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LATE BULLETIN: U.S. Supreme Court Overturns Wisconsin Supreme Court Decision in Town of Casey Suit. See page 9.

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Salaiz Hired to Manage NOER Research Facility

By Monroe S. Miller

Thomas A. Salaiz, a recent M.S. degree graduate in Horticulture from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has been selected as the manager of the O.J. NOER TURFGRASS RESEARCH and EDUCATION FACILITY. He will assume those duties on July 1st.

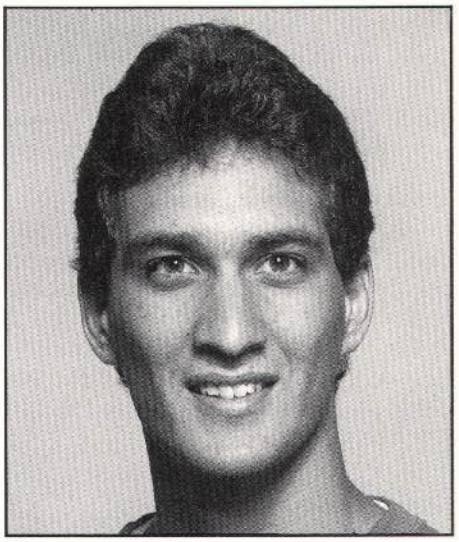
Salaiz is originally from El Paso, Texas. He attended the University of Texas at El Paso for one year before transferring to Texas A & M University in the fall of 1985.

As an undergraduate in the Agronomy Department, he worked for several graduate students, helping them with their research on corn, cotton, soybeans and sorghum. This work gave him a broad base of experience in agricultural research.

He also worked at the Texas A & M turfgrass research center in Bryan/College Station. This employment inspired a real interest in turfgrass research, an interest which continues to grow yet today.

During the summer of 1988, Tommy worked at the Texas A & M Research and Extension Center in El Paso where he learned some of the intricacies of turfgrass irrigation. He received his B.S. degree from A & M in December of 1988.

A visit to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to investigate the campus and see the quality of the turfgrass research facilities made his decision to attend graduate school there an easy one. He was inspired not only by the campus and the facilities but with Dr. R. C. Shearman's leadership abilities.



Thomas A. Salaiz

Bob Shearman has, of course, been a speaker at the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium.

Tom's Master's thesis is a golf green management study in which he is looking at the effects of mowing height and vertical mowing (grooming) frequency on putting green speed. It has been hypothesized that by raising the cutting height to improve the health and vigor of the turfgrass, and by using vertical mowing as a grooming process, adequate putting speeds could be maintained. You will be able to read about Tom's results in upcoming issues of *Golf Course Management, Crop Science* and *HortScience.*

In addition to his thesis work, Salaiz presented a paper at the American Society of Agronomy meetings in 1989. The subject of that paper was a creeping bentgrass cultivar evapotranspiration and rooting in hydroponics experiment completed before he started grad school at Nebraska. The data will be published in the September/October issue of *Crop Science*. Several other creeping bentgrass cultivars, including three experimental lines from the Texas A & M turfgrass breeding program in Dallas, Texas, were studied. You'll note elsewhere in this issue how small the world is. The A & M-Dallas breeding program is headed by UW-Madison graduate, Dr. Milt Engelke. As time permits, Tom will publish these results, as well.

Salaiz has his work cut out for him when he arrives at the NOER facility. First he will establish the research areas and work with the installation of the irrigation system. Once that is completed, the plots will be identified and seeded with the appropriate varieties.

He sees his primary duties as planning the major research areas, getting the turfgrass maintenance equipment acquisition squared away, and assembling an inventory and a budget for the NOER facility.

The committee that interviewed candidates for the position included Wayne Kussow, Marsh Finner (Director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Experiment Station System), Bob Newman, Chuck Koval, Gayle Worf, Dale Schlough (Manager of the Arlington and West Madison Experiment Stations) and Tom Harrison.

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