

Course Report – May 2025

Current Conditions

The persistently dry start to the season continues, with no forecasted rainfall expected for at least another week. Many members have been asking if we're hoping for rain—absolutely. Rainfall would not only replenish moisture levels but also support plant health and aid recovery in many of the dry and stressed areas around the course. That said, given our climate here in Scotland, we must be careful what we wish for.

Last month, I shared some data illustrating growth potential through April. I've updated these charts for May to continue highlighting the challenges we're facing—notably, low overnight and soil temperatures. While there has been some growth, the combination of dry conditions and cooler temperatures means certain grasses are still struggling to establish, which continues to impact smoothness on the greens.

Although our nightly irrigation schedule is maintaining moisture levels within target parameters, we remain at the mercy of Mother Nature until conditions stabilize more consistently.

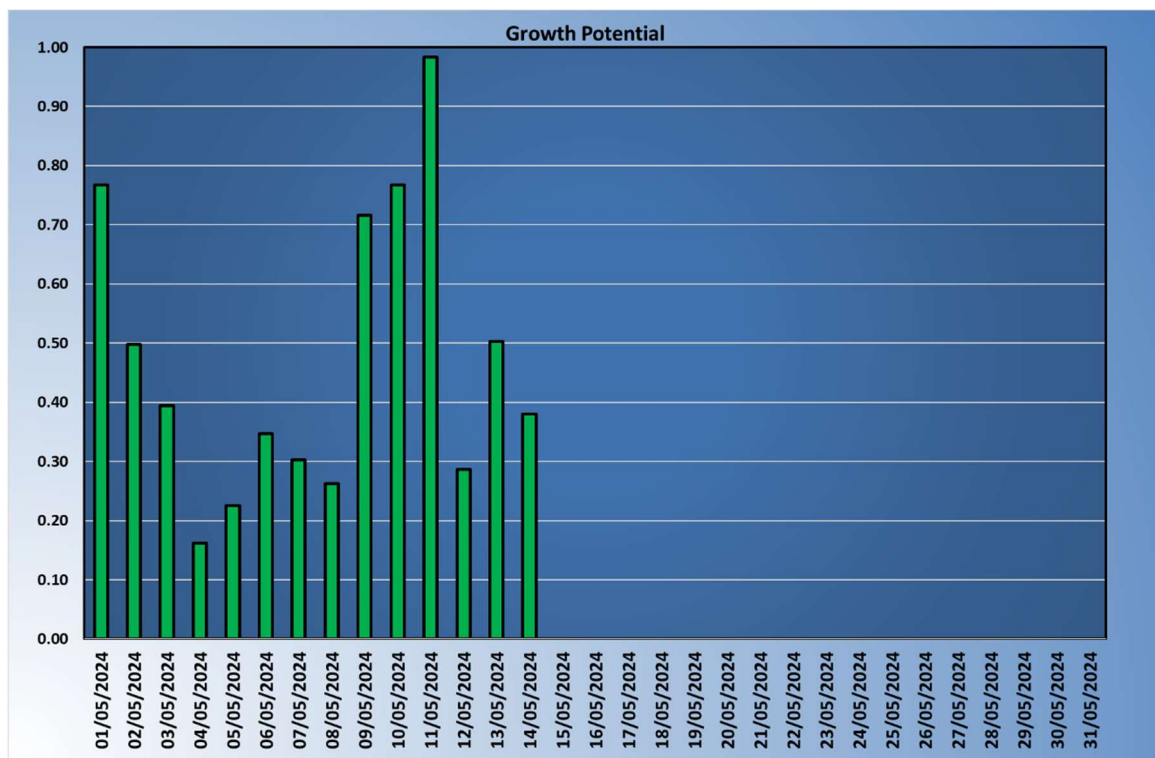


Figure 1: Growth Potential - A reading above 0.40 is considered indicative of good growth.

It's important to note that this variability is typical for this time of year. Historical data shows that the growth curve is not a perfect bell shape but rather skewed toward the middle of the year. Peak growth

generally doesn't occur until after June, so while we are seeing intermittent growth, consistency won't be expected until later in the season.

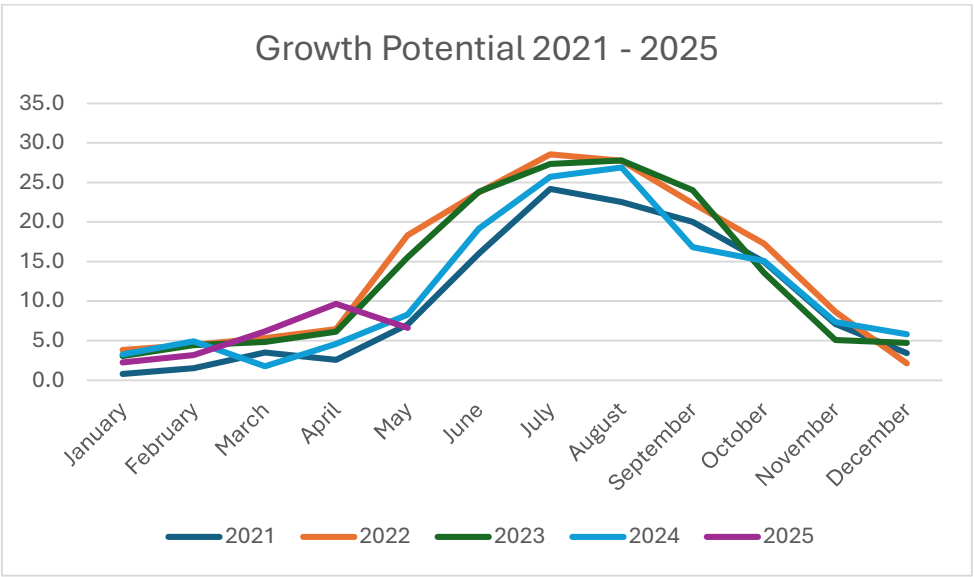


Figure 2: Five-Year Growth Potential Averages

Irrigation Update

We continue to irrigate key playing surfaces each night, prioritising greens. However, our limited water storage capacity necessitates a rotational irrigation schedule across a 2–3 day cycle. This extended dry spell has exposed some of the vulnerabilities in our system. The planned irrigation upgrade scheduled for 2028/29 will help us address these weaknesses by identifying and improving critical coverage areas.

Overall, the greens are performing within our targeted Volumetric Water Content (VWC) range of 12–20% at the surface, with hand watering being deployed as necessary. The rootzone below the greens is showing the effects of the dry weather and with that, our primary focus for irrigation will now be Greens, Tees and Approaches only.

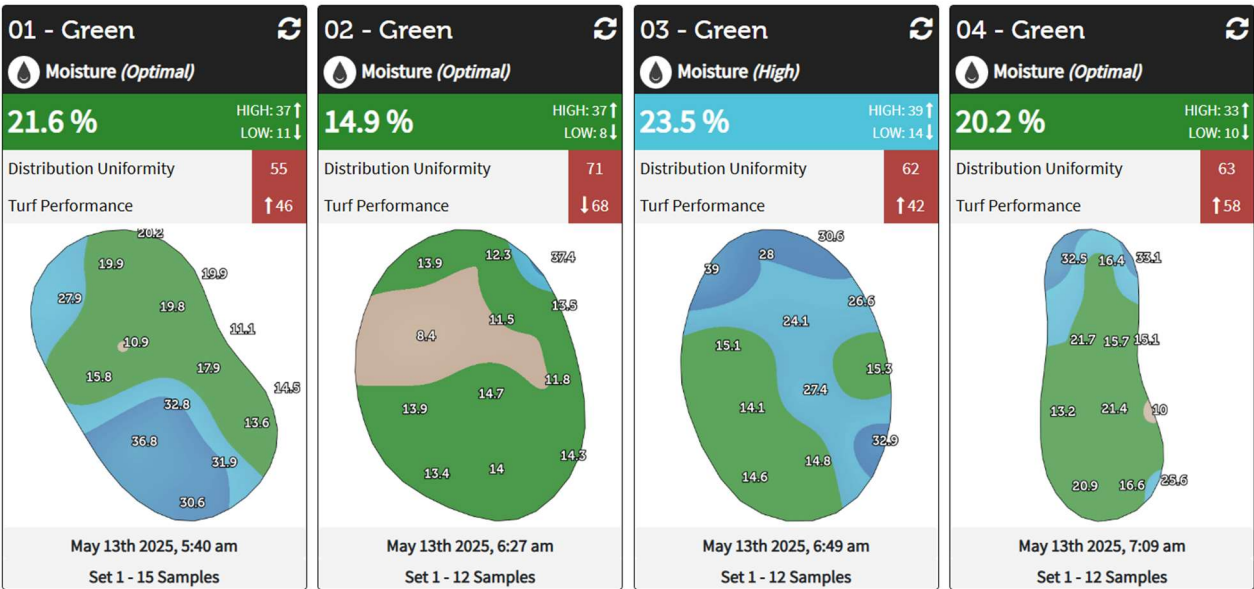


Figure 3: Moisture Data – May 13th

Shed Extension Project

Progress on the Shed Extension has been delayed due to a supply issue involving a critical material, which delayed works in the extension. Work was able to continue for the extended welfare facilities. Fortunately, the material has now been delivered and installed allowing the bricklayers to finish all the brickwork. Electrical installation is underway, the internal wall is nearing completion, and 90% of the old internal structure has been removed.

Over the next few weeks, joiners will install a roof over the grinding room and parts office, construct a new partition between the extension and the existing building, and begin framing the extended welfare facilities. While we originally anticipated moving into the new welfare area by the end of May, this is now likely to be pushed back to mid-June at the earliest.



Figure 4: Electrical cables being installed



Figure 5: The old internal wall knocked down into the extended welfare facilities

WhatsApp Channel – Member Communications

Our new WhatsApp Channel for course updates went live last week and has already attracted over 200 followers—thank you to everyone who has subscribed. The channel will be updated a couple of times per week to inform members about ongoing maintenance practices and the rationale behind them.

To follow the channel, click here: [Join WhatsApp Channel](#)

Rainfall Chart

As of the 14th of May 2025 – no rain recorded since the 17th of April!

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	80.0	20	26.2	48.1	39.6
February	51.0	66	33	47.2	16.2
March	24.0	19	78.4	73.6	8.4
April	3.0	41	34	98.4	6.8
May	69.0	48	24.39	98.8	0
June	38.0	24	43.6	34	
July	39.5	36	48	46.8	
August	44.5	21	37.4	71.6	
September	39.5	67	50.4	36.6	
October	155.0	56	152.6	72.6	
November	23.0	94	89.54	26.6	
December	109.0	23	108.4	49.8	
Total	675.5	515	725.93	692.2	71

As an additional bonus, I've attached a moisture surplus/deficit chart for both 2024/2025 – what a difference a year makes! ET (Evapotranspiration) is the amount of soil moisture lost to the atmosphere.

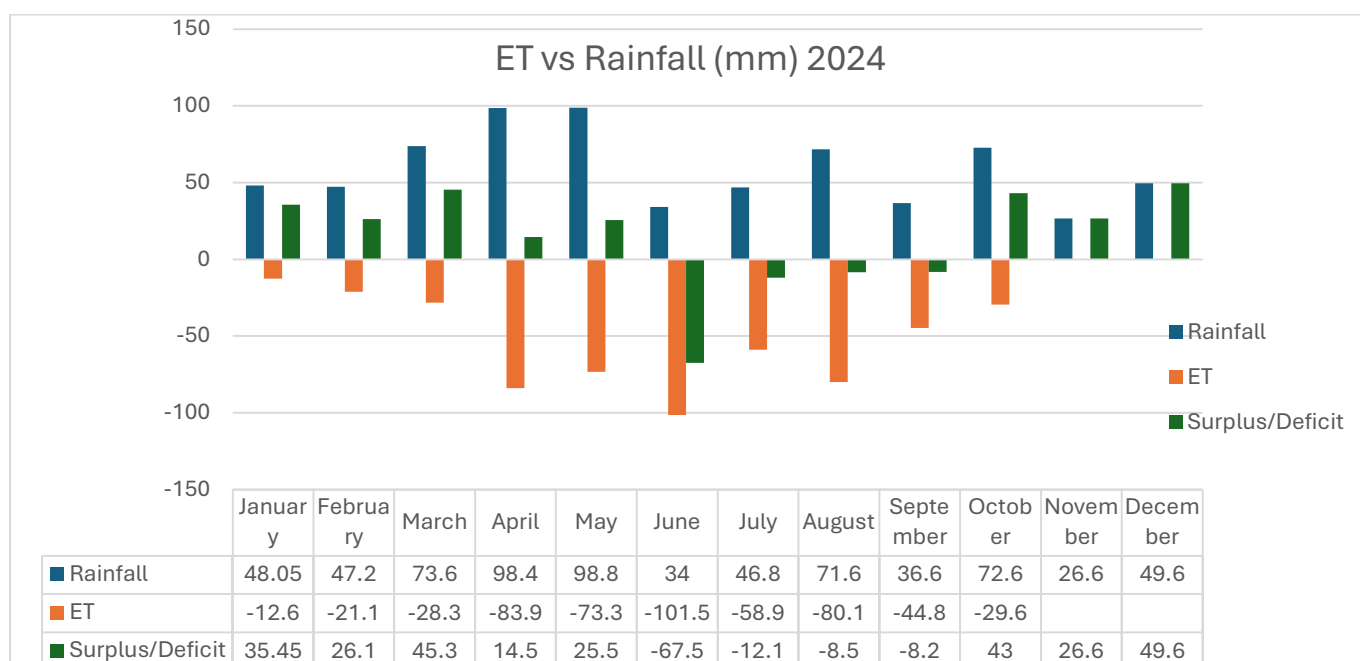


Figure 6: A moisture deficit did not occur until June last year

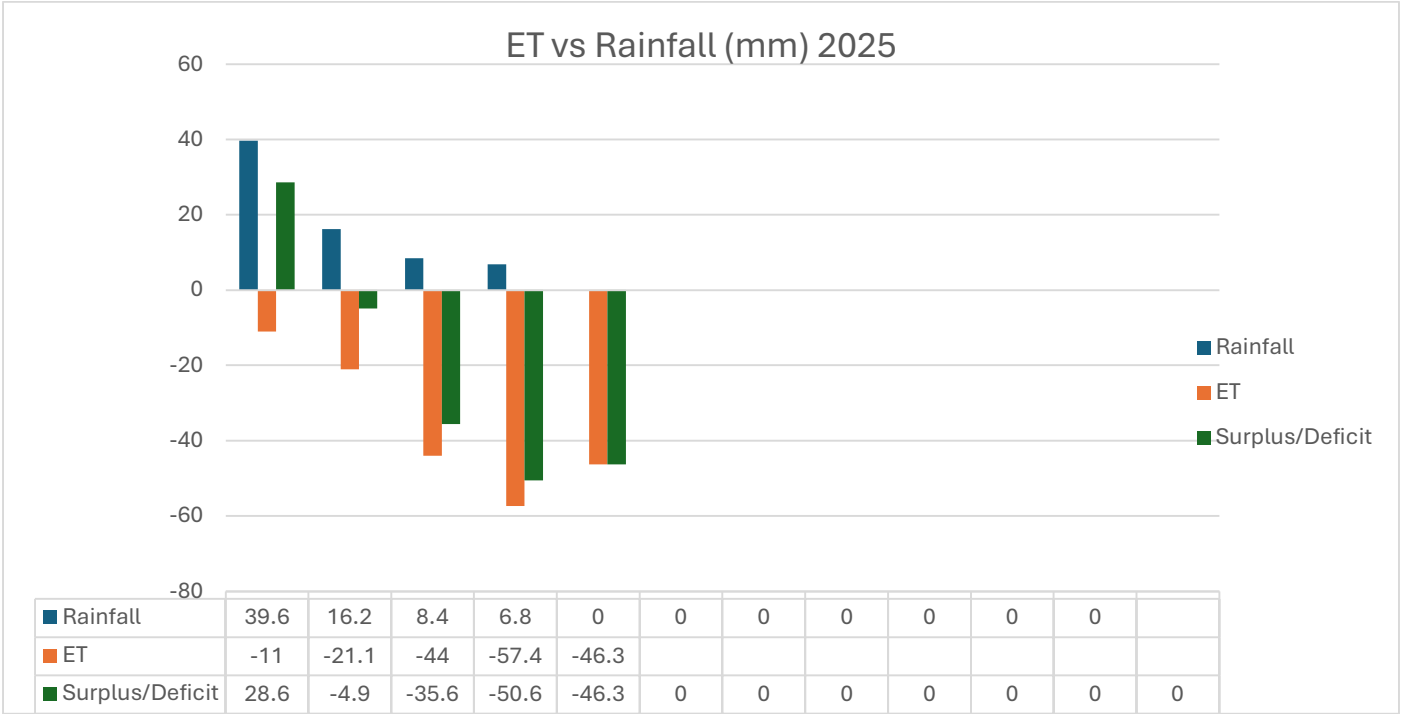


Figure 7: January was the only month where we there was a surplus of moisture in 2025 so far.

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