

Changes

By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Wow, where does the summer go. Our older employees often tell me the older you get the faster the seasons go. I usually answer the seasons are going so fast at 42, summer will only seem like a week when I am 60.

Fall is a great time for golf and golf courses. Water needs are greatly reduced and most courses are in excellent condition as the cool nights slow grass growth.

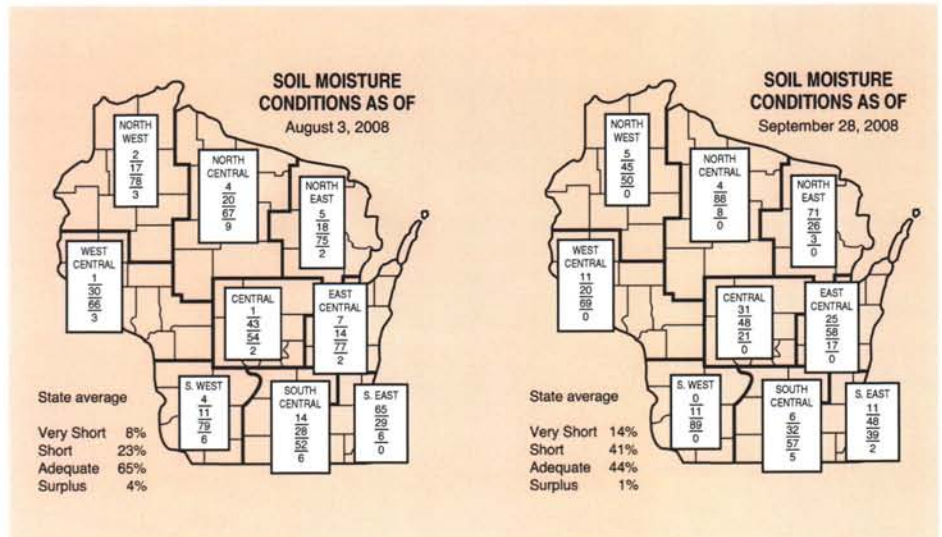
Fall also bring excitement as football starts and most importantly in my opinion baseball playoffs are underway. It is great time in the Badger state as the Brew Crew is playing October baseball for the first time in 26 years. Since we are not allowed to discuss sports on the Noernet I will use this podium to quickly say... Go Cubs!

After the spring rains and the summer mini-drought, conditions have been suitable in much of Wisconsin the past two months. The USDA's National Agriculture Statistics Service shows that in early August soil moisture conditions were mainly adequate with only the south east coming with very dry conditions.

The September 28 report shows the northern half of the state as dry or very dry and most of the south showing adequate or dry conditions. At both times little of the state faced the wet flooding conditions found in spring.

Going into late fall the golf courses and farmers will be looking for some all day rains to soak up the soil.

Despite the moisture extremes we faced this season, temperatures were mild all summer.



Milwaukee did not see 90 degrees until September 5th the first day of school for many kids. Disease pressure was low for the most part and budgets saved a little money.

It is hard to believe the Symposium is right around the corner. The topic, "All Water is Not Created Equal" will be valuable to all of us because the next drought can happen in the Midwest at any time. I am sure the course operators in Georgia and other states never thought they would have the water restrictions they have been seeing the past two years.

Save the dates of November 18th and 19th and look for the registration in the mail soon. The education will be well worth the investment of time!

The presidential election, along with important local races is underway. I hope all our readers will take the time to look at the candidates, their histories and where they stand on the issues

that are important to you at home and at work before voting.

The commercials have been underway for some time and I am sure the phone calls will start soon. It is unfortunate the no-call lists do not include political calls. I assume I am in the majority when I say I do not even like the calls from the candidates I support. The first time it was fun to get a call from former Governor Tommy Thompson or actor Ed Asner but the recordings get old in a hurry.

Aside from the hassle of the race, keep in mind that voting is a right, privilege and duty that should be used and taken seriously.

Last month I reported that GCSAA members will have access to the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) through an agreement with the GCSAA and the Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information Center. This will allow superintendents easier access to the more than 130,000 records available at the TGIF.

Soon *The Grass Roots* will be found on the TGIF as Pete Cookingham and staff will be putting together a collection of *The Grass Roots*.

Rest assured the association does have bound copies of all back issues in storage. However it is very difficult to unbind the collection for the TGIF to do it's scanning. In result we do need your help as long time members in two ways.

If you have saved your past issues and no longer need them there are many issues the association collection is in short supply of and we could use some more copies to put in storage or give to Michigan State for cutting and scanning.

The other way you can help is to allow the TGIF to borrow issues we do not have at all. Those issues would be any publications before May/June of 1984 along with the July/Aug 86, Mar/April 88 and Sept/Oct 88.

Pete and the staff at TGIF guarantee me these limited issues would be highly protected and remain separated from the issues they cut up. It takes more work to scan complete copies than cut up issues but they do it all the time.

This is a great way to categorize the information that has been printed in *The Grass Roots* over the years and allow members greater access to it. We look forward to working with the staff at Michigan State and we appreciate them offering this benefit.

I appreciate the many condolences I received from the turf industry in the tragic bicycle accident that took my dad's life. Your thoughts helped my family and me though an unexpected change in our lives.

Accidents and deaths on the news used to seem so far away. It

happened to other people or in other cities. It is surreal when it is your life that is turned upside down.

My dad and I loved each other but would never be called best friends. I stick to myself at work and home so it is no surprise we were kind of a holiday / special occasion family. There if needed but not pals.

As we aged our respect and admiration for the leaders each of us had become at home and work grew, as did our relationship.

We shared many interests, golf included and I will never forget our annual Memorial Day golf outing with him and my two brothers at Rock River Golf Course in Horicon, followed by a family cookout and a double or triple-header of wiffle-ball.

I take two positives from this experience. One, I hope I learn (and continue to learn) the importance of family and the shortness of life. I want to be a better more positive person because life is too short to waste on being anything else. I also want to be there for my family and not let the hectic schedule of life rush by without appreciation for what it offers.

Secondly I look back at the wake and funeral and all the people I met and realize what a great life my dad had and what a great person he was. I was proud to stand in line and meet all the people he knew and hear all the admiration they had for him and his abilities as a coach, player, employer, employee and client.

He went out on top with a loving wife, a job he excelled at and was well respected for. He went out with his health by taking care of himself and doing activities he enjoyed. He was blessed with many gifts and he used them to live his life. I hope I can be half as successful in my life as my dad was. 🌿



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