



An Update

by Tom Salaiz

Before I came on board as manager of the Noer facility, I remember telling Monroe Miller over the telephone, "The opportunity to work in a new facility with quality people and a supportive industry is very exciting." I knew then that the turfgrass industry in Wisconsin was eager to see the turfgrass facility completed and that they would be very supportive of turfgrass research. What I wasn't aware of was the magnitude of this support and the strong commitment to research by the industry. I use the word 'industry' to avoid omitting anyone who has contributed to turfgrass research and to the Noer facility. Everyone involved should be proud of their contributions.

There is one person whom I feel deserved special mention, and that is Tom Harrison, superintendent of Maple Bluff Country Club. Tom helped make my transition from graduate school to manager of a new research facility a smooth one. He frequently visited the site or called to see how things were

going, and urged me to call him at home if there were ever any problems or concerns I was having. Thanks, Tom.

Since the last writing of *The Grass Roots*, interior details such as office furniture, warehouse supplies and turfgrass equipment acquisitions are almost complete. Wayne Kussow purchased office furniture, custodial supplies and a weather station to be installed yet this winter or spring. Bob Newman supplied office furniture and several items for the shop, including metal shelving, air compressor, bench grinder, flammable liquids cabinet, shovels, and rakes. Irrigation supplies for the plots have arrived and are in order. Almost all of the equipment on loan from John Deere Horicon Works has been delivered. Negotiations with other suppliers will continue this winter and early spring.

A short break in the weather November 11 and 12 allowed Milwaukee Lawn Sprinkler Corp. to get a good start on installing the irrigation system around the building. Given another day or two of decent weather in the spring and that project will be complete.

My job this winter is to develop a budget for the next fiscal year, finalize research plot management schedules, plan research projects, and coordinate tree plantings in the spring with other projects going on such as installation of the irrigation system.

I have learned a great deal these first six months and have really enjoyed the diversity my position offers. Ask me how I feel about this position for the future and I will probably say, "The opportunity to work in a new facility with quality people and supportive industry is very exciting."



What a difference a year makes—the top photo was taken in October 1990; the bottom photo was shot in October 1991!