



Poa trivia



By Rob and Steve Wasser

LESCO

Well, here we are coming to the end of another season. This has definitely been an interesting season, to say the least. In fact many superintendents think that this was one of the toughest years ever to grow grass. In many ways it was one of the worst years which Mother Nature has dealt us.

In 1988 we had the mother of all droughts. The rain was shut off in May and it was not turned on until mid-August. To make matters worse, during those two months temperatures were in the 90's and 100's with very low dew points. Everything burned up that summer.

In 1995, it was just the opposite. The rain would not stop. We had temperatures in 90's and 100's with late afternoon thunderstorms almost every other day. We saw every disease that we could possibly see that summer. Fungicides were working well if they lasted seven days.

This year was a combination of 1988 and 1995. We started out with a very cold wet spring, which lasted well into June. Then, when it finally warmed up, Mother Nature turned off the rain. This was especially true for the southern part of the state. When the rain finally started to fall in July, the temperatures heated up. It seemed that it was in the upper 80's and 90's every day for about a month. The dew points during this time were extremely high as well. This lasted until about mid-August. It seemed that things were getting back to normal when dollar spot, anthracnose, and algae started taking its toll. Adding to the problems is the ever-famous Japanese Beetle. This bug is still giving superintendents fits. If the grass wasn't treated, the beetle is there.

Overall, was this the worst year? No, I personally do not think so; 1988 was definitely the worse as far as losing turf. The drought and heat lasted so long that no one was able to do anything about it no matter how much water was applied. In 1995, a lot of turf was lost just due to the large amount of disease. I would say that this year was very close to 1995, because of the constant pressure that was put on us by Mother Nature. Just when one problem seemed to be taken care of, another one showed up. The Japanese Beetle was the straw that broke the camel's back.

Marriages

Congratulations go out to John Yaeger, the superintendent/owner of The Broadlands Golf

Course in North Prairie, Wisconsin. John decided to finally tie the knot this past month. John and Jamie were married on September 21, 2002.

We would also like to congratulate Derrick Kastenschmidt, the sales representative for Reinders in the Milwaukee area, on his marriage to Shelly. Derrick and Shelley were married on June 29, 2002.

Career Moves

Gordy Waddington has taken the superintendent position at Ozaukee Country Club in Mequon, Wisconsin. Gordy was the superintendent at The Country Club of Wisconsin in Grafton, Wisconsin.

Ryan Miller has taken the superintendent position at The Country Club of Wisconsin, which Gordy left vacant when he moved onto Ozaukee Country Club. Ryan was the assistant superintendent at The Country Club of Wisconsin under Gordy. Ryan came from Alabama earlier this year in order to work for The Country Club of Wisconsin. Congratulations to both of you on your new positions.

Hats Off

Congratulations are in order for Wayne Otto. Wayne has been the superintendent at Ozaukee Country Club for over 30 years. Wayne retired after this past summer. We all wish him well in his retirement. Wayne was always on the cutting edge. He was never afraid to try something new. In fact, when I would visit Wayne, he always had suggestions on what products I should carry or on how to make our products better. Congratulations Wayne!

Congratulations are also in order for our very own Monroe Miller. A little birdie told me (Dave Noltner, Monroe's equipment manager), that Monroe is finishing up his 30th year as golf course superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club. Monroe started at Blackhawk Country Club on January 1, 1973. As I make my travels around Wisconsin, it seems that at one time or another every superintendent who attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison has worked for him. There are a lot of you out there. Congratulations Monroe!

Please if you have a story to share, good or bad (it must be printable) e-mail Rob or Steve Wasser sls156@lesco.com or sls224@lesco.com or call us at 262-249-8928 or 920-766-2677. 🌿