

golfing public accepts a different “look” to golf turf, their use may continue to be limited. Indeed the idea of less water, chemical, and fertilizer inputs is novel to all of us as turf managers; however, the general public are the ones we need to educate. Thanks to the efforts of plant breeders and research personnel there are quality low input grasses for use on golf courses now widely available. With the continued efforts of industry professionals, such as those featured at the meeting, we will hopefully begin to persuade the American golfing public that these grasses can work and that “Augusta Green” should not be a standard.

As for the golf that followed the discussion, the golf course was playing great. The format was a Schamble and everybody played from the tips. Once everybody caught their breath from walking to the way back tees, they were able to catch a glimpse of the entire golf hole. Although I did hear some initial grumbling about the tee choice, I think everybody still had a great time and were witness to how an alternatively grassed golf course can play as they saw their ball rolling and rolling down the fairway. Many admit after playing a round at Big Fish Golf Club, it is a type of golf they do not see very often and the grasses are the primary reason. After all of the scores were posted and 7,000 plus yards caught up, I think everyone who attended had a good feel for what types of challenges these grasses can create. Conditioning can only improve as we better learn to manage these low input grasses.

The end result was a great day full of excellent education, wonderful weather, and hopefully the beginning of an “alternative” tradition. I hope more people will take advantage of the opportunity to meet new people from other associations next year and enable us to continue to grow this event. I look forward to seeing all who attended again next year and many more and maybe, just maybe, we will move up a tee or two. Have a great rest of the 2007 season. 🌱

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Fall (and Snow Mold) is Almost Here

By Paul Koch, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Though we're currently entrenched in the dog days of summer, subtle changes are signaling fall is on the way. The days have grown a bit shorter, nights are starting to turn a touch cooler, and in many cases summer workers have lost all concentration as school nears. When coupled with professional, college, and high school football players beginning their practice regime it signals that fall is just around the corner. While normally a time to wind down and relax after a stressful summer, worries about controlling disease during the upcoming winter season can make the fall more stressful than many turfgrass managers had hoped for. The probable future loss of PCNB for turfgrass uses, coupled with new snow mold control products released into the market in recent years, may have golf course superintendents thinking about changing the products they have traditionally used. But with all the products available for controlling snow mold, which products are the most effective? And which products give you the best protection for a price your budget can afford?

While you'll have to haggle with the salesmen over which products fit your budget, I have included a table out of the 2005-2006 University of Wisconsin Snow Mold Research Reports at Gateway Golf Club in Land O' Lakes, WI to help determine which products are the most effective (Table 1). This trial from two years ago was chosen because of low disease pressure and ice damage in our 2006-2007 trials, and also because the high disease pressure in this trial differentiated between those products providing superb disease control and those that allowed significant breakthrough (Figure 1). Treatments were applied on October 15th (early), November 5th (late), or both depending on the protocol provided by the fungicide provider. Though damage was seen from gray snow mold (*Typhula incarnata*) and pink snow mold (*Microdochium nivale*), the great majority of damage seen in this trial resulted from speckled snow mold (*T. ishikariensis*). The plots were rated for percent disease on April 14th, and the mean disease ratings are expressed in Table 1. Those means that have a matching letter following the mean do not significantly differ.

Damage to the untreated controls was 100%, and no treatment provided complete control of all snow molds under this extreme pressure. But several treatments did provide excellent disease control, holding disease infection to under 5%. Those treatments are numbers 3, 8, 9, 14, 15, 19, 22, 23, 28, 32, 37, and 38. An important thing to note with all these treatments is that almost all of

Treatment	Rate	Timing ^a	% Snow mold ^b
1 Untreated Control			100 a
2 18 Plus	4 FL OZ/M	Early	22 g-l
Manicure Ultra	5 OZ/M	Early	
Revere 4000	12 FL OZ/M	Late	
3 18 Plus	4 FL OZ/M	Late	5 k-l
Manicure Ultra	5 OZ/M	Late	
Revere 4000	12 FL OZ/M	Late	
4 Spectator Ultra	4 FL OZ/M	Early	8.7 j-l
Revere 4000	12 FL OZ/M	Late	
5 AMVAC Par-Flu	12 FL OZ/M	Late	63.3 a-k
6 Revere 4000	12 FL OZ/M	Late	85 a-e
7 Insignia	0.7 OZ/M	Early	25.3 e-l
18 Plus	4 FL OZ/M	Late	
Manicure Ultra	5 OZ/M	Late	
8 Spectator Ultra	4 FL OZ/M	Early	3.3 k-l
Insignia	0.7 OZ/M	Early	
Manicure Ultra	5 OZ/M	Late	
9 Insignia	0.7 OZ/M	Early	1.7 l
Manicure Ultra	5 OZ/M	Late	
Revere 4000	12 FL OZ/M	Late	
10 Armada	1.2 OZ/M	Early	49 a-l
Revere 4000	12 FL OZ/M	Late	
11 Manicure Ultra	5 OZ/M	Early	43.3 a-l
PCNB 12.5% plus 10-3-23E	6 LB/M	Late	
12 Headway	3 FL OZ/M	Early/Late	60 a-l
13 Headway	5.25 FL OZ/M	Late	33.3 g-l
14 Headway	5.25 FL OZ/M	Late	4 k-l
Daconil WeatherStik	5.5 FL OZ/M	Late	
15 Headway	5.25 FL OZ/M	Late	1.3 l
Medallon	0.5 OZ/M	Late	
16 Banner MAXX	4 FL OZ/M	Early/Late	17.7 h-l
Medallon	0.5 OZ/M	Late	
17 Banner MAXX	4 FL OZ/M	Late	12.3 h-l
Medallon	0.5 OZ/M	Late	
18 Daconil WeatherStik	5.5 FL OZ/M	Late	13.3 h-l
Medallon	0.5 OZ/M	Late	
19 Instrata	5.5 FL OZ/M	Early/Late	3.3 k-l
20 Instrata	4.7 FL OZ/M	Late	33.3 g-l
21 Instrata	6 FL OZ/M	Late	24.7 e-l
22 Instrata	9.3 FL OZ/M	Late	1 l
23 Instrata	11 FL OZ/M	Late	1.3 l
24 Medallon	0.14 OZ/M	Late	26 e-l
Daconil WeatherStik	2.36 FL OZ/M	Late	
Banner MAXX	1.7 FL OZ/M	Late	

Table 1. Percent snow mold at Gateway Golf Club in Land O' Lakes, WI from the winter of 2005-2006.

them contain a mixture of three separate active ingredients, which is essential to obtain proper control under heavy disease pressure.

But what about lesser snow mold disease pressure, such as is usually seen in central and southern Wisconsin? It is true that in most years superintendents in the southern part of the state can get acceptable snow mold control with little or even no fungicide protection. But the problem with snow mold lies in the fact that you only have one shot at getting it right. If you decrease your snow mold protection in the anticipation of a benign winter, there is nothing you can do if the winter turns out to be unexpectedly cold and snowy. Damage from snow molds and winter injury can significantly affect the playability of the course well into springtime, which could reduce play and ultimately the revenue of the golf course. So take the time this fall to choose the products that will provide acceptable snow mold control at a price you can afford, and then sit back and enjoy the cooler temperatures and the changing leaves. 🌿

Treatment	Rate	Timing ^a	% Snow mold ^b
25 Banner MAXX	2 FL OZ/M	Late	61.7 a ^h
Daconil WeatherStik	5.5 FL OZ/M	Late	
26 Banner MAXX	2 FL OZ/M	Late	27.7 e ^h
Turbide 400	8 FL OZ/M	Late	
27 Turbide 400	12 FL OZ/M	Late	63.3 a ^k
Insignia	0.7 OZ/M	Late	1 i
Mancure Ultra	3.2 OZ/M	Late	
Iprodione Pro	4 FL OZ/M	Late	
Revere 4000	8 FL OZ/M	Late	
29 Heritage TL	2 FL OZ/M	Late	36 c ^l
Medallon	0.5 OZ/M	Late	
30 Heritage TL	2 FL OZ/M	Late	10.7 i ^l
Medallon	0.5 OZ/M	Late	
Daconil WeatherStik	5.5 FL OZ/M	Late	
31 Heritage TL	3.5 FL OZ/M	Late	56.7 a ^l
Daconil WeatherStik	5.5 FL OZ/M	Late	
32 26 GT	4 FL OZ/M	Late	3.3 k ^l
Daconil WeatherStik	5.5 FL OZ/M	Late	
Turbide	4 FL OZ/M	Late	
33 Tartan	2 FL OZ/M	Late	81.7 a ^g
34 Tartan	2 FL OZ/M	Late	73.3 a ^h
26 GT	4 FL OZ/M	Late	
35 Tartan	2 FL OZ/M	Late	25 e ^l
Turbide	4 FL OZ/M	Late	
36 26 GT	4 FL OZ/M	Late	58.3 a ^l
Compass	0.25 OZ/M	Late	
37 Lynx Flo	1 FL OZ/M	Late	2.3 k ^l
Compass	0.25 OZ/M	Late	
38 Lynx Flo	1 FL OZ/M	Late	4.3 k ^l
Compass	0.25 OZ/M	Late	
26 GT	4 FL OZ/M	Late	
39 Insignia	0.9 OZ/M	Late	23.7 f ^l
Iprodione Pro	4 FL OZ/M	Late	
Revere	8 FL OZ/M	Late	
40 Insignia	0.9 OZ/M	Late	25.7 e ^l
Iprodione Pro	4 FL OZ/M	Late	
Mancure Ultra	3.2 OZ/M	Late	
41 Insignia	0.7 OZ/M	Early/Late	23.3 f ^l
Iprodione Pro	4 FL OZ/M	Early/Late	
Mancure Ultra	3.2 OZ/M	Early/Late	
42 Turbide 400	12 FL OZ/M	Late	71.7 a ^l
43 Turbide 400	9 FL OZ/M	Late	25.7 e ^l

Table 1. continued.



Figure 1. The differences between treatments that provided excellent control of snow mold and those that fall short are very clear in this trial.

Treatment	Rate	Timing ^a	% Snow mold ^b
44 AND5017	6.66 LB/M	Late	50 a ^l
45 AND5174	6.66 LB/M	Late	13.3 f ^l
46 AND4334	9 LB/M	Late	53.3 a ^l
47 AND4333	9 LB/M	Late	38.3 b ^l
48 AND5176	6.36 LB/M	Late	70 a ^l
49 AND5177	6.36 LB/M	Late	66.3 a ^l
50 AND5173	10 LB/M	Late	15 f ^l
51 AND3224	6.36 LB/M	Late	95 abc
52 26/36	4 FL OZ/M	Late	90 a ^l -d
Endorse	4 OZ/M	Late	
53 26/36	4 FL OZ/M	Late	83.3 a ^l -f
Daconil WeatherStik	5.5 FL OZ/M	Late	
54 26/36	4 FL OZ/M	Late	96.7 ab
Daconil WeatherStik	5.5 FL OZ/M	Late	
Alude	5.5 FL OZ/M	Late	
55 Endorse	4 OZ/M	Late	100 a
56 Endorse	4 OZ/M	Late	96.7 ab
Spectro	5.75 OZ/M	Late	
57 Spectro	4 OZ/M	Early	90 a ^l -d
Endorse	4 OZ/M	Late	
Spectro	4 OZ/M	Late	
58 CL-EXP-4	1 FL OZ/M	Late	95 abc
59 CL-EXP-4	1 FL OZ/M	Late	91.7 a ^l -d
Spectro	5.75 OZ/M	Late	
60 Spectro	4 OZ/M	Early	93.3 a ^l -d
CL-EXP-4	1 FL OZ/M	Late	
Spectro	4 OZ/M	Late	

Means followed by same letter do not significantly differ (P=0.05, Student-Newman-Keuls)
^aEarly and late fungicide treatments were applied on Oct. 15, 2006 and Nov. 5, 2006, respectively
^bMean % diseased area
 Phytotoxicity was rated on a scale of 1-9 where 1 = straw colored, 6 = acceptable, 9 = dark green



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WTA Returns to Blackwolf

By Tom Schwab, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Blackwolf Run will once again play host to the 2007 "Golf Fundraiser for the Fellowship". Superintendent Mike Lee has invited us back for another wonderful round of golf at the Blackwolf Run Meadow Valley Course on Thursday October 11th. Your registration helps support the Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Research program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the program that continually gives back to you, the turf professionals.

Several studies that have been funded by the turfgrass fellowships include a comparison between turfgrass and rain gardens to manage urban runoff, assessment of different inorganic amendments to improve putting green construction mixtures, and soil test selection and calibration for turf in Wisconsin. These three studies are the first in a lifetime of learning from a program that started just seven years ago with the Wayne R. Kussow Fellowship. Since then, three more fellowships have been funded to provide a perpetual source of funding for turfgrass science. The most recent fellowship was inaugurated in June to study turf disease management.

The fundraiser is not all about research though. It is also about fun and getting out with friends to enjoy a round of golf near the end of the season. The traditional door prize table adds to the enjoyment, and almost everyone takes home a prize, some worth more than the cost of registration. The host courses for the fundraiser have been top notch which likewise adds to the enjoyment and is why the event has sold out for the last six years.

The Meadow Valley Course will likely be another sellout as it offers an exciting challenge to the amateur golfer and a dramatic dare to the more inclined. The course is described to have an opening nine, set on gently rolling terrain reminiscent of a Scottish links course, and the concluding nine to show influences of glacial carving of the land, with deep ravines bordering a river valley. It is one of the few courses in the nation to achieve a five stars rating in the Golf Digest "Places to Play" guidebook (3rd edition, 1998-99). Meadow Valley was ranked 34th in the United States on GOLF Magazine's list of the "Top 100 You Can Play" (May 1998). Its Valley "nine" comprised half of the routing for the record-setting 1998 U.S. Women's Open conducted by the USGA at Blackwolf Run. Hole #18 (played as the



ninth hole of the U.S. Women's Open) was named one of the "500 Best Holes in the World" by GOLF Magazine (Jan. 2000).

A special lodging rate will be offered at The American Club for participants interested in accommodations: Standard rooms for \$250 single/double occupancy. Please call 1-800-344-2838 to make a reservation.

I hope you are able to join your colleagues for this wonderful event. It is truly an outstanding course and the funds raised strengthen your industry with important research that we can all use.

The registration form is included. You may contact Audra at 608-845-6536 or ajander2@wisc.edu if you have questions. Whether it's your first WTA "Fundraiser for the Fellowship" or you've attended many, we hope you won't miss this one. You owe it to yourself after such a busy summer. 🌱

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 9:00-10:00 Registration and Practice
 10:30 Shotgun

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- One of the few courses in the nation to achieve five stars in the Golf Digest "Places to Play" guidebook (3rd edition, 1998-99), Meadow Valleys also was ranked 34th in the United States on GOLF Magazine's list of the "Top 100 You Can Play" (May 1998). Its Valley "nine" comprised half of the routing for the record-setting 1998 U.S. Women's Open conducted by the USGA at Blackwolf Run. Hole #18 (played as the ninth hole of the U.S. Women's Open) was named one of the "500 Best Holes in the World" by GOLF Magazine (Jan. 2000).
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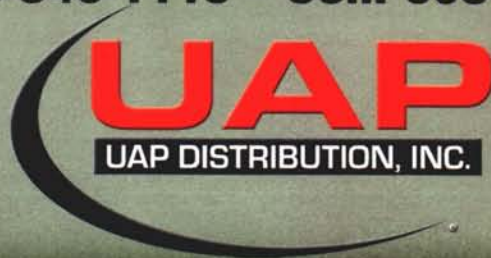
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Another Dry Summer For Most of Us

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

Except for maybe the extreme southeast and southwest corners of the state, most moisture status maps show Wisconsin to be "abnormally dry," not a good thing when worry about over water table levels, surface water levels and even our famed Great Lakes. It was only a few days ago that I read a report that Lake Superior will reach an 80-year low level and has experienced over a 4 degree F increase in water temperatures. It has been so dry that some golf course construction projects have actually halted; it is impossible to shape or compact dust.

Much of the state got a drink on July 27th; some of the rain, unfortunately, came too fast to do much good. The Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service reported earlier that week that 80% of the state was either short or very short of soil moisture because of the below normal rainfall. Another fairly widespread storm in the first week of August helped improve the situation, also. Although we are lucky to have irrigation systems, nothing covers like rain from the sky. A lot of time and money has been spent on handwatering this summer. Employees with one-inch green hose and nozzles have been an almost more common site than those operating mowing equipment.

And it is not like it hasn't been hot and dry before. I have vivid recollections of my grandparents and parents talking about the summer of 1936. My family members were almost all involved in farming and the weather seriously threatened crops and livestock. Farmers were cutting the coarse weeds along roadsides and putting them in the barn in hope of getting through, somehow, the coming

winter. Crops were ruined, pastures dried up and so did streams and springs.

Search the Internet and you will see for yourself what it was like where you now live back in 1936. In our town the temperature hit 100 degrees F on July 7, 1936 and stayed there for a week. July 14th of that year saw 107 degrees F, a record that still stands, but it was

less than the 114 degrees the day before in the Dells! On July 13th of 1936, every weather reporting station in Wisconsin soared to 100 degrees F or higher.

August 18th, 1936 was 100 degrees and for much of the rest of the month it was over 90 degrees everyday. So don't relax yet; August can be a barn burner, too.

Although I was only nine, I can

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remember the hot summer of 1955. Two years before in 1953, August temperatures ended with a week in the 90s and had a 100 degree topper on the last day of the month.

Many readers experienced the heat of the summer of 1988; count me among them. Twelve days in July and August set all-time high

temperature records and six of them were over 100 degrees F. That was the summer, on about August 1st, that Midwest Irrigation started installation of our new irrigation system. Good timing!

So, yes, it has been hot and dry. And we complain (it is almost a duty!), yet courses in general were very playable - "fast and ugly," as our

esteemed WGCSA president Mike Lyons related to me. But, as it always has, the rains come and within days Wisconsin is green again.

But who hasn't been absolutely delighted with the reduced level of plant diseases? Honestly, I have seen only a couple dollar spot infections, likely where a boom missed. The dry weather has been accompanied by some days with lower dew points, making the lack of rainfall a little easier to accept. I have seen some anthracnose and some rhizoctonia, but that is about it.

As has been observed for almost forever, it all evens out. The soil moisture status of the various regions of the state is here for you review, thanks to the great staff at the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.



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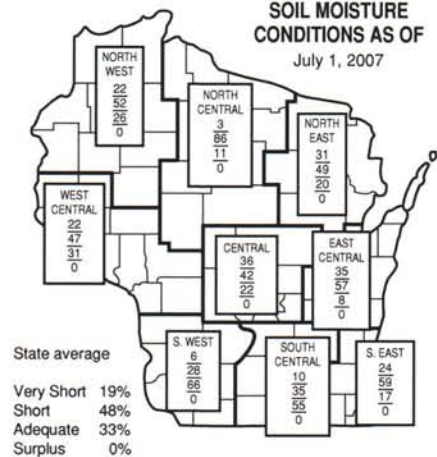
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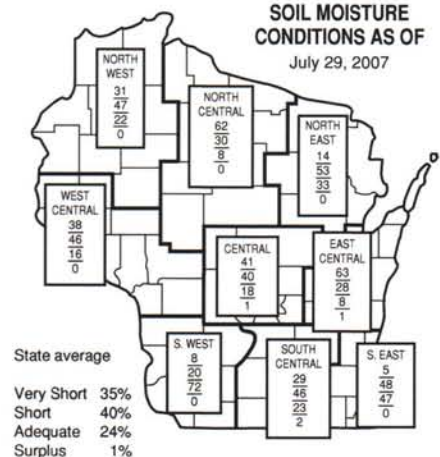
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SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS AS OF July 1, 2007



SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS AS OF July 29, 2007



I guess you could say it is the "elephant in the room" and is too hard to ignore. I am speaking, of course, of the TurfNet survey of turf colleges in the country. I looked through it quickly, fully expecting to see Wisconsin's land grant university ranked in the top ten. It should be.

Not only wasn't the school in the top ten, it wasn't even ranked.

I was angry and disgusted. And so were a lot of people associated with the program, past and present. We figured the reason for a no show was due to either laziness or incompetence somewhere along the line. I mean, when you look at a program with ONE undergrad student ranked in the top twenty, you can ONLY conclude that somehow or other the survey didn't make sense and was seriously flawed, whether we were included or not.

It is safe to say that we have gotten the appropriate attention. None of

our faculty were at any fault. The survey was sent to the wrong person, as near as I can tell (TurfNet's fault; a call to GCSAA would have given the accurate information for all universities, colleges and two-year schools) and someone (do not know who) in the UW - Madison sat on it until one day prior to the deadline.

John Stier has the right idea: the water is over the dam for this survey. He is focused on the positive aspect of designing a survey that will be accurate the next time one is conducted. Maybe then we will have data that will actually mean something.

By the way, among those left out are Florida and Tennessee. Misery likes company, and we definitely have some.

Hats off and three cheers to Schwab, Anderson, the Noer Facility staff, Stier, Soldat and UW - Madison staff who presented

absolutely the finest WTA/TPI/MSA Field Day in the history of all mankind! I exaggerate not - it was unbelievable, and Tom Schwab's column and pics tell the story.

I'll ask the question: Where were the Wisconsin golf course superintendents? Funny how a monthly meeting can draw over a hundred of us for a day of golf and chow (see the President's Message) at some considerable distance, but research plots, lectures, equipment and supplies, demonstrations and more bring half that number (or less).

Too bad. Twelve hundred from several continents and lots of countries descended on the Noer Facility for a fantastic and affordable show. Our lack of presence was embarrassing.

It doesn't add up. For those in attendance, you know what I mean. For those absent, you really missed something.

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