

A Successful Year 2000 Draws To A Close



By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

September weather in November - again this year. While I was putting up Halloween decorations - lights, cornstalks, pumpkins - I couldn't miss the perfect analogy to Frank Dempster Sherman's sparse lines:

Deep in the ashes one live ember

Lingers two similes to show:

*June in the arms of old
December,*

A red rose in a drift of snow.

In my case, the faded color of cornstalks and straw, and the deep orange of pumpkins and the lights contrasted with the green leaves and pink blossoms of roses in front of my house.

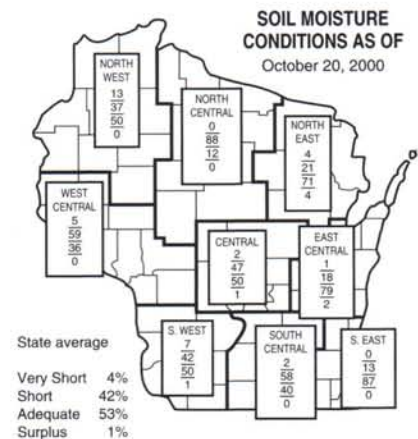
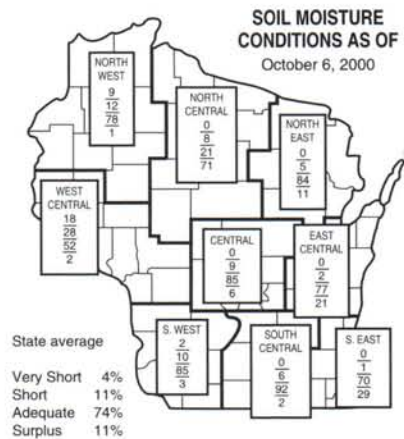
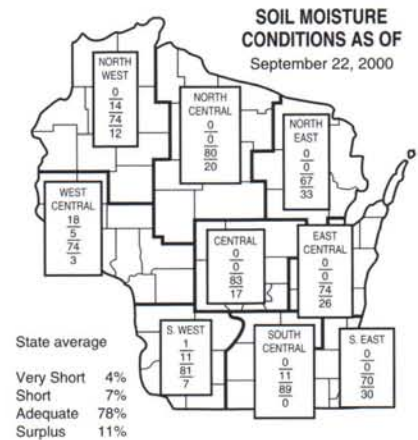
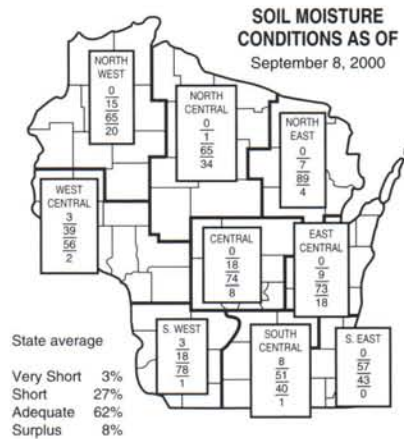
Autumn 2000 was like autumn 1999, 1998 and 1997 - warm and dry. This year, however, many of us are smarter and waited longer to drain and purge irrigation systems. I did it twice last fall due to the lack of precipitation. Better smart late than never. The rain that came in the week of November 6th opened the door for us to wrap up those critical tasks before winter - taking care of irrigation systems and protecting grasses from the snow molds. Although I fret over abnormal weather, we used it to our advantage, like many others did, to complete a couple of significant golf course projects.

It has been a long golf season, beginning way back on March 7th at our course. But it has been a really good one. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we do have a lot of be thankful for this year. And I am thankful the cold weather is close at hand. If you live in Wisconsin I assume you like cold weather. Maybe we even need cold

weather, like I know Wisconsin golf courses do. I am set with heavy coats, warm gloves and big boots. Let it snow!

Weather data from the Wisconsin Ag Stat Service finishes the story for this season.

Although there are still some doubters around, the evidence seems more and more convincing that global warming is for real. The past five years have provided even stronger evidence that human activities are influencing climate and that the Earth is likely to get hotter than previously predicted, according to a UN panel of scientists. They are talking about the greenhouse effect, of course.



The studies of the panel show the warming is a real problem and will have to be taken into account in future planning. If greenhouse emissions aren't curtailed the Earth's average surface temperatures could increase substantially more than earlier calculated. The scientists concluded that average global temperature increases rang-

ing from 2.7 to as much as 11 degrees F. will occur by the end of the century if we continue to march as we are. Five years ago the projected estimates were 1.8 to 6.3 degrees F.

Either way, regardless of the attitude of some naysayers, we are going to have to change our ways or we'll have twelve months of golf in Wisconsin before we know it.

Martin Mikulski, a long time member of the WGCSA, passed away on October 9 at his home in Hortonville. He was 84. Marty served as golf course superintendent at the New London Golf Club, Clintonville Riverside, Hortonville Grandview, and at South Hills CC in Fond du Lac.

Sympathy to his wife Myra and sons Lyle and Arthur, and the members of his extended family.

The CALS faculty at the UW - Madison scored high in a new

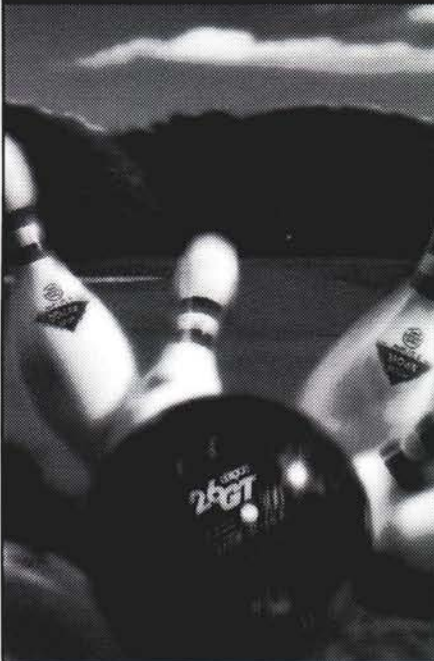
USDA grants competition. Eight projects were awarded \$6.6 million of a \$113 million national program.

The success is more evidence of the research capacity available at CALS. We are lucky to have such open access to the turfgrass sciences faculty.

The lack of rainfall and the press of business canceled a meeting of the WGCSA officers and board and past presidents on November 6th to discuss the GCSAA's proposed PDI. I have no idea of what the membership is thinking, so I was planning to suggest a survey of the members to determine that. It wasn't an original thought; other chapters around the country have been doing that. My guess is that President Pinkerton will do the same for us now.

If that survey comes to pass, **COMPLETE YOUR SURVEY.** The proposal is NOT member driven, as

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claimed, and is being pushed way too hard way too soon. If you don't respond with your feelings, you forfeit your right to bellyache as you attend expensive and potentially useless seminars to score quarter and half points on your way to some arbitrary grand total that will make you smart. I believe in education with all my being, but this deal is a little foolish.

As the first year of the new century closes, the staff at The Grass Roots wishes everyone associated with the WGCSA a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. Jen Samerdyke's cover is our holiday card to you! ♣

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