

November Regional Report- Atlantic

The season is winding down here in Atlantic Canada and for most they are finally breathing a sigh of relief. Play has been up at most, if not all courses and we have been in drought conditions for months. Numerous forest fires were burning across the province but concentrated in the Annapolis Valley. These are not conditions we are used to. Everyone was struggling to get enough water on the turf. We have finally gotten some rain and some relief.

For us we were struggling with available water, so we had to put off any projects that involved sodding because we had our hands full keeping our established turf green. This summer has certainly exposed any weak areas in our irrigation systems and reservoirs, making winter the perfect time to think about those and try to plan for what might seem to be our new normal here in Atlantic Canada. If nothing else, it will be extremes of one sort or another. It is hard to believe that two years ago we had to let water out of our pond twice in the summer because it was too full.

We had another successful Atlantic Golf Superintendents Scramble this summer at Brightwood Golf and Country Club. Sue Crawford was a great host, and we had another sold out field.

It feels like the weather turned quick and we went from a prolonged summer to late fall conditions quickly. I personally feel like we went from thinking we have lots of time to get some projects done to having every day on the calendar spoken for. With blow off's scheduled, aeration dates planned and looking at winter protection spray dates the season is coming to a close. With the challenges of the past season, it is very apparent that we never stop learning and trying to get better at our jobs. Sometimes adversity can be the catalyst.

Matt Blackburn

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Atlantic Director