



Poa trivia

By Cubby O'Brien



Turf Talk

What a difference a year makes! Last July to early August was about as tough as it gets and this year seems like a walk in the park by comparison. The month of July had about 8 days in the 80's! With the exception of wide spread take-all patch around the 3rd to 4th week of June due to the cool, wet spring, superintendents have had to worry about things like rust in their roughs and red thread in the ryegrass. Pressure had been very light up to the 4th of July when dew points crept into the low 70's for a couple of days, spawning outbreaks of dollar spot.

Speaking of dollar spot, it seems that for some, the dollar spot was particularly stubborn this season. No sooner had some customers told me this than Jeff Gregos at the WTA field day said the same thing. He felt that spray volume was partly responsible for the short length of control some had been getting from their fungicides. He recommends two gallons of water per 1,000 sq ft for the majority of products applied. I know what a pain it is to refill twice as often if you are one of the one gallon per 1,000 guys, but wouldn't it be easier and less expensive in the long run to spray a third to half as often simply by putting down more water? Jeff also talked about using three-way mixes of chemistries for resistance management which in the field and at the Noer has met with some pretty good results.

I'm done talking about the drought. I'm sorry that I believed the forecasters (they were right for some regions of the country,

though). In all fairness, some areas got pretty dry pretty fast in late July and early August.

Anybody notice your lindens, birches and other trees being defoliated in August? Take a close look and you'll see our good friend the Jap beetle procreating like rabbits on the leaves. It must make them hungry between sessions. It sounds like the August hatch might be occurring a little late this year. I hope the early summer insecticide applications hold.

Kudos....

To the staff at the O.J. Noer for what I thought was one of the best field days I've attended in a while. It seemed like attendance was up and the layout was better than in the past. I also thought that the research plots were very informative. Still, there were a number of faces absent. With such a "soft" year you would think everyone would be able to take a day to see what's going on in the field trials. That info could come in handy if next year is a little tougher (the salesman in me can only hope).

To Pat Shaw for a great course to host the WTA fundraiser. I still wish more would go to that, too, but I don't know what the solution is. Maybe combining it with the Pro/Super event might help? Just a thought.

Babies 'n' things

Brent Aman and his wife Amy welcomed their daughter Emily Rose with open arms May 6th. Emily weighed in at a dainty 6lbs 14oz. Congratulations. Brent has had a challenge completing the grow-in phase of Morningstar.

He's only had 27" of rain from May 1 to July 11th with more in August to boot!

Roger Bell, superintendent at Peninsula State Park golf course, has hired a new assistant, Jason Bell. Jason is a recent Michigan State grad and son to Roger with another noteworthy tie. He's the godson to the Godfather himself, Monroe Miller. I wonder since Roger is a UW-Madison alum and his son is a Michigan State alum if he got the job because Monroe made Roger "an offer he couldn't refuse."

Think that Sports Illustrated ranking our Badgers #1 is the "kiss of death?" Let's just hope they stay off of the cover until the season is over.

Vince Monahan is retiring from Milwaukee Country Club on October 31st. He and his wife Vicki purchased a home in Chagrin Falls, Ohio and will live there. His son and his family live in Chagrin Falls and his daughter lives only a short distance from there.

His career is easy to summarize: Davenport (Iowa) CC, 1963-1970; Fairlawn (Ohio) CC, 1971-1989; Milwaukee CC, 1989-2000.

Although retiring Vince may work on a golf course during the summer, weekdays only. He is retiring at 59 because he can! Good luck. And thanks to Spring Valley's Ray Knapp for the update.

I know of no other job changes or births but if anyone has any info they'd like to share feel free to contact me. I can be reached at (630) 514-754 or e-mail me at cubobrien@aol.com.✂