

(Continued from page 19)

of ornamentals, cultivars have been developed with environmental, insect and disease problems in mind. For example, many disease-resistant crabapples are available, and columnar forms of many trees are available for sites where limited spread is desired. Many publications provide information to help you sort out which specific cultivars will perform best in your geographic region. For example, Epping and Hasselkus (1991) provided an excellent list of rugose roses in the last issue of *The Grass Roots*.

Next, consider long-term plant growth. Choose plants whose mature size will physically fit the site. Choosing plants that will grow too large will mean costly pruning at some point, and stress that may promote insect/disease pressure. Designing overcrowded plantings may cause general stress from competition among plants, and may create a situation that requires frequent disease control.

The last step of designing is to review the maintenance requirements of plants and plantings. If you check a reference and find that a particular plant is susceptible to serious problems, look for another plant. Consider native plants, and preserve natural plantings wherever appropriate. Project maintenance tasks so that you can anticipate problems and solve them before they develop.

Proper Planting and Early Care Promote Good Tree and Shrub Health

Installing the landscape may at first seem like the "little step" between

design and maintenance, but the treatment which a landscape plant receives at planting time and in its first few years can promote either long-term landscape effectiveness, or decline and the need for high maintenance and early replacement. Healthy, vigorous plants that are given a good start are far more able to fend off insects, diseases and environmental stress than plants showing poor growth and vigor.

Always start with healthy plants. Whenever possible, go to a nursery and tag the plants you plan to purchase. If that is not possible, develop a good working relationship with a nursery or a landscape contractor and let them know that your company places a high value on quality.

Once the location is determined and a healthy plant has been selected, it's time to schedule the planting process. The best time for planting bare root materials is spring, as soon as possible after plants are on site. Spring is a good season for planting containerized and balled-and-burlapped plants, too, but some of these materials may also be planted in fall. Spring-planted materials are ready to begin a new season of growth, and they undergo little desiccation because there is usually an abundance of water at that season. However, spring planting offers the challenges of leaf burn in an early spring, and possible setback from the shock of digging and moving. Fall planting has become popular in recent years because the soil is often drier than in spring, allowing it to be worked, and because late fall-planted materials are entering dormancy and will resume ac-

tive root growth in the spring in their permanent location.

Dig a hole three to five times the diameter of the root ball, and the same depth as the root ball. Older recommendations often suggested digging a deep hole, but it is important to rest the root ball on native soil in order to ensure that the plant will not settle deeper over time. Many tree and shrub problems develop later if the plants are not placed at the proper depth, due to root stress from lack of oxygen. There are two exceptions to this rule of planting depth. If the soil on site is heavy clay or compacted soil, set the root ball so that the root collar is one or two inches above ground level, and build the soil up to the root collar. If the soil is very light sand, set the tree or shrub an inch deeper than the standard recommendation, to protect the roots from drying out. For recommendations on planting in tree pits or containers, see Moll et. al. (1991).

If the tree or shrub is in a container, remove it, set the plant in its hole and position it. Check for girdling roots, and separate and spread any such roots (cut them away if necessary). If the plant is balled-and-burlapped, set it in its hole, cut wires and ropes, and pull back the burlap to the bottom of the hole (remove synthetic burlap!). Backfill the hole halfway, tamp lightly but do not compact, then water to settle the soil. Fill the rest of the hole and water. New plantings can be fertilized with a slow-release fertilizer, but if you plan to use a soluble material, wait until the following spring, and apply the fertilizer when the new season's first leaves have fully expanded.

Apply two to four inches of mulch (bark or wood chips) around newly planted trees and shrubs, but keep it six to eight inches away from the plants. How wide should the mulched area be? That is a question of both esthetics and plant health. About 90% of a tree's roots are in the top twelve inches of soil, so if a tree is surrounded by turf, competition with grass roots is inevitable. In fact, a study done at the Morton Arboretum (Watson, 1989) found that up to 90% fewer tree roots grew in the top few inches of soil where trees and grass were grown together, as compared with trees grown without competition from grass. A tree's roots extend two or three times as wide as its branches, and it is not practical on a golf course to provide such a wide mulched area. However, grouping

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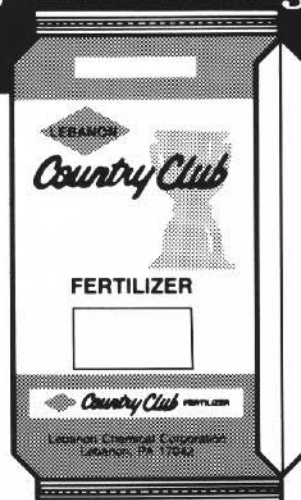
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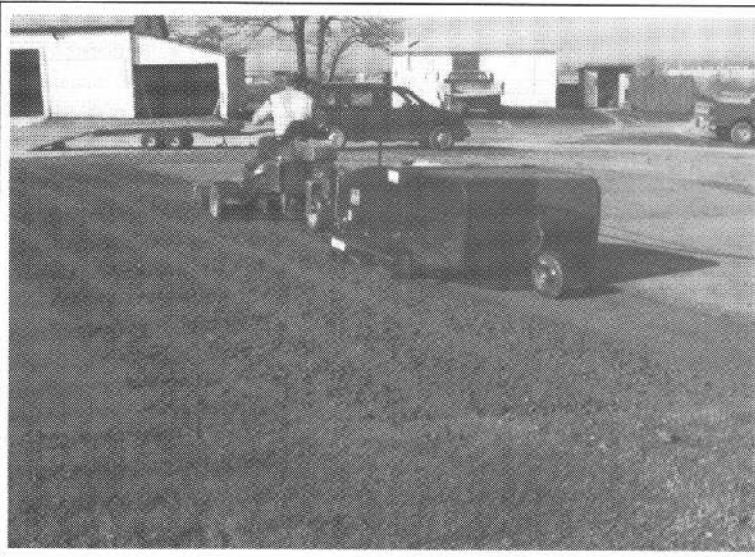


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(Continued from page 21)

ornamentals and mulching as wide a zone as possible around the group will encourage good root activity.

Healthy balled-and-burlapped trees and shrubs that were properly handled during the digging and transportation phase generally require minimal pruning, if any, at planting time. Since early pruning directs the future growth of any plant, it is important to take the time to remove a double leader, suckers and damaged or crossed branches, but further pruning is generally not needed. Containerized plants with intact root systems generally require no pruning at planting time except removal of damaged or crossed branches.

Some trees may require trunk wrapping to protect them from drying out excessively during the establishment period, or from being damaged by bright sun in their first winter. Always remove tree wrap after the first year, to prevent girdling and damage from wetness trapped under the wrap.

Trees rarely need to be staked or guyed. The exceptions are trees planted where vandalism might be a problem, trees planted in very windy locations, and trees with large canopies that might topple. If staking or guying, pad the wire loops placed around the tree, locate the loops as low as possible on the tree, and remove them after one year to prevent damage. Where staking and guying is unnecessary, avoid the temptation! Trees grown without these supports develop stronger boles which withstand wind better in later years.

The most important aspect of early ornamental plant care is irrigation. Water plants thoroughly at planting time, and provide adequate water throughout the establishment period. Irrigation frequency and amount vary by plant, location, weather and soil type, but generally ornamental plants should receive an inch of water per week (one-and-one-half inches in sandy soils), throughout the growing season. The establishment period for woody plants is not just a week or two.

Thorough watering and periodic monitoring for signs of stress should continue through the first three years after planting. Providing this early care will pay off long into the future, because a plant that develops a good root system is able to develop the vigor needed to fend off insect and disease damage in later years.

Summary

Ornamental plants are an important part of any golf course. They serve many functions, and they give form to the landscape. Proper design, planting and early care ensure that these plants have the opportunity to develop into valuable assets.

In spite of the best-laid plans, however, problems do occur. In the second part of this two-part series, I will discuss some approaches to solving landscape plant problems following the principles of IPM.

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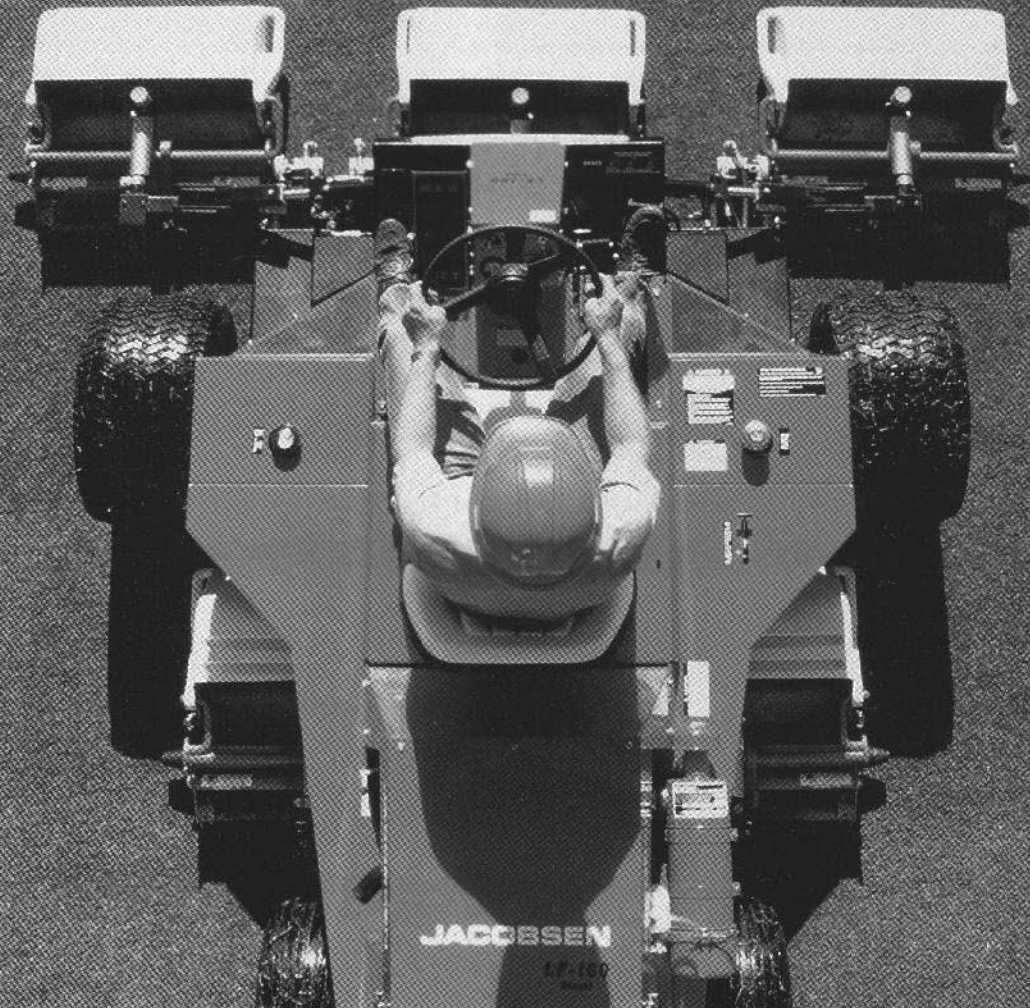
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WHAT FUTURE FOR TURFGRASS DISEASE RESEARCH?

By Dr. Gayle L. Worf
Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist
University of Wisconsin - Madison

If I were a young scientist given a chance to work on turf diseases and their control in Wisconsin over the next quarter of a century, I could get very excited over the opportunity!

There are lots of reasons. One is that the era of descriptive pathology still exists with turf. That is, there remains a number of serious and poorly understood diseases that are waiting to be properly described and their causes identified. That's detective stuff, or the "who done it" syndrome that has some appeal to a plant pathologist. (I can understand why similar excitement is not shared by golf course superintendents!)

Another is the extremely dynamic nature of the turf industry. Management and expectations are changing daily. And since disease development and importance is directly related to what and how we grow, it says that the person will not lack for new questions to answer and new challenges to pursue.

Of critical importance is the integrity and support of the industry. Without adequate funding for technicians, students, field and laboratory facilities, the questions and concerns that are encountered, no matter how important, cannot be pursued. The Wisconsin turf industry is demonstrating real maturity and dedication to its profession. The O.J. Noer Research and Education Facility is the dramatic capstone, but of at least equal importance is the overall professional growth and caliber of people who make up the industry today. In addition to the state support, there should be some help through Foundations and the Graduate School to share the load and the benefits of good research.

The ecological and sustainable agricultural movement we are into will provide some serious constraints. Treatments and chemicals we formerly took for granted will probably never be accorded that simplistic approach again. But problems beget opportunities. The very questions concerning fate of

chemicals and their metabolites, biological fallout, dislodgeable residues and the like, seek answers as well as alternatives to present practices. I don't foresee an end to fungicides as a primary control tool for intensively managed turf in any near time, but the legislative and environmental patterns of Vermont and elsewhere will spread.

The turf crop may be the best of any future example for application of biological control principles! Virtually all new turf pathologists are active in their pursuit of this elusive goal. Nelson and Craft at Cornell recently reported on a strain of the bacterium *Enterobacter* that suppresses dollar spot. Antagonists to suppress *Pythium*, take-all patch, *Typhula* snow mold and *Rhizoctonia* have also been reported. Not that these biologicals are anywhere near adequately effective, nor available. There's also the economic factor of making them available, as well as knowing how to apply them. Certainly we've got a long way to go in effectively understanding the epidemiology (precise weather, management, host physiology and ecological requirements) in which to make these new tools work. And how they can be made to interact with appropriate fungicide treatments so that they are complementary, and not competitive, is another question. But we are well beyond the starting point.

Add to that the perennial characteristic of turf. Long lasting relationships of fungi and other microbes with the roots and crowns of grass plants has become recognized as a normal thing. Disease-wise, we can picture fairy rings and patch diseases as negative examples of that pattern. That is, the pathogens involved develop a continuous and close affinity to the affected plants. But beneficial patterns, including those capable of combating damaging root and crown diseases, should be possible to create, and in fact offer considerably greater promise to control these diseases than I believe we can expect with chemical fungicides.

Sophisticated plant breeding, both by traditional, and certainly by recombinant DNA systems, will become more important, I suspect. I doubt that turf will be one of the plants selected by the basic scientists as an early model for developing genetic engineering methodology, but it will have its turn, once suitable techniques have been created and demonstrated. I've been "from Missouri" on this one for quite a while (they need to show me). But so much is happening, and so much fundamental research is ongoing in this area that I think good progress is bound to happen—by accident if not by design. It's just a matter of time! And disease response—good (disease resistance) and bad (emergence of new pathogens)—will be a significant factor in the gene manipulation scenario.

Related processes are rapidly making their way as well into development of more sophisticated diagnostic tools. Ohio State University recently employed Dr. Sally Miller as their turfgrass pathologist. Her background is with AgriDiagnostics, the firm that has created the field kits for *Pythium*, *Rhizoctonia*, Dollar spot and other diseases on other crops. I haven't talked with her or her colleagues, but I suspect very strongly they will be expecting her to provide strong leadership in developing diagnostic tools that will make field diagnosis of most turf diseases not only possible but commonplace. Recent discoveries are likely to surpass and expand upon these kits in the future.

You may have guessed that I have been fantasizing about the future and the prospects for the person who will assume leadership in turf pathology in Wisconsin.

The department has been searching diligently for that replacement during the last few weeks. There are good young scientists waiting their opportunity! The chosen one will have to pick and choose from among the many challenges that will await her or him. And it will not be easy, for the person

will have to assume responsibilities with trees and ornamentals, as well as turf, and will have both research and extension responsibilities. However, on both the local (CALs) and national basis, there's an increasing cadre of collegial scientists with which to work, both within plant pathology and in re-

lated disciplines. One should not expect to work alone. And together, in a constructive collaborative setting, much more can occur, and with a lot more fun.

But what that person will come to enjoy and appreciate the most over time is the opportunity to work side by side

with that foremost of dedicated, supportive, loyal—and patient—group of individuals who make up the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents and other turf professionals in Wisconsin. If that person is at all perceptive, the chosen one will come to know that's what the work is really about!

Great Golf, Weather and Hospitality Highlight May Meeting

By Tom Schwab

You couldn't dream up a nicer day than the one that greeted the 35 golfers at our May 20th Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association meeting at Drugan's Castle Mound Golf Course in Holmen. The day was 80° with a slight breeze. Superintendent Mike Drugan had the course in superb shape. Castle Mound is set back in the coulees and bluffs of the Mississippi River. It would be hard to find a more natural place to build a golf course. Mike also had some greens, tees and sand traps under construction which added to the educational experience of the day.

The evening educational session was presented by Dr. Don Taylor of the U.W.-River Falls Soil Science Department. His talk was on green construction as related to soil moisture. He mentioned how greens are very different from other agricultural soils because of all the compaction they receive and because of the layers we purposely build into them. Dr. Taylor has done extensive research on four different layering or soil moisture management concepts. The most famous of these is the United States Golf Association perched watertable con-

cept. All four were made up of 12 inches of root zone mix on top and plastic tiling on bottom. The differences were in the middle layers. The first concept was rootzone over native subsoil; the second was over gravel rather than subsoil, third was over course sand over gravel over subsoil (this is USGA), and fourth was over course sand over subsoil. Three of them work as perched watertables because of the larger pore space underneath. The rootzone just over subsoil does not perch water.

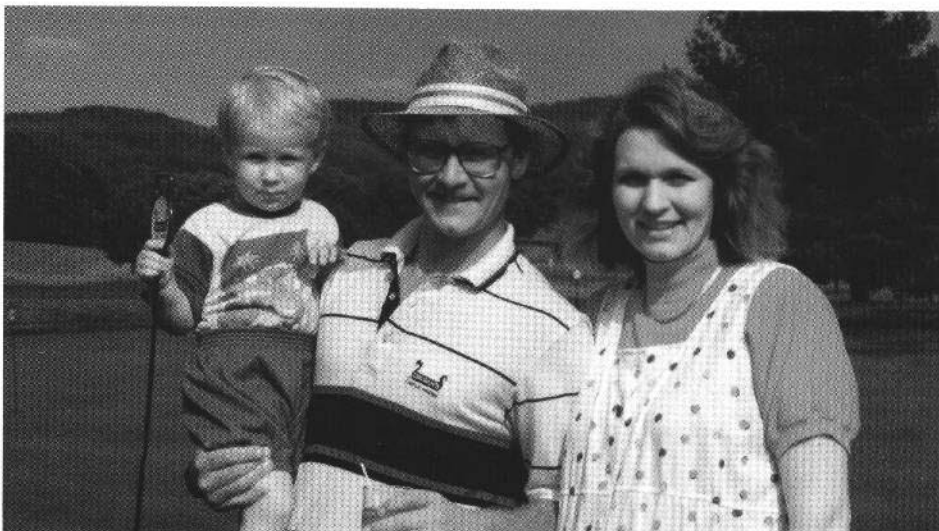
Based on his laboratory research, Don had a preference for one of the four concepts. It varied from the accepted USGA style. He liked the root mix just over course sand with it's drain tile in the sand. His research showed this to perch water but not enough water to hurt root growth. The USGA method perches so much water in the bottom of the rootzone mix that roots would not grow into it, according to his research.

Dr. Taylor had two warnings, though. One is his concept is based on lab research, rather than field research. Secondly, if a green failed, it's easier to blame the USGA than to explain why you changed the accepted construc-

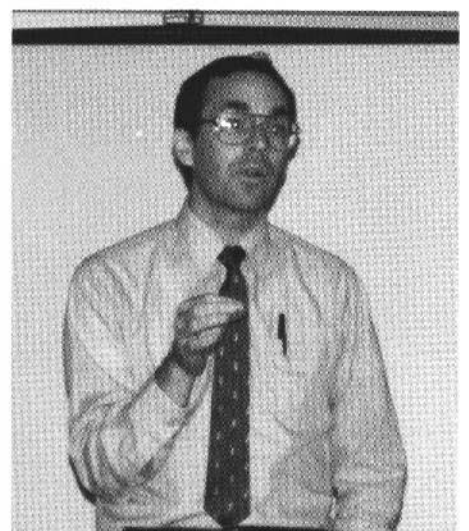
tion technique. Two thoughts are: 1. There are an awful lot of successful USGA greens out there, and, 2. with this black layer problem possibly being caused by excessive moisture, could perching too much water be a problem? Definitely more research has to be done.

The day ended with presentation of the golf prizes. The game was a yellow ball tournament. In this game one yellow ball alternates among each member of the foursome. The winner is the foursome with the lowest total using only the yellow ball scores from each hole. First place went to Wayne Horman, Pat Norton, Dave Smith and Andy Kronwall. Second place went to Bruce Worzella, Rod Johnson, Steve Schmidt and Greg Kallenberg. The flag prizes for long putt on #18 and closet pin on #4 both went to Joe Bahr. Norton and Bahr taking prizes demonstrates local knowledge won over skill at Castle Mound!

The Drugans hosted a perfect meeting. Mike and his wife Mary, the clubhouse manager, put a lot of hard work into making the day so enjoyable. We really appreciate that and their hospitality.



Keegan, Mike and Mary Drugan.



Dr. Don Taylor



Where Few Women Choose To Travel

By Lori Ward Bocher

In an industry practically void of women, Christine Faulks stands out like a flag on the green. But it's not just her gender that sets her apart from the crowd. Her spark, her enthusiasm and her entrepreneurial skills have helped her succeed where few women choose to travel.

"I like people. I did a lot of traveling when I was younger so I'm able to adjust to situations easily. And I truly believe in what we're doing. So it's easy."

What she does, along with her husband, Bob, and brother-in-law, Randy is operate Faulks Bros. Construction, Inc., a diversified construction and supply company located in Waupaca, Wis. She is president of the Greensmix division, the nation's largest blender of rootzone mixtures for sport surfaces.

"Basically, what we're doing at Greensmix is filling a prescription," Christine says of their ability to create precise blend of sand and organic amendments and micronutrients for the construction or renovation of golf course greens and tees or other sport surfaces.

"We're unique in that we can travel around the country and we can absolutely guarantee that our blends will meet the specifications," she adds. "We're taking the liability off of the general contractor and putting it on our shoulders."

Before Christine came to Faulks Bros. in 1986, the company had already been supplying sand for golf course construction and topdressing through another division, Waupaca Materials. At first, only straight sand was used. Then golf course superintendents began to request a blend of sand and organics to improve percolation and reduce compaction.

"We saw the trend, the change," Christine recalls. "We were in a favorable position because we were already supplying materials to the industry."

So they developed the technology to mix sand and organics at their Waupaca plant.

"But sand will only ship so far," she continues. "Trucking-wise, it's not cost



Christine Faulks

effective to ship more than 150 miles. We had developed the technology to make mixes that met exact specifications, but we had saturated our local market. So we decided to take it on the road."

That's when Greensmix was born. With their own fabrication and maintenance shop, they designed a state-of-the-art soil blender that can blend up to four ingredients simultaneously at rates approaching 400 tons per hour. In 1988, Greensmix began operating with one blender. Today they have five.

Christine is grateful for the help they received from several golf course superintendents. "When we thought about starting Greensmix, Monroe Miller was one of the people we bounced our ideas off of," she says. "We got a lot of really good input from him."

"Jim Latham was also a big help," she continues. "We took our brochure down to him after we had it designed. He looked at it and gave us some feedback. Then, after we built our first blender, we took it to Oneida (Green Bay) and showed it to Randy Witt and to Stevens Point to show to Jeff Bottensek. These people were just super helpful."

People. That's what Christine likes most about working in the golf course

industry. "They're friendly, polite, educated," she says. "And they work outside. I think people who work outside generally have a very positive outlook on life."

As president of Greensmix, Christine works mainly with golf course contractors and builders. And, through Waupaca Materials, she supplies golf course superintendents with topdressing sand and other materials.

How did Christine end up in the world of sand and gravel and golf course construction? Believe it or not, through the male-dominated industry of ready mix concrete.

Born in England, Christine's father was a tool and dye maker who believed that his family should see the world. She spent the first 14 years of her childhood in her native England and in South Africa before moving to Milwaukee.

As a teenager new to the U.S., she was quick to lose her British accent. "When you're 14 years old, it's so important to fit in," she recalls. "You assimilate." Years later, she became a U.S. citizen.

During the 1970's, Christine worked part time for a company that sold chemicals to the concrete industry while attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She graduated in 1978 with a degree in English.

"After college, I was going to write a book," she recalls. "But I soon realized that wouldn't work. So I joined a ready mix concrete company in a PR capacity."

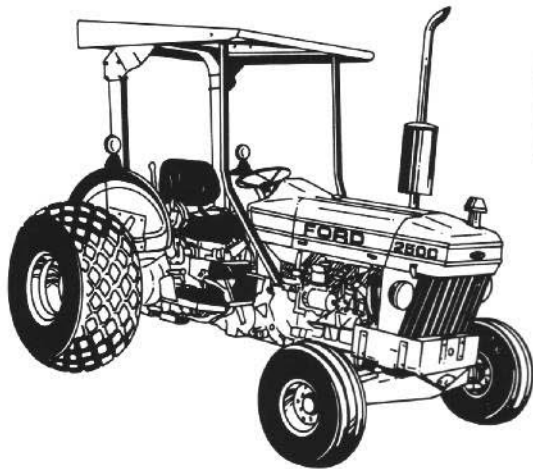
When her employer, Central Ready Mix of Milwaukee, needed someone to develop and run a lab for testing sands, gravel and other ingredients used in the ready mix business, Christine accepted the challenge. She took classes from and is certified by the American Concrete Institute. She also holds certification from NVLAP through the Department of Commerce. And she has published several articles about quality control and testing procedures for construction materials.

(Continued on page 29)

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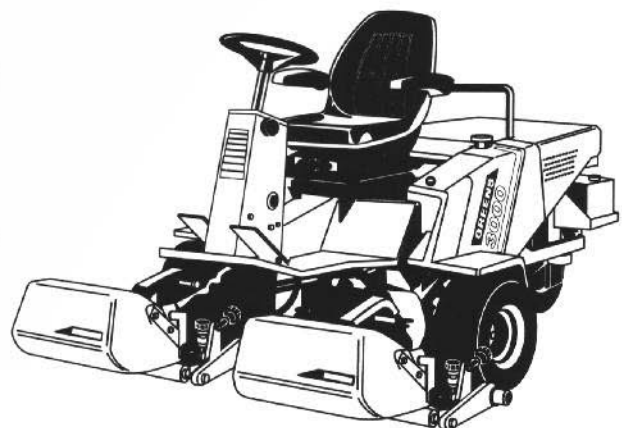
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(Continued from page 27)

Christine worked for Central Ready Mix until 1986 when she joined Faulks Bros. Construction in sales and new product development.

In the male-dominated industry in which Christine works, does she feel like she stands out when she's the only woman in a meeting or at a conference? "Not any more," Christine answers. "Ten years ago I would have said 'yes.' But because I've been the only woman in the room for so many years, I don't notice it any more."

When asked if she plays golf, Christine vary diplomatically answers, "I have a very nice set of clubs. I golf a little, but not as often as I'd like to."

When she does golf, she views the course differently than most golfers. "I see so many courses before they're opened for play that I think back to the way other golf courses looked before they were constructed," she says.

Christine and Bob also enjoy boating on the Chain O' Lakes near Waupaca where they have their home. And they are active members of the Parfreyville United Methodist Church where Christine is chairman of the mission committee. "Any extra time we have, that's where we spend it," she says.

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The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz



ESSAY CONTEST

By Monroe S. Miller

Now that the pressure of school is off, even though the heat's on, it occurred to the instructor that this may be the perfect time to sponsor an essay contest.

Well honed writing skills are important to the successful golf course superintendent, and they are becoming more important all the time.

To that end the "QUIZ" feature this issue is sponsoring an essay contest. The subject is one you choose, limited

only to the topic of Wisconsin golf course management.

The essays will be judged by the Editor, WGCSA President Rod Johnson and Professor Wayne Kussow.

The winner will have his/her essay printed in this feature and will receive a free subscription to *THE GRASS ROOTS* for a year for anyone of choice.

Submit your essay of 1500 words or less to: Monroe S. Miller, 3809 Patrick Henry Way, Middleton, WI 53562.

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(Continued from front page)

They were all extremely pleased that Salaiz accepted their offer to manage Wisconsin's new turfgrass research center.

"Tom Salaiz has a very strong background in turfgrass management," said Professor Wayne Kussow.

"In addition, he has good mechanical skills which will be essential in the operation of the NOER facility. He is a dynamic young man."

Salaiz will be subordinated to Dale Schlough since the NOER facility will be operated as an integral part of the UW Experiment Station network.

"I am very much looking forward to begin working as manager of the O. J. NOER TURFGRASS RESEARCH and EDUCATION FACILITY," Tom said in a recent interview with this editor.

"The opportunity to work in a new facility with quality people and a supportive industry is very exciting," he added.

"After seeing *The Grass Roots* and the *Wisconsin Turfgrass News* and reading about the industry support for turfgrass research in Wisconsin, I know my work there will be very fulfilling. I am interested in all areas of turfgrass research and am looking forward to

transferring them to the industry so that they can apply them in their everyday management practices."

Tommy Salaiz is 25 years old, single and "eager to learn to play golf." He holds an impressive list of honors and awards, was very active in student organizations at both the undergrad and grad level, and has authored three technical articles.

You are going to get a chance to meet him real soon. As Tom Harrison said, "I like this guy and his attitude a lot. Everyone else will, too."

Special Award goes to Reinders' Brian Schmidt

A few months ago, at the GCSSA Convention in Las Vegas, Brian Schmidt was honored as the Top Salesman for the North Central Region by the Toro Company.

Each year, Toro selects one salesman from each of their six regions. The winners receive the coveted "Green Blazer".

This award not only recognizes his top sales achievements, but also, his product knowledge, his ability to communicate with his customers, his territory management, his ability to demonstrate equipment, and his dedication to the turf industry.

Brian wishes to thank his customers for their loyalty and support.

CONGRATULATIONS BRIAN!!

Leave The Driving To Someone Else

Last October after the Superintendents' Dinner Dance, it was brought to our attention that we should take a bus to Minocqua for the 1991 Dinner Dance. What we would like to find out is how many people would really be interested in doing this. A Greyhound type bus would leave on Friday noon and return on Sunday. The bus company did tell us that they could make stops along the way.

So since the bus would originate in the Milwaukee area we could stop at locations on the way up north and pick up additional couples. We need 40-45 people to do this otherwise it would not be economical.

Any interested parties contact Bruce Worzella at 338-0540.

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