



Sunshine Course, Lemont, IL.

5/17/13

Its back!!

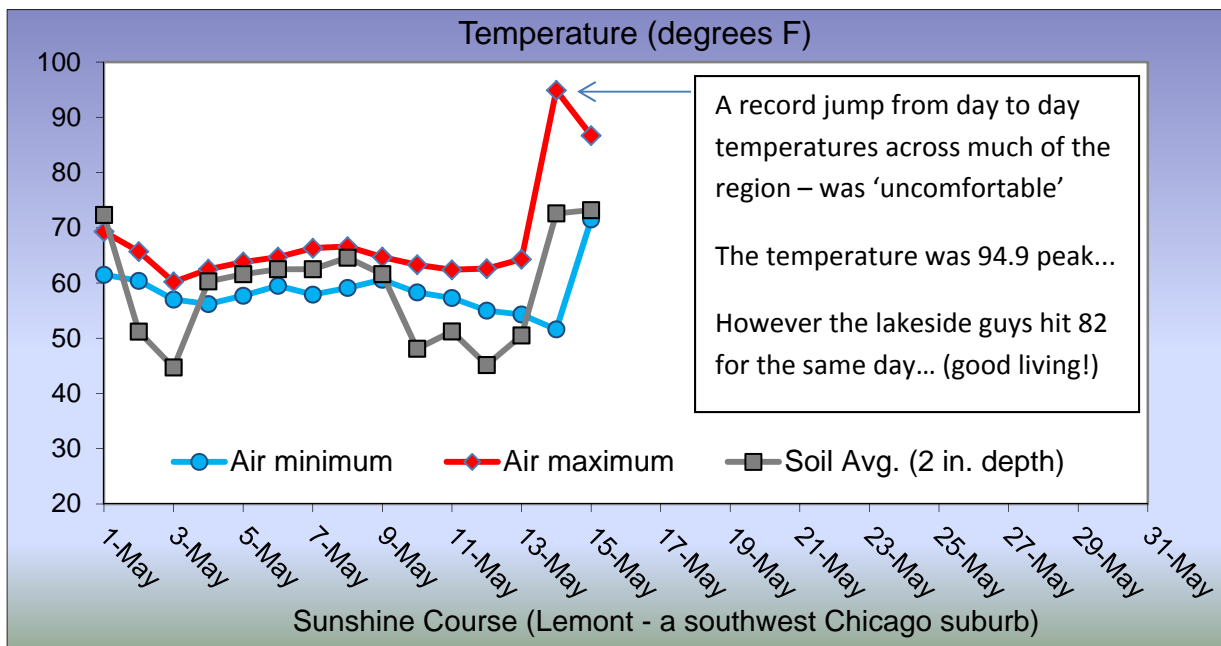
Members and fellow turf professionals, the weekly scouting report is back and hopefully with some new and interesting tidbits to keep you guys in a comfort zone as we move through the golf season. I will aim to talk about a range of topics on top of what we see on a weekly basis with a paragraph on my take on abiotic stresses that we may be seeing. Finally – I will say I am very excited to be here and hope to get out and interact with you all very soon. If you have a question or a need, you will get a rapid response from enangle@cdga.org.

The new email is associated with the new Director of Turfgrass Programs. Many of you have gotten the bio email already and so know, that I'm Ed Nangle who has arrived in from Florida where I was working on my post-doc with Dr. John Cisar. In Florida, I managed projects regarding plant health and fungicides as well as herbicide and water use. My PhD at The Ohio State University was in hort and crop science and I have a solid background in naturally occurring plant pigments and their responses to various light conditions as well as shade management strategies for cool season grasses. I have also a practical background with stints in Ireland, Australia and South Carolina on golf courses and even some golf course construction experience. I am very excited to take over and can't say enough about how much my predecessor has done for the association and the position. In growing up working on courses in Ireland I gained two things – experience with *Poa annua* and bentgrass – and a strong accent! I will be out making visits and meeting everyone all summer so don't hesitate to call.



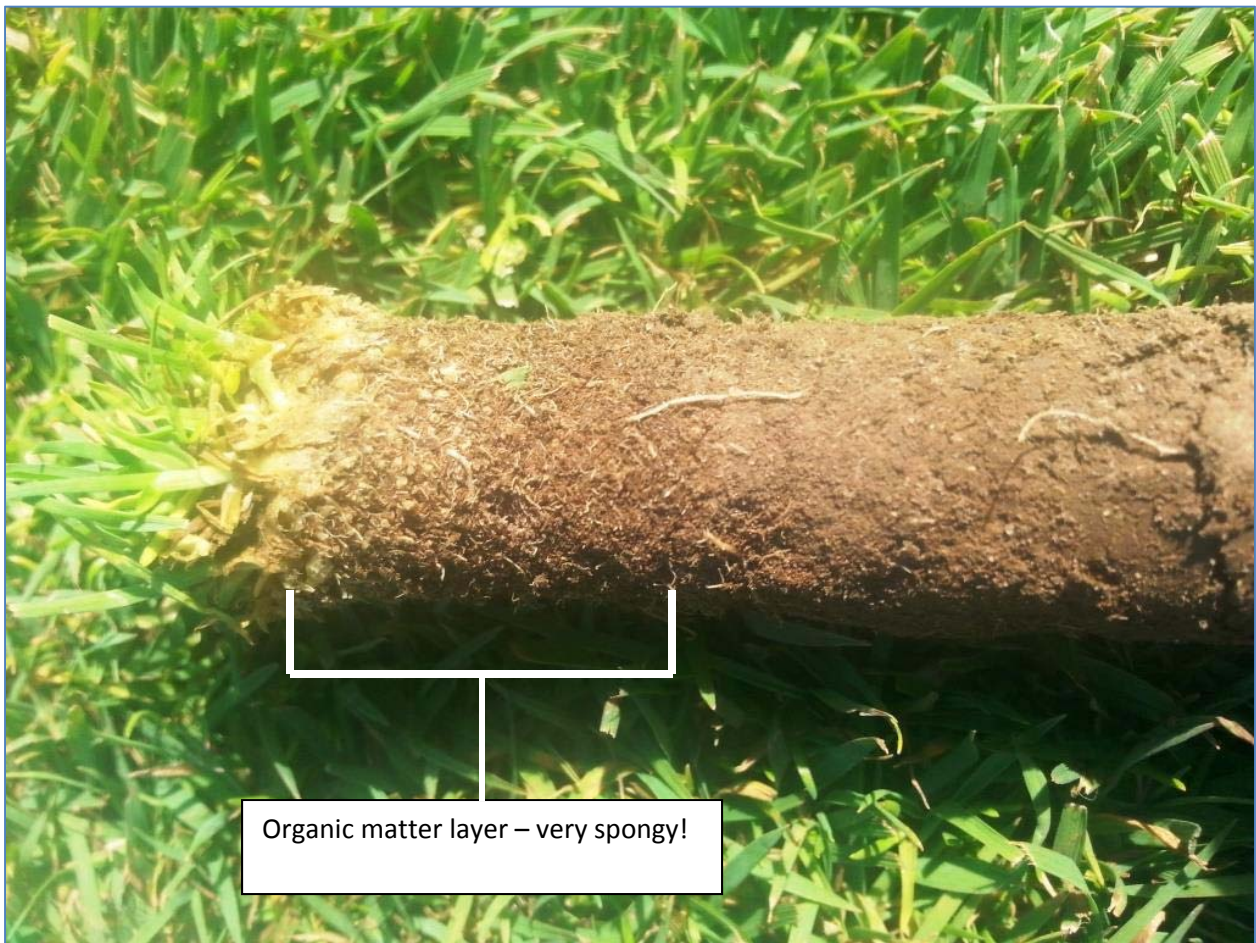
In light of the fact it has been a slow start to the year – or more like back to reality – problems have not been too much. Incidences of leaf spot on some bentgrass greens have been reported post frost, however with temperatures rising, the plants should grow out of it. Possible problems with *Microdochium* seem to have occurred last week with the cool wet weather which followed aeration practices – reducing nitrogen, dew removal and reducing pH are some cultural practices that can be used to get you a head start on the problem. A combination of contact and systemic fungicides at cooler temperatures is also a smart option.

With the onset of the record breaking temperatures no doubt there were some irrigation headaches this week and hopefully no one got caught out on their traditional hot spots. This followed a day where courses had a frost delay – this is going to be an interesting ride!!! As you can see in our temperature figure– soil temperatures at the Sunshine Course really rocketed around that time – however irrigation was turned off for aerification and topdressing. The temperatures have since decreased – thankfully!! I will also say that as I have already noticed – people on the lake have some serious temperature differences with courses off the lake and so I will try to differentiate on conditions there as much as possible.



High temps, low temps and soil temps for the first two weeks of May 2013.

As everyone has completed their spring aerification practices, I wanted to remind you as to why it is a crucial part to your year. The picture below gives us an ideal reason as to why organic matter can really cause problems. In that pictured layer (below) there can potentially be problems with water movement, disease survival, scalping and endless other issues. Therefore, the removal and dilution of the organic matter is a vital part to your season – whether or not you are aggressive or not will be determined by a range of issues including budget, climate, mood of the day and how your turf came out of winter – however some form of aerification should have been carried out at this stage. If not – probably want to schedule it up!



Poa fairways. May 2013, Chicago Golf Course.

WETTING AGENTS

In relation to other soil matters – some superintendents have reported that they want to reduce localized dry spot problems on some of the more mature courses. Thus they have gone ahead and began making applications of wetting agents in a preventative format. It will be interesting to monitor this cultural practice which aims to make sure that rather than trying to fight the hydrophobic soils once they have formed – early applications will aim to retain their ability to absorb and shunt water through the profile.

FERTILITY

Recent fertility applications should have been made with early spring applications long in the ground. I would expect that superintendents are looking to give the turf a push on top and below ahead of the summer 'fundays'. Maintaining nutrition at this stage is crucial prior the summer stress period.

POA SEEDHEADS

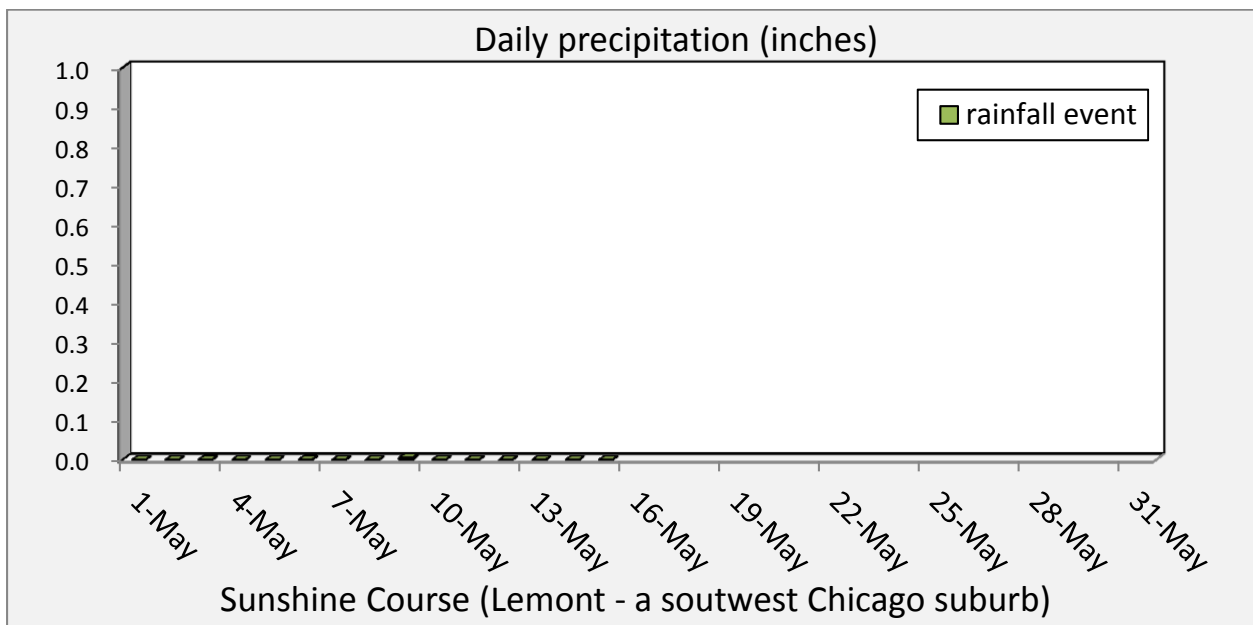
Herbicide applications and seedhead control should have been long made as you don't want to have this flower appearing already! Please do remember the GDD tracker is a vital resource that can help with your programming for the year.



Poa alive and well May 2013, Chicago Golf Course.

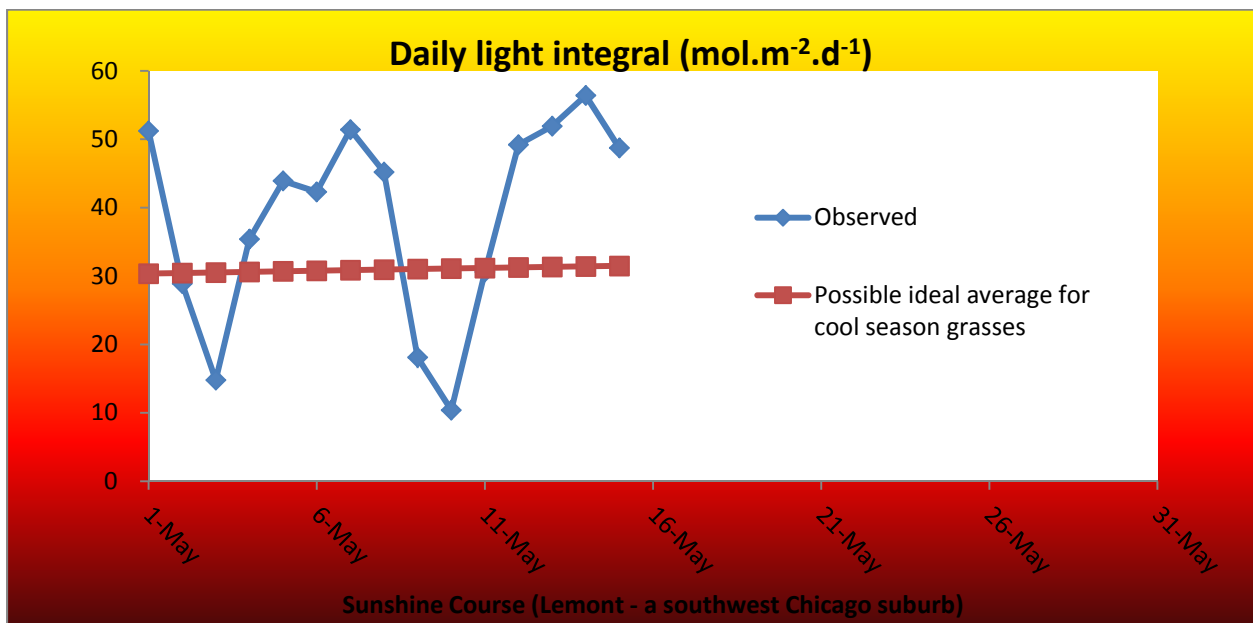
PRECIPITATION

The other thing that has been noticeable this week is the lack of rain???? Where has it all gone – everyone was wearing floaties last month and now it's turned into desert (See below)?? A dry period is a form of control for many superintendents in the sense that many feel during a dry period that they have an ability to dry the course down and firm it up but not everyone has unlimited water resources so for the guys needing to replenish I hope this weekend brings a little respite! In looking at the data here – maybe timing of wetting agents is actually ideal right now. For guys on sand based greens I expect that this has been going on for a while already while the traditional push up guys are probably seeing some interesting drying of soils right now.



May 2013 precipitation at Sunshine Course, Lemont IL.

Finally of personal interest is light and it's an area that I will continue to work on here at Sunshine Course – particularly as cool season grasses are much more susceptible to a form of light stress known as photoinhibition (we may do a talk about this sometime!). That being the case I have collected daily values from here and plotted them against what should be ideal for cool season turfgrasses (with some finessing still required, re: differences in light intensity in AM and PM as sunsets and rises). We can see that there are already days where plants have been receiving far and above the required amounts of light and thus some mild issues will have occurred in the plants biochemical pathways in response to the light. This will change as the season goes on however!



Daily light intensity values as compared to daily average sufficiency levels for optimal photosynthesis rates in cool season plants.

With one last flourish I think what I would like to do is add some form of interaction – I want to see how many people are actually reading the report – thus I think we are going to have a weekly competition of problems identification. Prizes yet to be determined – maybe do a league system and first correct answer each week gets a point, or maybe pool correct answer and pull out a random winner – with a nice prize at the end of the year.

This week is a simple one – what’s wrong? Answers to enangle@cdga.org



With that I would like to wish everyone the best for the season and I hope I can continue to serve you as well as my predecessors. If you do need an extra set of eyes or have some ideas for research please don't hesitate to call. It has been excellent getting to meet everyone so far and I hope to continue the process.

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