

A Glorious Season

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

The contrasts between last spring and this spring of 2006 couldn't be more dramatic. One year ago we were pushing to get new seeding going to fill the vast areas of turf injured by the winter. This spring it is all any one of us can do to keep the course mowed and playable.

I'll take spring seasons like this one. Actually, I will remember the spring of 2006 as one of the most nearly perfect spring seasons ever. Ever! The winter was kind; spring came early and stayed and stayed and stayed. The temperatures were never too far from normal and the rainfall has been just about right, both in terms and timing and quantity.

This is one spring when Wisconsin golf course superintendents didn't want to do anything about the weather - rare circumstances, indeed. It has been perfect. Everything is green, unless it is the great color provided by the spring bulbs. They are sparkling this year. The sun has come up early and bright, greatly appreciated after winter. The sun and warmth have brought forth the clouds of pastel colors from the flowering crabapples and the redbud trees. Soon enough now, my favorites will open - shagbark hickory, Ohio buckeye and horse chestnut.

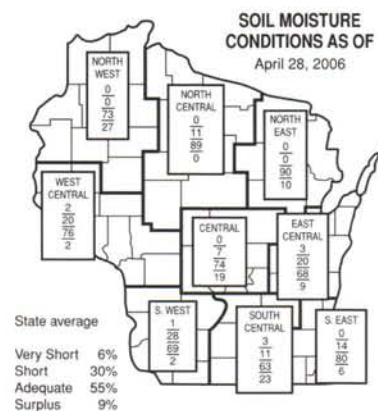
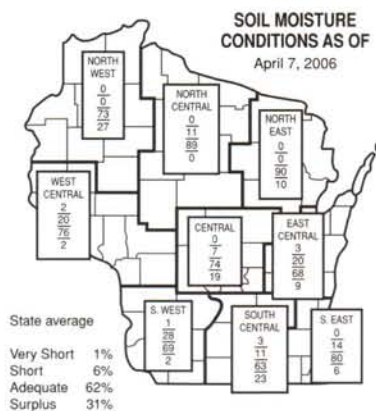
And then the lilacs; we have a row on the edge of our shopyard. I wish I had a rocking chair I could sit in with the overhead shop door open to enjoy the view of the golf course and the players and the intoxicating aroma of lilacs in full bloom. It would be heavenly!

The birds have returned and the bees are busy and active harvesting nectar and pollen. And yet it is still early enough that there are few

insects, making the hours outside even more pleasant.

There are times in these days of national gloom - the Iraq war, global warming, fuel prices, huge immigration problems and more - when I almost feel a sense of duty to be depressed or angry or cynical. But it is impossible in spring. There is a lot wrong, but it is often forgotten while working on a golf course in this season. Cheerfulness and joy and wonder are always breaking through, it seems.

The Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service offers the following summaries of the moisture status this spring. The news is good.



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John has been active in both the Illinois and Indiana turfgrass foundations, and it was that work that earned him the DSA.

Speaking of Purdue, Adam Moeller is in his first year of grad school there. He is a UW-Madison turfgrass graduate from December 2005. Wayne Kussow was his undergraduate advisor, and Cale Bigelow is his major professor at Purdue. His M.S. research involves the evaluation of sand of top-dressing practices on three creeping bentgrass cultivars maintained under two fertility levels.

Adam joined us at the Wisconsinizing event in Atlanta for the GCSAA conference. He quickly lost his Purdue hat!

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, to insure no interruption of Dr. Wayne Kussow's position in the Department of Soil Science, committed \$100,000 to the department so a person could be hired and in place by late summer.

A job description was written and advertisements went out. There was interest in the position and four candidates were chosen to come to Madison for an interview.

The department asked representatives of the various turfgrass industries to participate, and we did that.

We found one candidate to be unacceptable. Another candidate used the interview cut a better deal at his current institution. A fifth individual was then invited and interviewed.

After the process was complete, we ranked the three acceptable individuals and passed that to Dr. Steve Ventura, department chairman. That's the status at the end of the second week of May. When more definitive information is available, you'll see it here.

Incidentally, Dr. Kussow also met and ranked the candidates, adding a lot to our confidence in finding the right person for his position.

Spring wouldn't be spring in the world of golf without Masters week. Several WGCSA members were able to see it up close and in person - Rod and Janell Johnson, Mike and Karen Handrich, Scott Schaller, and the Max McQuade family.

Boy, jealousy is a lousy emotion, but I sure do wish I could have been there. It is the greatest sporting event on earth.

I was looking through an old copy of *Golfdom* recently. It was the January 1954 issue, and at the centerfold was an ad for Tersan turf fungicide. What thrilled me was the testimony from five Wisconsin golf course superintendents, four whom I have met. The best part is that the ad included their photos; they are here for you to enjoy.

Also in this issue was an article by O.J. Noer. Herb Graffis reported on the 37th annual PGA Convention and included a picture of one of the speakers - O.J. Noer!

If there is a season for lofty thoughts, spring is it. Hudson's *Far Away and Long Ago* offered this grateful thought:

"Praised be my Lord for our mother the Earth, which doth sustain us and keep us, and bringeth forth divers fruits, flowers of many colors, and grass." 🌿

These Turf Experts Are Among the Many Who Depend on "Tersan" to Stop Turf Diseases

<p>ERWIN BERTRAM, (Wis.) "Perfect for brown patch... I use 'Tersan' exclusively."</p>	<p>JOHN STAMPF, (Wis.) "Safe and sure... no burning is what I like about 'Tersan'."</p>	<p>CHARLIE SHILEY, (Wis.) "Ends snow mold—'Tersan' put a stop to it for sure."</p>
<p>ORVAL DECKER, (Wis.) "Easy on the greens... stops disease without any grass damage."</p>	<p>FRANK MUSBACH, (Wis.) "Best by test—takes care of snow mold, brown patch, dollar spot."</p>	<p>WILLIAM J. HANSBURY, (Pa.) "Never afraid of burn—'Tersan' is always safe on turf."</p>

Yes, these golf-course superintendents at leading courses in Milwaukee, Cleveland, Philadelphia and St. Louis areas all favor "Tersan" as the safe, sure, economical turf fungicide right through the season. You, too, can keep your greens in top shape with "Tersan." Try it in the handy 3-lb. package.