

**WELCOME to the NEW Pacific Northwest...
or at least that's what it seems like.**

Rain, Rain, and (that's right), more RAIN!

Turf Managers throughout the East Coast of the US have been in a weather pattern not seen in a few years. Abundant amounts of rainfall. Thankfully, the really hot temperatures have not followed the rain, and other than scheduling issues the weather has not caused a lot of trouble for the most part. A few points to remember about your agronomic program during these rainy times. The term "LUXURY CONSUMPTION" can refer to many things but were going to focus on the two main issues for this article. Nutrition and Water Management.

What's going on right now with the turfgrass plant is that it doesn't have to work real hard for anything. Everything it needs is right at the top of the soil profile. The plant came out of winter with a big root system filled with carbohydrates and then never had to use it. Most turf has decided that it is actually easier to abandon those long root systems for easy living up near the surface (since that's where the water is most abundant). The turf blades are full of water, and the roots are only about 2 inches deep. The grass plant has gotten fat and happy, that is "LUXURY CONSUMPTION". When the hot dry weather comes...and it will, WATCH out! There are going to be some serious flare ups and dead turf because the plant was not ready for it.

Nutrition..... While our stress level on turf may not be from a drought, the nutrition requirements for your turf needs to be evaluated more so during a rainy season than normal. High levels of rain, whether in a steady form or severe thunderstorm, will cause your nutrient levels to decrease through flushing. Calcium, Potassium, and Magnesium are the ones that are most concerning during times of heavy rainfall. One

tip, if you have staff and ability is to cut your monthly applications into bi-monthly. Apply your soil products every other week instead of once a month. Particularly when using potash. When applying foliar products.....instead of bi-weekly try to adjust your rates and go weekly. This process will at least allow you to have a better chance to keep your levels consistent in our current weather patterns.

Water Management..... The other point of interest during a long rainy period is with wetting agents. A lot of Turf Managers don't think about wetting agents when they are going through long periods of rainfall. After all wetting agents are for when you have hydrophobic conditions right? Yes... certain forms of wetting agent chemistry help in hydrophobic situations. BUT..... with a lot of rain, plus the time of year we are in, you need to be applying a penetrant type of chemistry for Bentgrass, Bluegrass, Ryegrass, or Fescue. This chemistry is specifically designed to move water through your soil profile. It helps keep the soil surface drier and pushes the water downward; this makes the turfgrass plants search out the water that is now deeper in the soil profile. Deeper roots equal healthier plants that can withstand stress pressure better. Penetrants in general are short lived products in the soil, usually 15-30 days (rate dependent) max longevity. Our Aqua-Aid is designed for only 15 day control at low rates. This weather pattern is exactly why we tell Turf Managers to not get locked into one form of chemistry for season long control. Our weather patterns change in a blink of an eye. There is no more normal season. Make sure you have the ability to control your soil moisture and be able to change your agronomic programs as weather patterns change.



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