

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Dale Wysocki
Faribault Golf & Country Club



Extremes. That is how you could sum up the season of 1994 — from a chilly beginning in April to heat and dryness in May, to heat with humidity in June.

Trying to schedule anything in July might have been nearly impossible with the abundance of precipitation, at least in certain parts of the state. And then August arrived, with an abundance of precip, again, not to mention the cooler temperatures.

That is all fine for aerification. I mean what Golf Course Superintendent wants to aerify when it's 90° outside? I found the best way to get topdressing into the core holes is to get 4.5" of rain the next night.

Another thought on extremes to consider is greens speed versus rollability factor. Some golfers just love to know that their greens are stimping in excess of 10' 6", but, give them speeds in excess of 11' 6" or even 12' and all of a sudden the cup placements are all in illegal locations, or the cup cutter is not sharp, like there are countless reasons why there was nothing but cup at the end of the stroke.

Now give them true rollability, where the ball rolls "true" right to where the putter aims it with a stimpmeter reading of 9' 6". Then you have accomplished something. To give the golfers rollability with 9' 6" speeds and a height of cut of .250", you might be able to sleep at night.

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What do we do as a profession? There seems to be confusion as to what is the career title that labels what we do. I mean everything has to have a label, be it types of architecture, music, careers and so forth. Over the years you have seen the title of Superintendent used by people who are in charge of school districts, prisons, apartment complexes, recreational parks and the list goes on. So, where do we fit in?

A couple years ago Touring Professional Tom Watson had been quoted as saying that a Golf Course Superintendent is an environmentalist, scientist, personnel manager, etc. At some golf courses the Superintendent is a Grounds Manager. Technically, this is probably a correct title. However, in the large corporate picture every business and municipality has its own definition of who does what and how he or she goes about doing it.

Now consider the title "Greenskeeper." In some parts of the world this is a very prestigious title; not many people can do the art of keeping a tiny living breathing organism alive. Possibly it can be arranged some day that titles are not as important as what a person does.

—Dale Wysocki
Editor

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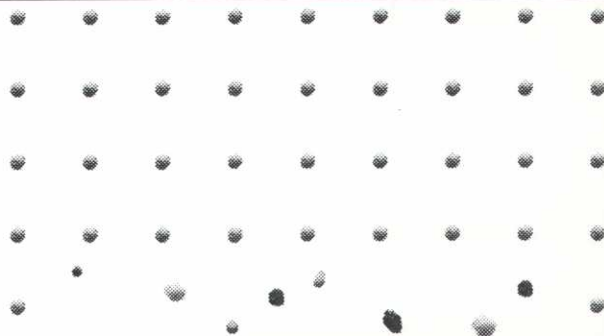


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