



Poa trivia

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Turf Talk

I think everyone would agree that this has been a strange year for growing grass. Late spring through early summer was so cold and wet it seemed as though summer would never arrive. Yellow tuft was a problem (or annoyance, depending on your budget) as late as June 21st. Cold and wet soon gave way to hot and dry...bone dry. Courses went an entire month without a drop of rain. Roughs started to look like home lawns it got so bad.

The second week of July or so brought the first dose of disease pressure. Temps in the mid to upper eighties with dew points in the low to mid-seventies. As it turned out, that was just the first in a series of tough stretches to come.

Mid-July thru the first week in August was just about as tough as it gets. Probably not as bad as 1995 but the worst since. *Poa* was checking out from heat, summer patch, anthracnose etc. *Pythium* became a problem for a lot of courses (mostly in pockets and low areas) and brown patch was particularly stubborn for some. The fungicides seemed to hold most diseases off but when pressure gets the way it was, labeled spray intervals get thrown out the window. As usual, the hardest hit were the courses without the budgets to sustain the many fungicide applications needed during times like this.

Cutworms and armyworms were pretty strong in late July and early August as well. Grubs (bta's and Japanese beetles) have recently been seen. All rolled together it's been a pretty challenging season thus far.

The weather made a nice turn-around the second week of August, though. It's starting to feel like fall again. Soon the leaves will be changing and the air will be filled with the sounds of Badger football, instead of frogs and crickets.

Hats off!

To the staff at the O.J. Noer for another world class field day. I don't think you people know just how good this really is. Talk to people who have been to field days at other universities (I have). You'll hear that the others don't stack up. We all should feel lucky and proud.

To John Gallus for toughing out a five-way emergency by-pass June 15th. I guess he had to or he wouldn't have been around to see his new bride get married. John is the super at Devils Head resort and was recently wed. He is making a steady recovery. Congratulations John!

New Hires


Brent Clark, former superintendent of Tyranena golf course in Lake Mills, was chosen to grow-in the new 18 hole Stoneridge Golf Club in West Bend. Brent is a recent grad

from UW-Madison turf program.

Speaking of Tyranena, Ken Schwark was hired to fill the open super position there. Ken told me he had just completed growing in Roddy Ranch in San Francisco before coming to Wisconsin. Congrats to both Brent and Ken and welcome to Wisconsin!

OOPS

World class outdoorsman and part-time salesman for Wisconsin Turf, John Jensen, is one rod and reel shy of a full boat. It seems that John had his eye on a musky rod and reel combo donated by yours truly for the WTA silent auction held during the field day. Well, John managed to bid just enough to get the tackle in question and was able to enjoy it for about a day. He told me that he had left it on top of his trailer after loading up equipment to haul to a demo or something. He said he drove a couple of hundred miles or so (like he works that hard!) before realizing what he'd done. Guess you can always wait 'til next year John and try again!

If there is anything you would like to share with others, contact me at (630) 514-8754 or at cobrien@simplotpartners.com. 

An Educational Event to Remember:

The Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium

November 13 & 14

2001

The American Club • Kohler, Wisconsin