three places and \$20 million below Wisconsin.

Private gifts are becoming more and more important as government money sources are drying up.

Two factors stand out in this outstanding accomplishment: the suc-

cess of the UW Foundation and the entrepreneurship of the faculty. The WGCSA is involved with both.

To this success, one can only add—ON WISCONSIN!

By the time this issue reaches you, the 4th of July holiday will be upon us—two down and one to go. Here is my wish for you (and me)—moderate temperatures, adequate and timely rainfall, little insect or disease pressure, happy players and great golf course conditions. 🏌️

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Golf Course Hydroinjection

Bill McMillan

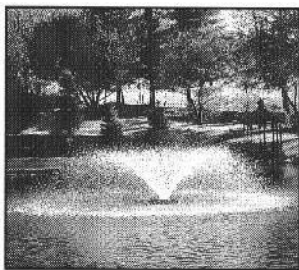
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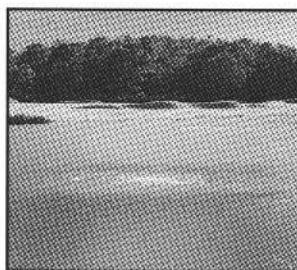
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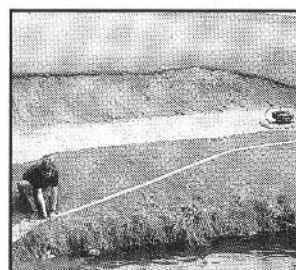
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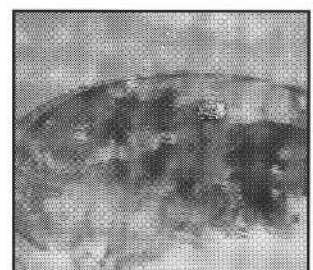
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