



# Noer Ready for 2000

By Tom Schwab, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Noer Facility will start the New Year with improvements and additions to propel us into the next century in great shape. The university's turf program has been producing some impressive research from the faculty and staff in horticulture, plant pathology, and soils/plant nutrition. Then last year more turf work started to be done in entomology and turfgrass breeding. Starting with the new year another turf position will begin. Dr. Geunhwa Jung was just hired to fill

the vacant turfgrass plant pathology position formerly held by Dr. Julie Meyer and Dr. Gayle Worf. These faculty and staff are going to need a larger research facility and associated support. Noer is going to be ready to meet the challenge.

A new irrigation well and pump will be installed this winter. Our old system barely supplied the volume and pressure to support our existing seven acres of irrigated land. This is not to mention another seven acres of irrigated land that we

will be adding in 2000 or 2001. The old system supplied 70 gallons per minute with 35 PSI at the sprinkler heads. The new system will supply 150 gallons per minute with 60 PSI at the heads. Pressure regulation will be controlled by a variable frequency drive (VFD) system which will keep the water pressure at the sprinkler heads constant to within a degree or two. Dick Reinders from Watertronics offered us a deal on this VFD that we could not refuse.

The irrigation system will be fur-



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ther enhanced with a 'Site Pro' central controller that was donated by Toro Irrigation and supported by Reinders Irrigation. Actually I had no complaints with the old 'Network 8000' central controller except that our computer was making lots of noises like it was on its last legs. Adam Mock and Craig Reinders assured me that if I liked the 'Network 8000', I'll love 'Site Pro'.

The new land that we anticipate acquiring in 2000 or 2001 is not a 100% sure thing yet, but I'd be willing to bet Pat Norton's sense-of-humor that it will happen. I briefly spoke to one of the head people that will be organizing the transfer of this land who told me that it's just short of a done-deal. He will be working on the land transfer after the first of the year. The land will first transfer from the University of Wisconsin Foundation to the Athletic Department before it can get transferred to Agricultural Research Stations. The person that I'm communicating with is an Athletic Department administrator who happens to be a little preoccupied with a certain football game in Pasadena before he starts working on any land transfers. We are anticipating that it will happen though. Dr. Gary Bubenzer, from the University's Biological Systems Engineering department, had his class survey the new land this fall. That information will help us know the amount of land that has to be shaped to preserve as much research space as possible.

The O.J. Noer Facility is poised to do great things with turfgrass research in 2000. We couldn't do it without the support from the turf industry. Almost every major turf industry supplier in Wisconsin has helped us with donations of equipment, fertilizer, seed, chemicals, consulting and other supplies to lend a hand in supporting the facility which helps produce exceptional turf research. We are so

thankful for this support that we hope will continue for many years. With this backing complemented by the new irrigation and land additions, and the many dedicated

researchers and staff that are now in place, the Noer Facility will serve the turf industry well into the next century. ♣

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