



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

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Judge's Ruling Against EPA on Water Rule A Victory for Golf, Superintendents Association Says

By John Strege
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A federal judge issued a temporary injunction against the Environmental Protection Agency enacting the Clean Water Rule in 13 states, a victory for golf, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America said.

"We're excited about it," Rhett Evans, CEO of GCSAA, said Friday. "The association and the golf industry have been trying to combat this for quite some time now." So have other industries, including agriculture and energy entities.

Their objection was that the Clean Water Rule would have significantly expanded the authority of the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers beyond "navigable waterways" that it regulates under the Clean Water Act that has been in place since 1972.

Evans said the bill was unfair, calling it "an overreach of the federal government. We already have mechanisms at the state and local levels. And instead of just navigable waterways, they widened it to include irrigation ditches and even run-off streams that may be dormant for much of the year. The implication from a business standpoint, to have to get a permit any time you're spraying anything or moving dirt, is absurd."



The 13 states, led by North Dakota, had asked the court to intervene. "Once the rule takes effect, the states will lose their sovereignty over intrastate waters that will then be subject to the scope of the Clean Water Act," U.S. District Judge Ralph Erickson wrote in his order. "Immediately upon the rule taking effect, the rule will irreparably diminish the states' power over their waters."

Nine other lawsuits involving an additional 16 states that have been filed in opposition to the Clean Water Rule are pending. Meanwhile, the EPA is "basically making a statement that it is only those 13 states," Evans said. "They have said that all systems are go as it relates to the other states."

Evans made it a point to note that the GCSAA "certainly wants clean water. But we feel what's already in place has been working," he said.

The GCSAA, meanwhile, remains in support of Senate Bill 1140, the "Federal Water Quality Protection Act." "The bill requires the Department of the Army and the Environmental Protection Agency, in the interest of protecting traditional navigable waters from water pollution, to adhere to certain principles and take specified actions in proposing any regulation revising the definitions of 'waters of the United States' and 'navigable waters,'" the bill summary reads.

"As an association, we were not pleased with how this rule developed, and we will continue to support legislation to withdraw the rule, including Senate Bill 1140, which aims to get impacted stakeholders a seat at the table to develop a new rule that creates more certainty and bright lines," Chava McKeel, GCSAA director of government relations, said in a news release.

President's Message

Greetings!

Another month passes and aeration season is in full swing for most courses. As usual, the timing of aeration for me this year coincided with the hottest week of the year! I know that one of these years I'll get a break. Anyway we are on the good side and recovering well so I'm looking forward to a good (and easy!) fall. Depending on your schedule, I hope aeration has gone, or will go, as planned for you.

Typically during the summer the Association is quiet as everyone is busy keeping their turf alive. As promised last month we have been working on something different for September. Hopefully you have seen the sign-up for the PSU - Buffalo game on the 12th. Right now we have about twelve signed up, so we are on our way to filling the bus. We picked an early game as tickets were cheaper to make it more cost effective and coupled with our sponsors help make it a very inexpensive trip. The early date also made sure there was some time between the trip and the golf meeting at Iron Valley at the end of the month. It looks like a fun trip so I'm hoping for a good turn out.

As for important stuff. In case you were not aware the Clean Water Rule (WOTUS) was set to take effect on August 28th. A federal judge has blocked it and while it does not mean it has officially gone away, at the very least it means that it can be looked at again or best case, get thrown out completely.

<http://www.gcsaa.org/newsroom/news-releases/2015/august/federal-judge-blocks-new-clean-water-rule>

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone soon either on the bus to Happy Valley or golfing at Iron Valley!

Alan

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Membership News

We would like to welcome the following new member to CPGCSA.

*Timothy RiismendelClass AF
Account Manager, Atlantic Irrigation*

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Wanda at 717-279-0368.

Membership information is also available on the Central Penn website at:
www.cpgcsa.org

Congratulations to Chase Rogan
on the birth of his son,
Fitzgerald (Fitz) McNeal Rogan



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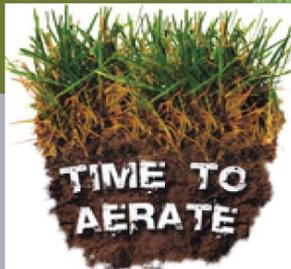
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\$50.00/person

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and more!

This event is sponsored by



(For your convenience -- We are looking to depart from a Hotel parking lot in Harrisburg for those who want to stay after the game and drive home on Sunday. We will have this info shortly.)

.....

Penn State Football - Reservation Form

Name: _____ Course/Company: _____

_____ # of Tickets

Deadline for Reservations: **September 5, 2015**
Mail To: **Wanda S. Fry, 1314 Porter Avenue, Scranton, PA 18504**
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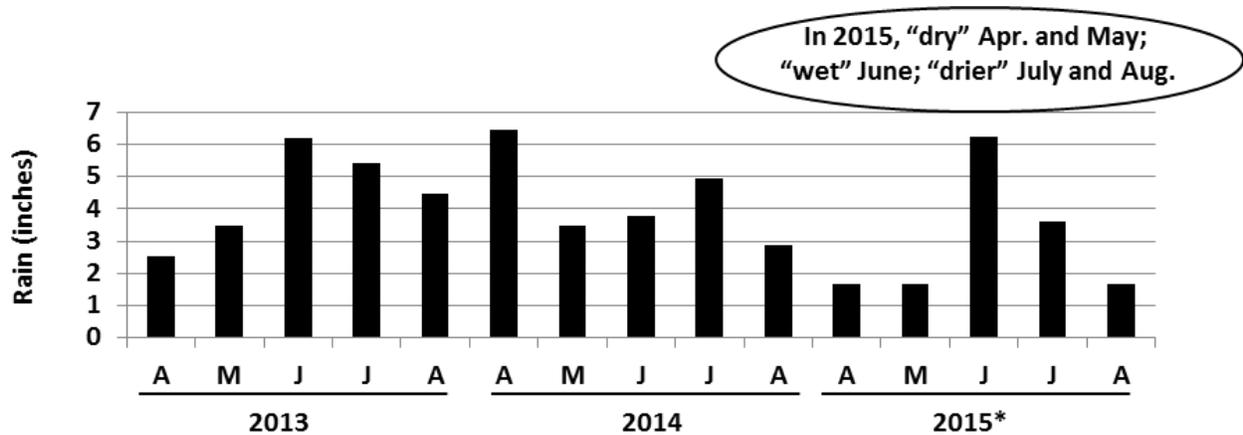
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Weather and Fairy Ring in 2015

On golf courses in Central Pennsylvania, fairy ring symptoms started showing-up in mid-August in 2015. Typically, fairy ring has been observed in late June, but usually by July it's a raging outbreak of dark green rings (type II symptoms) and necrotic, wilted, and often dead circles of turf (type I). April and May was considered to be "dry" with low rainfall amounts measured in the Central Pennsylvania region. June was a "wetter-than-normal" month, with July and August with lower rainfall amounts compared to recent years. Basically, this 'dry-wet-dry' weather pattern seemed to favor the development of the fairy ring fungus, and trigger its destructive ways as observed on golf courses in mid-August.



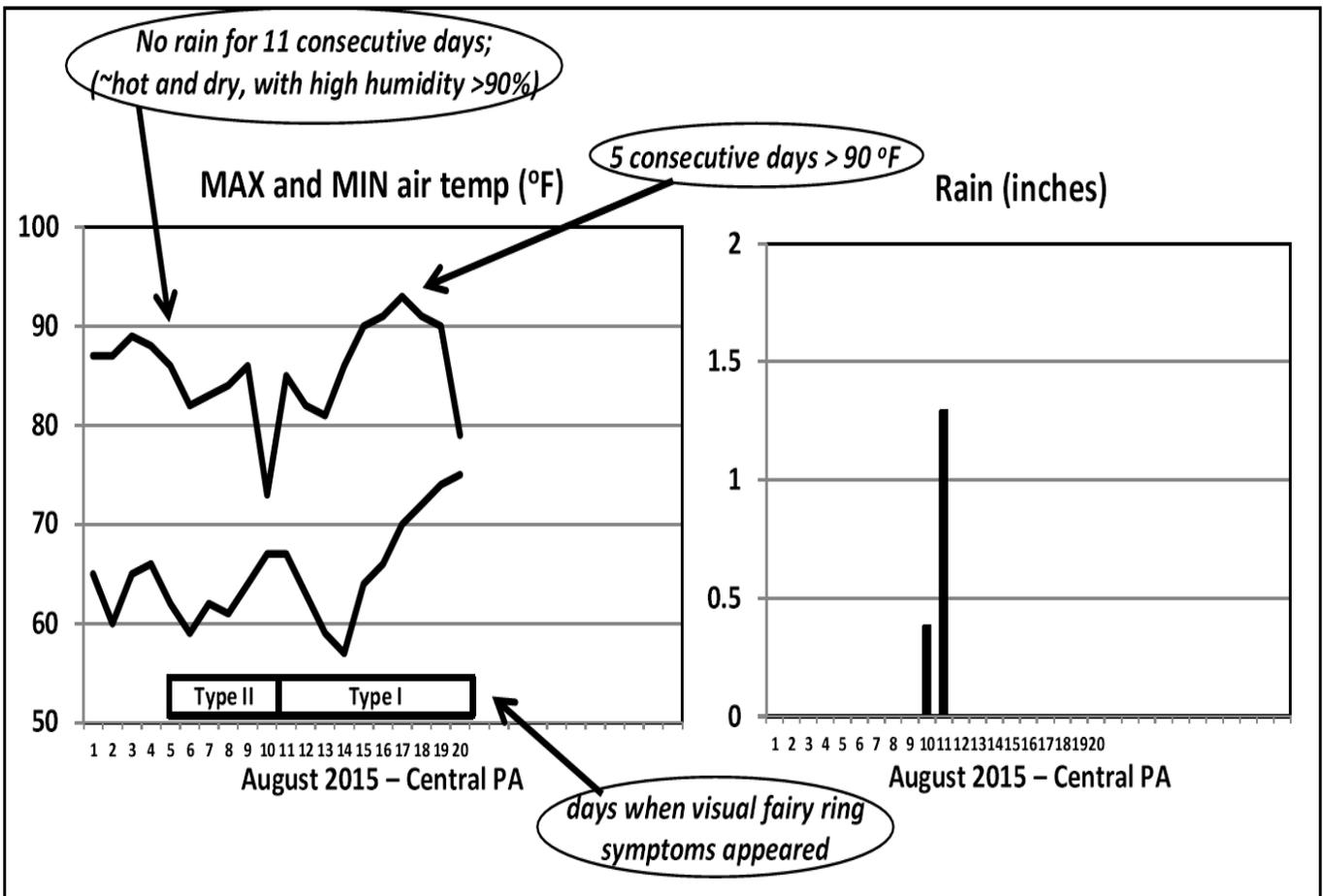
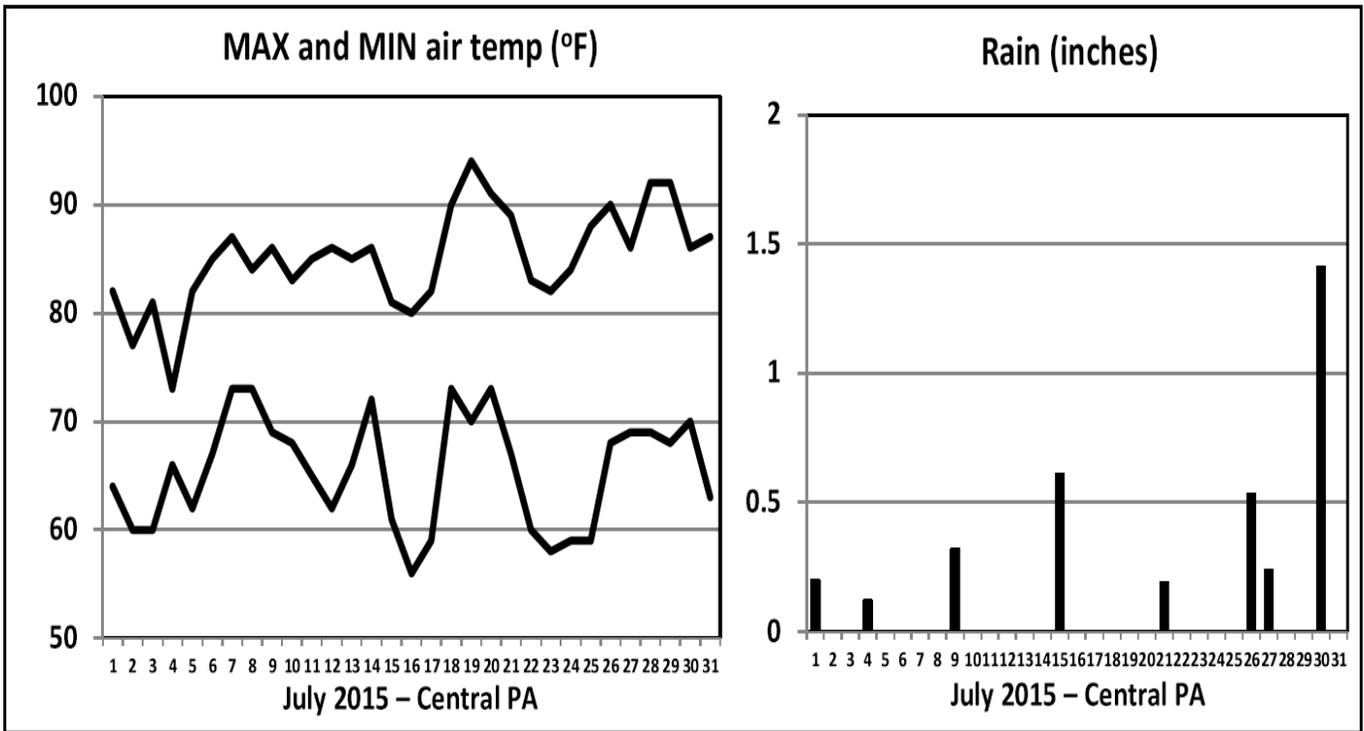
*Total rain per month in Central PA (April, May, June, July, August (Aug. 2015 only up to Aug. 20th)).

Many fungicide products are labeled for fairy ring control, so be sure to read the labels carefully for application rates, timings, and any instructions on curative control. A good curative approach is to first "poke holes" in the affected fairy ring area, and even go several feet beyond the site. It is important to get air through the thatch and into the rootzone, and a soil surfactant helps overcome hydrophobic conditions that develop in the soil and thatch. A fungicide can provide a "knock-out" blow to the fungus, but cultural practices are needed to get turf on the road to recovery. "Aerification season" is upon us, so hang in there until then and get that cool-season turfgrass growing and healthy again.

**Mike Fidanza, Ph.D., is a Professor of Plant and Soil Sciences at Penn State Berks Campus, Reading, PA.
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Severe type I fairy ring showed-up on this driving range on August 11th (golf course from an undisclosed location in Central Pennsylvania).



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2015 CPGCSA Meeting Schedule

September 29
Golf Championship
Iron Valley Golf Course

October
Oktoberfest Open
Galen Hall Golf Course



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