



Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
1421 Research Park Drive • Lawrence, KS 66049-3858 • 800.472.7878

Golf Course Notification

The Mid-Atlantic region is experiencing a challenging stretch of weather associated with an over-abundance of rainfall, which will likely lead to turf damage and/or loss on a variety of playing surfaces. Many areas had a very wet spring as well, which did not allow proper root development and inhibited the efficacy of pre-emergent products for control of crabgrass and similar weeds. Since spring, the weather has been all or nothing, extremely dry or extremely wet.

Over the last 10 days or so, rainfall has been so great that superintendents have not been able to mow grass, leading to the difficult question of whether to mow and risk mechanical damage, or hope for dryer weather in the coming days. Regardless of what each course manager decides, there is still a good chance that either option will result in some turf injury or loss, as the current circumstances dictate such an outcome. When rain persists as heavily as it has during this stretch, it eliminates possibilities for mowing the golf course without rutting, scalping or damaging plants and equipment.

Likewise, with saturated soils and typical July heat, grass plants become more susceptible to stresses that can kill turfgrass stands and degrade playability. Turfgrass roots are bound to shrink, restricting the plants' ability to fight off stresses and survive. Furthermore, the saturated soils do not allow proper air-exchange in the soil, creating an anaerobic environment. Even where all necessary and feasible adjustments are made to protect the playing surfaces, losing turf during a year like this is likely inevitable.

While Superintendents always want to provide playing conditions that are the best for our golfing community, please exhibit patience with course conditioning over the next several weeks. Even if the weather cooperates, it will take time to put courses back together from managing clippings, re-constructing bunkers, and lowering mowing heights to desired specifications. As we approach August and the heat that comes with it, this challenge becomes even more difficult.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chase Rogan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chase Rogan, M.S.

Field Staff, Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative

GCSAA