

The effects of the blistering summer of 1995 are making spring turf repair difficult, but being outdoors is a welcome change from a brutal winter!

Rick Grote of Terrace Park Country Club in Milford, Ohio, had started to bring the course back from last summer's heat when I called in mid-March.

Northerners usually breathe easier by mid-August, thinking the worst of the hot weather is behind them, but Grote said that last summer taught him and others to never let down their guard—even after August 15th!

"Soil temperatures were so high in summer that we had a bad seed catch," he said. "And then, in October, the cold hit overnight, which reduced turf repair time. We're hoping it warms up quick. We've been spiking and seeding, but we have to hold off on the pre-emergence herbicides that will keep seed from germinating."

Wayne Lemanski of Indian Lake Hills Golf

Course in Niles, Mich., had been busy tuning up equipment when we spoke.

"We're working on some equipment, waiting for our weather to break," he said. Lemanski's now using rotary mowers in the golf course rough areas. "The turf blades stand up better with rotary mowers," he said. "The rotaries are easier to maintain; there's some bearing, wheel and blade maintenance, but it's easier than reel mower maintenance."

With all the talk today about finding good employees, Lemanski said it's important to "keep your help happy" by finding ways around worker complacency. One simple solution: he shifts job duties around to give the individual crew person some job variety and well-rounded experience.

"Everything's ready to go; now we're waiting

[GOLF/GROUNDS]

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'Golf & the environment' debate

Cabin fever subsides as supers ready for spring



Terry McIver

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for the course to green up," reported James Cochran, of Piper's Mill Golf Course, located in Eureka, Mo.

Cochran sounds like a superintendent who knows his job, does it well, and doesn't put much stock in fancy-schmancy ways to attract golfers to the course beyond...a good golf course!

"We have a good course here, and the price is right," he said. "There are too many courses out there," trying to make a go of it, and their managers try anything to bring in the golfers.

Special rates for seniors? he asks. "They're the ones with all the money!"

"Two for the price of one? You're giving away your golf, and not running a very good ship!"

Cochran's philosophy on employee relations is basic. "The American worker wants to know two things: how much he's getting paid and what his benefits are. The superintendent [job applicant] also wants to know if he gets a pick-up truck.

"I want superintendents who are out on the course cutting greens, not driving around. I want people who care about the golf course."

Cochran enjoys working the course, and that's good. There's lot's of golf ahead! **LM**