

## PERFECTION (continued from page 12)

manager have a procedure in place with the appropriate checks and verifications to reduce the risk of such an oversight? Or was it, as we often hear, "bad material" from the manufacturer that caused the burn. In either case, the real problem will not have been addressed, and it is likely to happen again. Driving toward perfection with this baggage in your trunk will run you out of gas every time. It is much healthier for you and your operation to realize and admit your responsibility in making and correcting any mistakes.

Perhaps the pursuit of perfection is one of man's most noble endeavors. For many, however, it can become an obsessive albatross interfering with happiness and preventing fulfillment. Ask yourself where you fit in this quest. Do you have a life plan with achievable goals? Are you managing and conserving your personal and professional resources in the chase? Have you been able to keep your charge within the means to maintain its position or progress without setting the demons loose? Finally, are you willing and able to stand up and answer for your mistakes, and make the experience gained productive? If you can say yes to all of these questions, you are probably as close to perfection as you can ever expect to get.

## Turf is Good For Us

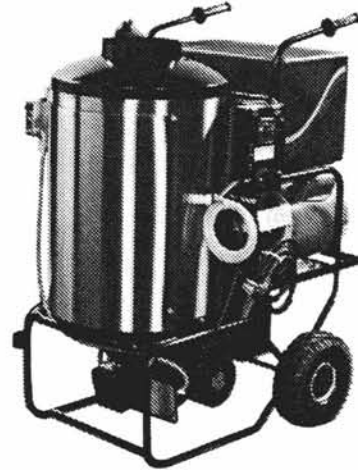
by John Lebedevs, CMAC

In recent years Golf Courses have been criticized for maintaining quality turf. These people say that there should be significantly less turf maintained and it should be maintained at a much lower level. We are being criticized for "damaging the environment". Much of the public concern deals with the use of Turf Chemicals, the impact on water to soil quality, and the amount of irrigation water used in the Golf Industry. However, most authorities agree that the maintenance of Golf Courses has little negative impact on the environment. As someone involved with the Golf Industry we should be aware of the inaccuracy of the public and should be able to articulate the benefits of growing a quality Turf. The following is a short overview addressing a few of the negative ideas some people have.

Some of the environmental benefits of healthy Turf are: increased aesthetic value of the environment, increased economic value of turfed facilities, health benefits, noise abatement, significant cooling contribution in the summer, glare reduction, general reduction in allergy problems, increased absorption of rainfall, absorption of air pollutants, generation of oxygen and utilization of carbon dioxide through photosynthesis, adding organic matter to soil from the roots of grasses, and erosion control.

Today's Golf Course Superintendent is among the best educated and most judicious user of chemical management tools. Today most superintendents have university degrees in agronomy, horticulture, or a related field and virtually all are state-certified in safe handling and use of these chemicals. These are just a few of the positive ideas on how turf benefits the environment. Hopefully we can change the perception about our industry through a better informed public. Keep that Turf growing, it's good for us!

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