



# Who Needs Irrigation Anyway? Thank You Donators

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

The new land at the Noer Facility is nearing completion. Rettler Corporation designed the grading for the land. The Bruce Company shaped the land. Olds Seed Solutions and Spring Valley donated the seed and fertilizer to grow in the land. And now the irrigation system is being installed because of many more generous donations.

The plots will be ready for research by July 2004. Dr. Jung couldn't wait and has two breeding projects already installed on the new land. Dr. Stier is ready to install two product evaluation studies as soon as possible. He also anticipates that most of the new plots will have studies on them in the very near future. This is very exciting for the turf industry in Wisconsin. More studies mean more answers to help us do our job better.

This new irrigation expansion will add 32 irrigated plots to our existing 128 at the Noer Facility. The new

land has room for another 40 plots that will be added in a second phase after most of the first phase is occupied. Time will tell how quickly the first phase gets occupied but some of the researchers think it will be fairly soon.

Installing the plots was quite the chore. I anticipated it would take about four long days to trench in the pipe and assemble all the sprinklers, valves, and wires. Instead it took eight days because of all the rock we had to trench through. None of my staff had ever installed irrigation either. But they learned so fast, worked so hard, and should be commended.

The weather even cooperated. We sometimes wondered why we're installing irrigation when it rains every other day. Madison received over 11 inches in May, breaking the all time record for that month. And it's raining again today as I write this article.

The rain eventually stopped long enough for us to



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do the job. Precipitation usually averages out, so we knew some day the system would get used. Almost every research project requires very specific irrigation parameters. Reinders designed the system to deliver those requirements.


The new irrigation system would not be possible without all the donations received. The UW-Madison Turf Program is very thankful for the generosity from so many in the industry. We'd like to thank the donors noted above. ♣



The staff makes connections while the "Toro Dingo" trenches ahead.



Plant pathology graduate students conduct their work while the irrigation system goes in around them.



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