Fall quarter is again up and running at the University of Minnesota. Fall is especially busy as a new crop of freshmen have arrived and the upper class students are scrambling to get all their required classes and credits in on schedule for graduation.

These days an undergraduate class is a very diverse group. About 40 percent are women, about 40 percent are 'older' (+26), about 15 percent already have a bachelor's degree in hand, and about 10 percent are fully employed in their chosen field and have returned for more information.

The area of Horticulture that I teach in, Environmental Horticulture, is also very diverse — that's good. Today's curriculum must serve the industry of the future. That means a broad scientific base, lots of business and lots of communication. The commodity (technical) courses that provide industry specifics are as important as ever, but, a very important piece of that is how and where to find the information they need. As the information 'bank' continues to grow, the process involved in finding it becomes even more important.

The Department of Horticultural Science has prepared a brochure that outlines the options available to prospective students. If you or someone you know is considering a course or career in turf or grounds, nursery landscape design and implementation or floriculture, call the department, 612-624-5300 and ask for the brochure DISCOVER HORTICULTURE or pick up a copy at the University booth at the December conference.

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Cynthia Ash, Extension Plant Pathologist, University of Minnesota, in cooperation with plant pathologists at North Dakota State University and South Dakota State University has published a Color Diagnostic Guide to Diseases of Trees and Shrubs. This is a fast, symptom-specific reference to 90 of the most common regional problems. Call your local extension educator to get a copy.

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Pesticide Applicator Training dates for Turf and Ornamentals have been set for 1995. These dates re-certify you for 1996. (Remember the re-certification you receive at this year's MTGF/MGCSA December Conference is for 1995). Help us pass the word to all turf professionals that they will now be able to receive their re-certification at next years MTGF/MGCSA Greater Minnesota Turf and Grounds Conference and Show.

The 1995 re-certification dates are:

Commercial and Non-commercial applicators: Jan. 11, 12, 13, 1995, MNLA Convention and Trade Show, Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, Minn.

Commercial applicators: Feb. 6 or 7, 1995, Earle Brown Center, St. Paul Campus.


The MTGF/MGCSA planning committee for the GREATER MINNESOTA TURF AND GROUNDS CONFERENCE AND SHOW in conjunction with the 67TH MINNESOTA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' ANNUAL MEETING has been working very hard to put together a fantastic December conference and show.

The committee has operated with three major goals in mind. First, to bring you a state conference as good as you could find anywhere in the country. Secondly, to develop a program that fits the educational needs of all professionals in the turf and grounds industry. Thirdly, to do all this at a cost that nearly everyone can afford. I believe they have met their goals.

Now, we need your help. For a conference and show of this caliber to be successful, we need to reach a wide range of turf and grounds businesses and departments. This is especially important, and especially difficult, as this is the first year of a multi-association conference. Many of the allied associations in the MTGF have not had the opportunity to attend a major conference and show. We are asking you to contact the turf and grounds businesses and departments in your area. Share information about this year's conference and show and let them know how beneficial past conferences have been to you. You might even suggest ways for them to justify their attendance. Help the MTGF/MGCSA planning committee make this as successful an event for all turf professionals as it has been for the MGCSA in the past.

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This month’s feature article is contributed by Robert Mugaas, Hennepin County Extension Educator for the Minnesota Extension Service. Bob is also a very active member on the University Advisory Committee to the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation.

Water Conservation and Turfgrass

By Robert Mugaas

Extension Educator - Horticulture

Minnesota Extension Service - Hennepin County

It is unfortunate when one element of our landscape (turf) gets pitted against another element (trees and shrubs) on the basis of its appropriateness in the landscape. This is often what happens when it comes to environmental issues (Continued on Page 25)