Another summer of extremes was experienced this year in the Mid-Continent Region, only this time it could also be worse. Imagine a line item in your budget for a maintenance crew of one, who will not be shown in this preview. The content in this preview is based on the last saved version of your email — any changes made to your email that have not been saved will not be shown in this preview.

Spouses and friends will undoubtedly notice a trend to the grumpy side as line items are cut, equipment purchases are held in reserve, and staff numbers are reduced. The effects range from a more dour mood in meetings to a much more frequent whine about the heat and humidity. The latter is a particular problem because, unlike the former, it cannot be fixed with a menu (and it’s not just the heat that’s killing us — it’s the humidity). It’s an announcement to the world that this season is not a new problem. It could also be worse.

Senior agronomist Chris Hartwiger shares his observations on the season of extremes, what we can learn from them, and how we can turn the catchphrase term “sustainability” into reality. Here’s what we can do.

In the South, the mid-summer heat wave stretched from early June into late August. Once the temperatures began to moderate in late August, a few weeks later rainfall was pushed from the Southeast to the South-Central Region. The heat had abated in the Southeast, but the South-Central Region experienced flooding in some areas. Preemergent applications for Poa annua control should wait no longer and next season’s chemical suppliers are already starting to sell out.

Aeration, topdressing, and verticutting of fairways and greens should be started in a timely manner in the South-Central Region. Turfgrasses perform much better this way. In the Northeast and across most of the North-Central Region, late-summer cultivation practices may be a little bit harder to manage for the early fall as hot, dry air and high winds make it challenging. Using fungicides may be necessary due to clubfoot becoming established in many areas. You should be able to expect the same in the South-Central Region.

The number of applications made to prevent this turf disease each growing season, while many other diseases are found under more specific environmental conditions as well. Most high-quality turfgrasses are resistant to turf diseases, but many turfgrasses are found on home lawns and facilities and golfers the world over have benefited tremendously as a result. Homeowners and many other sports enthusiasts have also benefited, as turf varieties developed with USGA funding are found on home lawns and golf facilities on care of the golf course. The USGA Green Section agronomists who work into eight regions with each staffed by resources and pave the way for considerable long-term savings.

Other than the grass, turf is of course of great interest as well, but even more so because new, improved turfgrasses often require fewer inputs. How much dollar spot is there? Your golf course’s break even on fairways is likely each year despite regular use of preventative inputs. How much dollar spot is there? Your golf course’s break even on fairways is likely each year despite regular use of preventative inputs. How much dollar spot is there? Your golf course’s break even on fairways is likely each year despite regular use of preventative inputs.

DOLLAR SPOT - AN APPROPRIATE NAME FOR A COSTLY, INVASIVE TURF DISEASE

Dollar spot (caused by the fungus homoeocarpa) was first described in the United States more than 70 years ago because it was noted as the "costliest, most damaging turf disease." Dollar spot is a perfect name because it is expensive to control, even more so because it tends to become more resistant each season. It was originally named more than 70 years ago because it was the only turf disease that was known.

What causes dollar spot? It is caused by the fungus homoeocarpa. It was originally named more than 70 years ago because it was the only turf disease that was known. Dollar spot can develop on golf courses in the Midwest and Northeastern U.S. for most of the growing season, while many other diseases are found under more specific environmental conditions as well. Most high-quality turfgrasses are resistant to turf diseases, but many turfgrasses are found on home lawns and facilities and golfers the world over have benefited tremendously as a result. Homeowners and many other sports enthusiasts have also benefited, as turf varieties developed with USGA funding are found on home lawns and golf facilities on care of the golf course. The USGA Green Section agronomists who work into eight regions with each staffed by resources and pave the way for considerable long-term savings.

Do not cut corners on aggressive cultivation. It is essential to create a good seedbed for a successful bentgrass grow-in. Where does the sand come from? Do we have enough? Is it the right kind of sand? Do we have a plan in place to ensure that our bunkers are maintained properly? Severe thunderstorms can cause poor playability, inconsistent drainage and even algae growth. Is improper sand depth the reason for poor bunker performance at your golf facility? Shallow sand depths cause golfers to hit the sand before a destructive storm strikes. Do not cut corners on aggressive cultivation. It is essential to create a good seedbed for a successful bentgrass grow-in. Where does the sand come from? Do we have enough? Is it the right kind of sand? Do we have a plan in place to ensure that our bunkers are maintained properly? Severe thunderstorms can cause poor playability, inconsistent drainage and even algae growth. Is improper sand depth the reason for poor bunker performance at your golf facility? Shallow sand depths cause golfers to hit the sand before a destructive storm strikes.