

THE HISTORY OF HECTOR TURF



One of the early Toro fairway mowers

*Submitted by Mike Mantey,
Hector Turf*

Editor's Note: During my research for this anniversary issue, I realized that one company (the Toro Company) had been in every single issue since the magazine began and it began with Hector Turf leading the way for the Toro Company and then its other affiliate companies when the magazine went statewide in the 1980s.

As you will see, even before the first magazine went to print, Hector Turf has been serving the turf industry in Southeast Florida. Thanks to Joe Limberg and Mike Mantey for arranging and submitting this story. In future issues we will be recognizing other suppliers who have been loyal supporters of our publication over the years.

In the Beginning

In 1912, Hector Turf was established as a farm implement and supply company in Fort Lauderdale. Over the years,



Hector headquarters office in Deerfield Beach.

the company expanded to multiple locations in South Florida and began manufacturing its own line of fertilizers, distributing them and other allied products to the agricultural market,

local wholesale suppliers and area golf courses.

In 1932, the Toro Company established Hector Turf as one of its privately owned Master Distributors of Commercial turf equipment. Our product line continued to expand over the years as we added irrigation and consumer products to our Toro line and we later added other manufacturers' products such as Club Car, Foley, and Salsco. In 1969 Hector sold its farm supply business to the W.R. Grace Corporation.

Service Area

In May 1982, current owner and sole proprietor, James Mantey purchased Hector Turf from the Hector family. In 1987, he moved our entire operation to Deerfield Beach, placing us nearer to the geographic center of our domestic



Hector Fertilizer Plant. The company sold its farm supply and fertilizer business interests in 1969.



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service territory (Vero Beach to Key West). From this facility we also export our products and provide support services in the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and the rest of the Caribbean islands. Our customer base includes golf course properties, resorts, sport fields, municipalities and a network of independent dealers throughout our extended service territories.



Hector Turf's current sales team. Back Row from left: Jason Dupree, Tom DeYoung, Doug Francis and Wayne Decker. Front Row from left: Chris Fordney, Mike Leising, Mike McDaniel and Marty Pauls.

Exclusive Distributor

Today we are the exclusive distributor for The Toro Company and Club Car (turf vehicle line) in southeast Florida, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico and rest of the Caribbean. Hector Turf is a factory-authorized service center for all of the products we sell. We have a team of factory-trained service technicians who provide repair services at our facility and who travel throughout our territories providing on-location services. We host a variety of service schools and design seminars throughout the year for our golf courses, contractors, architects and dealers.

Focusing on our principal business as a wholesale distributor of top quality outdoor power equipment and irrigation products, we are continually in search of ways to help the turf industry grow while protecting the natural environment of South Florida and our community. We are committed to providing the highest level of quality service and support to our customers and the communities we service with an emphasis on long-term relationships and value-added services.

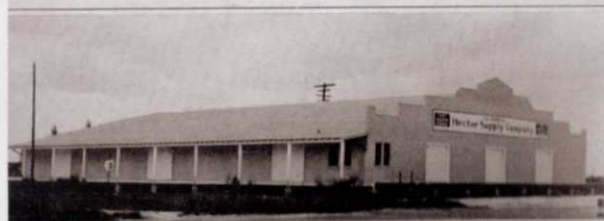
Early Hector Turf locations in Southeast Florida.



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