

FORECAST: DRY AND INTRUSIVE



It's green-up time. You've done your preparatory work. Your irrigation systems are inspected, overhauled and in place, but the prospects of pulling down a water table already under pressure is not a pleas-

ant one. This spring is forecast to be a dry one.

Be prepared to defend what many people see as the nonessential use of water on turfgrass to the local press and even country club members. The public has a pesky way of poking its nose into what many people see as their private affair but which, in the larger scope of things, may be a legitimate concern.

Which brings us to the topic of insecticides. Most turfgrass operations now follow policies of spraying when the public is not around. All of you should be posting the appropriate warnings when using restricted materials. Again, with an early season, there will be heightened attacks by insects on

grasses and ornamentals. Be prepared to deal with the public on this issue. A proactive approach with your internal public (i.e., members of the club or owners of buildings) is probably best.

Whichever way the weather goes — wet or dry, hotter or cooler — the odds are good you'll be bugged at some point this season by outsiders questioning your management plans. Be prepared to give reasoned, non-emotional, practical answers to their questions.

In Future Issues

- Back to Basics series:
Understanding the Turfgrass Crown
- Why it Takes 10 Years to Bring Products to Market
- EPA's Vermiculite Scare
- Weeds as Indicators of Environmental Conditions

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