



A Report in Autumn

By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

It was a hot summer in Wisconsin, at least once summer finally arrived. The cool, wet spring hung on to the point where we wondered if we'd ever see the sun again.

We did. And it rarely rained this past summer, at least on the west side of Madison where our course is located. It was, as the old saying goes, drier than dust. The airport will send the record book a summer total that will be "normal", but we didn't enjoy that normal precip.

It wasn't a very normal summer for a lot of our Wisconsin golf course superintendent colleagues, either. It is my duty as chapter historian to record for perpetuity these events in our careers and lives.

Take Henry Aldrich for example. Hank lost a finger this summer – the index finger on his left hand. It was a freak golf course accident, the kind we all fear. He caught the finger in a cutting unit of Summer Lawn C.C.'s big hydraulic fairway

mower. "And of course, the danged thing was dull," Hank told me. "It more or less chewed the finger off, leaving no chance for reattachment."

The spooky thing is that Henry has the finger in a small bottle of alcohol (or formaldehyde) right on his desk. It made me uncomfortable, and while it was distracting me, Henry said in a stern voice, "Why are you staring at my finger?"

My face flushed and I mumbled some apology. And then he laughed!

"Hey, at least it was on my left hand!" And look what I can do now!"

His finger was severed below the second joint, leaving a small stub above the palm. Hank stuck the stub in his ear first, and then in one of his nostrils.

I burst into laughter; so did Henry.

Then there was Pete Van der Wort's fiasco that

NEW LOGO



SAME TEAM



The logo may have changed but Andersons and Reinders commitment to quality products and unmatched service has not.

We have teamed up to provide you with faster and more efficient delivery of Andersons professional turf products. Reinders offers a large inventory of products, quick lead times and excellent fill rates. Reinders also has a team of professional turf experts to respond quickly to help you solve your tough turf problems and keep your course in top playing condition. Andersons and Reinders. The winning combination for all your turf care product needs!

Turf Product Specialists

Dean Musbach
715-356-6444 • North Central/Northeastern Wisconsin

Bruce Schweiger
608-756-3912 • Southern Wisconsin

Fred Anderson
715-456-0971 • Northwestern Wisconsin



Solutions & Supplies for the Green Industry • www.reinders.com

involved the Green Committee chair. He had bugged Pete to treat his lawn for broadleaf weeds. Pete put it off and put it off and instead of saying "no," finally went over after work and sprayed the guy's yard. Simple enough.

Except, somehow, containers and contents had gotten mixed up and Pete sprayed a good dose of glyphosate. He's now completely renovating the lawn. Prospects for getting a pay raise aren't real bright for Pete right now.

Wisconsin superintendents are a competitive lot and we had the following "Top 10" finishes this year:

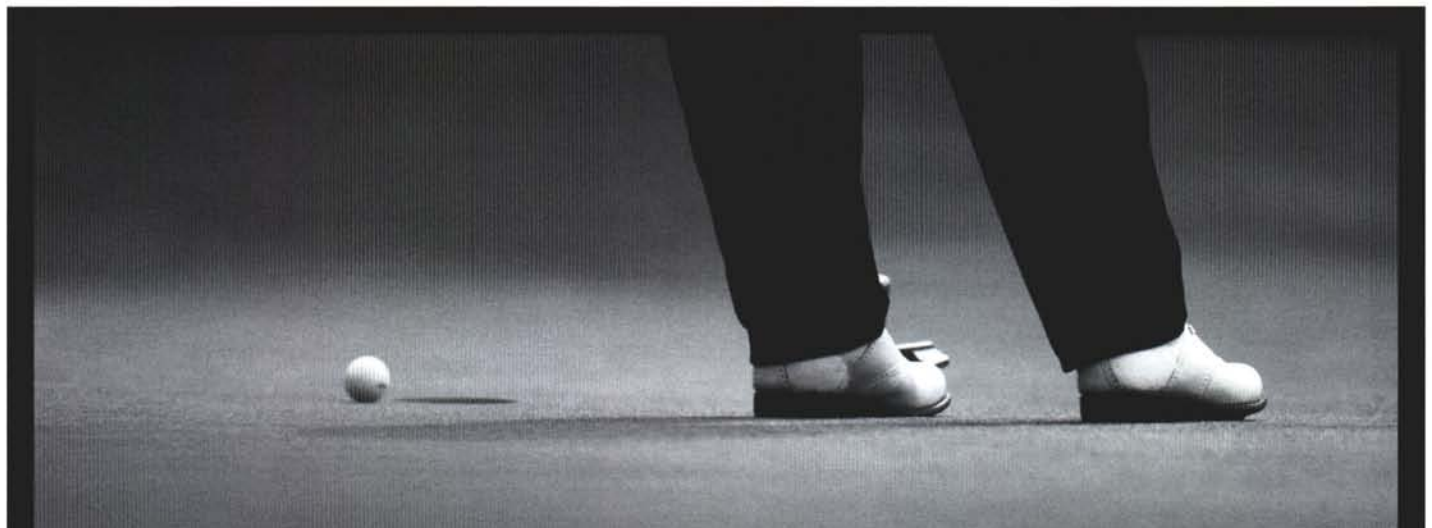
1. Mac McDonald came in third in the Pardeeville Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest.
2. Darrell Finnegan heaved a cow chip over 75 feet and came in ninth at the Sauk City Cow Chip Throwing Contest.
3. Schuyler Merry showed the Reserve Grand Champion Polled Herford steer at the Wisconsin State Fair in August. His dad and two brothers are known across the country for their beef herd; Sky just kind of dabbles in the farming operation, "for fun," he says.
4. Mike Dombrimski competed in the State Am at Eau

Claire CC and finished, but not in the top 10 (or the top 50 for that matter). But he finished.


Dave Waldorf, golf course superintendent at the Butterfield Golf Club, completed his ten year journey this past year, finishing Seminary School. He is now an ordained minister in the Lutheran Church. Many of us attended the ceremony in his home church – Bethel Grove – and after his first sermon, Tom Morris said to him, "not short enough." The members of the Club were proud of him but agreed with Tom. "He is singly responsible for our long board meetings," the Club president said. Bogey Calhoun complained that we'll now have to watch our cussing while he's around.

Our buddy Pat O'Brien is a big gardener. And a good one, he claims. "I can grow grass on concrete," Patty says, "because it's better than the red Lake Michigan clay I have to work with at my course." Turns out that Patty was telling the truth.

He ordered seeds this past spring for giant pumpkins and then planted them in a sandy corner of his big garden. The plants grew like crazy; he pinched all the flowers off except two. All summer long he nursed the two pumpkins – lots of Miracle Gro fertilizer and tons of water



**Our fertilizer has absolutely no effect on ball roll.
Sorry.**



Step up to an improved level of play by contacting one of our golf greens professionals. Make a toll-free call to 1-800-635-2123 today.

SPRING VALLEY®

and plenty of TLC. He put scraps of carpet under each pumpkin so no end rot or insect would damage them.

The World Pumpkin Federation had its championship weigh-in in Collins, New York on Columbus Day weekend. Patty bedded the bigger of the two pumpkins on double air mattresses and packed it tight in the box of his pickup with bright bales of straw. Of course, his Ford truck was black.

What a sight – orange pumpkin, black truck, yellow straw – it must be autumn in Wisconsin and Halloween has to be right around the corner!

Pat didn't place when the weighing was over in Collins. He was an amateur among professionals when it comes to pumpkins. But he had a lot of fun, and he can still grow good golf turf on lousy clay soil.

Margie and Matt Millen had twin boys this summer – Phillip and Francis. They were unplanned and unexpected. Matt's 45 and Marg is 42; they looked tired when we all saw them at the WGCSA Couples Weekend. "Well," Bogey Calhoun giggled, "at least you'll have some help on the golf course when the two of you want to retire!"

Speaking of new babies, Lars and Mary Peterson had a new baby boy this summer. Lars is the golf course superintendent of the Harvest Hill Country Club and is an immigrant from Norway. Mary is, you all know, Pete Lindstrom's sister. Lars came to the U.S. as an exchange student from Norway. He fell in love with Wisconsin, went to the UW – Madison and majored in turfgrass science under Dr. Wayne Kussow. He met Mary while working for her brother at Norway Grove C.C. All of that is important so you will understand why they named their new son Oyvind Juul, after the famous Norwegian-American O. J. Noer. Mary wasn't wild about it, but it made some sense.

Surprise – they call him O.J.!

It was a perfect summer for Tony Ryan, despite the hard work and setbacks and other problems associated with building a new golf course. In his case, there is a lot of excitement because he is involved with a new Arnold Palmer designed golf course.

Arnie was in town for a regularly scheduled inspection of progress. He arrived in Milwaukee in the late morning on a Friday in August and drove to the course with his construction superintendent. They spent the afternoon reviewing the work to date, discussing design changes and budgeting issues. It was getting close to supper time and Arnie said he was getting hungry because he had missed lunch.

"We can eat on the way to the airport," the construction super suggested.

"In Wisconsin, on a Friday, you aren't going to eat for a while unless you have a reservation," a foreman suggested. "Fish fries."

"I didn't even think about it," the super replied.

Tony jumped right in. "We would be honored if you

guys wanted to have supper at our house. Laurie always makes more than enough. I can give her a call from my cell phone."

Arnie didn't hesitate and said, "Sure. Great. I'd love it."

So they drove over to Tony's, a matter of a couple of miles. Arnie was completely at ease, clearly was hungry and loaded his plate with mashed potatoes, gravy, meat-loaf and well cooked string beans. He washed it down with cold milk and drank black coffee with the Door County cherry cobbler Laurie had made.

As they finished, Arnie was generous with thanks. They drove off for Mitchell Field and the trip back to Latrobe. About a week later Tony and Laurie received a handwritten note from Mr. Palmer and an autographed copy of his autobiography, *A Golfer's Life*. What a deal.

We even had a little excitement at our shop. A jogger found a dead man not 100 yards from our shopyard. I knew something was up when I counted 11 squad cars at the scene, plus an ambulance and the coroner. Turns out he was an older gentleman who had escaped from a detox center a couple of days previous. He died of natural causes and that was that.

So, there you have it – a few of the more interesting events in those always interesting summers on Wisconsin golf courses. Makes you wonder what next year will bring. ♣

LET'S TALK TEK³¹



IsoTek[®] 18-3-16 Greens Grade with IBDU[®] slow-release nitrogen and Meth-Ex 40[®] is one of the most technologically advanced fertilizers available today. The reason? Lebanon's exclusive Composite Technology.[™] You see, Composite Technology greatly enhances the fertilizer's particle dispersion, integrity and nitrogen activity index (AI). As a result, IsoTek[®] outperforms other leading fertilizers in test after test. For more information on IsoTek[®] and Composite Technology call your Lebanon Turf Products Distributor or 1-800-233-0628.

Frank Baden
Territory Manager
Bettendorf, IA
(563) 332-9288

Mj&C

TOURNAMENT MEETING AT OSHKOSH COUNTRY CLUB

By Mike Berwick, Golf Course Superintendent, Golf Courses of Lawsonia, Inc.

Superintendent and WGCSA President Kris Pinkerton hosted the 2001 WGCSA Tournament at Oshkosh Country Club in Oshkosh on September 10. Sixty-seven members and affiliates played golf, and another six attended the dinner and the educational session.

After a brat and burger buffet lunch, the golf event began with a shotgun start at 11:30 am. Despite all the rain the previous week, the course was in superb "tournament" condition. The tree-lined course featured fast, true, and relatively small greens which demanded precision approach shots and delicate pitch and chip shots to get close to the pins, some of which were in extremely "challenging" locations. Areas of roped and staked seedings where over 80 trees had been before the storm this past June were indications of all the work that was required of Kris and his crew to ready the course for this and other events.

After golf, attendees met in the Oshkosh CC clubhouse and bar area for cocktails and conversation, followed by dinner. The delicious sliced roast beef dinner, along with a scrumptious caramel and chocolate ice cream sundae for dessert, definitely satisfied everyone's appetite and prepared them for the educational session.

Robert Vavrek of the USGA's North Central Region Green Section presented his much anticipated "Year in Review." Bob's presentation featured many photos of his travels during the 2001 season, mostly of what you don't want to see on your golf course. The year, as we all know, was very nasty with too much or too little of everything, including precipitation, heat, and humidity. The winter was tough on turf with snowmold damage

very prevalent, the spring started too cool for recovery and then turned too wet, with too much precipitation until mid-June. Then drought became an issue with low humidity and high temperatures, and it seemed that our irrigation systems, which had not even been used to that point, could not apply enough water no matter what we did. After that, high humidity and heat lingered on much too long and turf areas, especially *Poa annua*, simply could not survive. Luckily, by mid-August cooler, drier weather returned and some recovery began. Bob mentioned that, as usual, courses that could afford to and did resort to stringent water management and use of hand watering and syringing seemed to survive the best. All in all, we are all very happy that this season is drawing to a close. Thanks to Bob for another great presentation.

The golf prizes were then awarded as follows:

WGCSA Fall Tournament Winners:

2001 WGCSA Champion (Low Gross) - Brent Peterson (80)

Flight A (0-16 Hdcp.)

First	Wayne Otto (71)
Second	Mark Hjortness (73)

Flight B (17-32 Hdcp.)

First	Mike Lyons (71)
Second	Mark Kienert (75)

Peoria Event

First	Bob Salamone (61)*
Second	Pat Staehler (61)

*Won scorecard playoff

Winners of Flag Events:

#1 Longest Putt	Dewey Laak
#6 Longest Drive in Fairway	Allan Fude
#8 Closest to pin in One	Rod Johnson
#10 Longest Putt	Fuzzy Feldman
#14 Closest to Pin in One	Scott Bushman
#18 Closest to Pin in One**	Dan Webb

** Use of Club Car Carry-All II for 1 Year -

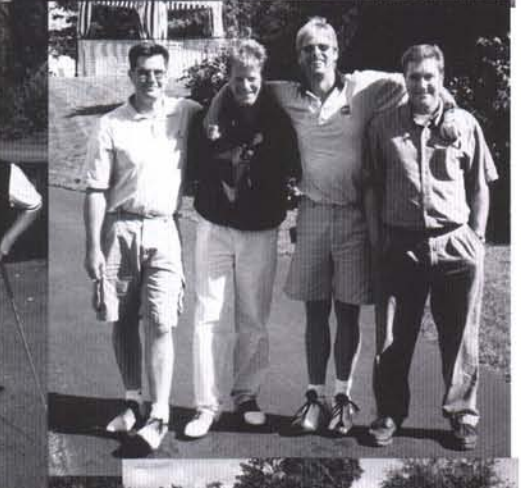
Note: Dan Webb graciously donated his prize to the O.J. Noer Research Facility

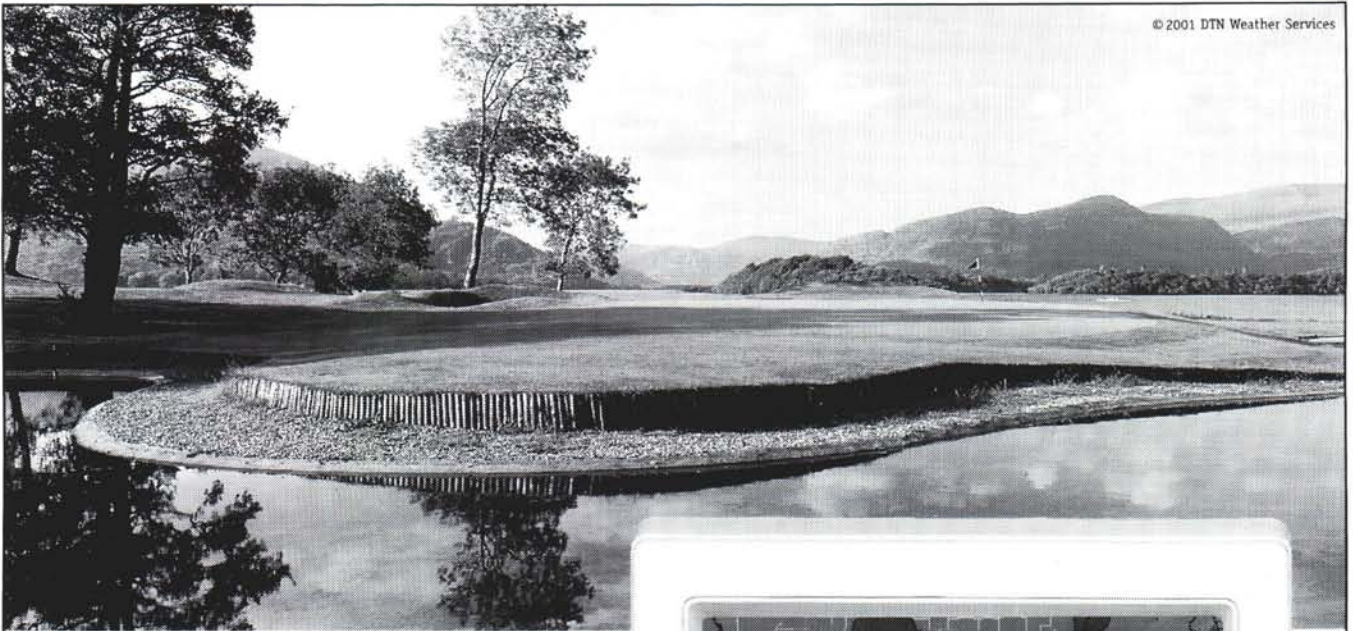


The USGA's
Bob Vavrek.

MISCELLANY

Special thanks to Reinders Brothers, Inc., Horst Distributing, Inc., Spring Valley, and LESCO for providing funding for beverages and prizes, and to Club Car Corp. for providing an extra beverage cart and the Carry-All prize. Also a big thanks to Superintendent Kris Pinkerton, Professional Kurt Larson, Club Manager Jack Richardson and the entire staff at the Oshkosh Country Club for inviting our organization and providing an enjoyable day. 🌿





**THE MOST PROFITABLE
SQUARE FOOT
ON YOUR COURSE.**



**DTN
WEATHER
SERVICES**

Call Toll Free: 1-866-230-1020
www.dtnweather.com

- **Avoid costly weather delays and expenses.** Use the accurate and easy-to-use forecasts and current radar maps to schedule staffing, chemical applications, irrigation, and course maintenance.
- **Maximize course scheduling and tee times.** With access to current, accurate weather information, course events and tee times can be postponed or delayed, rather than canceled, increasing your profits and ensuring players' safety.
- **Use a single source to quickly and easily access the information you need.** The C&P Press Turf Product Index is included with your system, along with evapotranspiration tables, a helpful tool for accurately planning watering and chemical applications, and much more.

NOW AVAILABLE: THOR GUARD LIGHTNING PREDICTION SYSTEM



Get Ready for EXPO

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

Make plans now to attend the Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO 2002. The dates are January 7, 8, and 9 (Monday - Wednesday) and the lineup of speakers is second to none. The planning committee, headed up by WTA EXPO chairman Rich Riggs, has been meeting since last March. Their goal was first to have the best education possible and second to make sure everything runs smoothly. The registration form will be in your mailbox by mid-November. Take note of the new additions to this year's show. You won't want to miss it.

First off, a new half-day of workshops has been added. These workshops will cost a little extra, from \$20 - \$40 additional, over the conference package. They are optional, but may be just what you or some of your staff may need. The workshops are:

- Learning Basic and Conversational Spanish
- Pesticide Applicator Training including taking the WDATCP Applicator Test
- Basic Math Calibration
- Setting Up an IPM Program

The formal EXPO will begin on Tuesday and run through Wednesday. There are too many good topics to mention them all here. Have any of you ever attended the GCSAA seminar on disease management? Dr. Bruce Clark is one of the presenters for that seminar, and we are privileged to have him at EXPO this year. Dr. Trey Rogers, one of the top authorities on athletic field issues, will also be on the program. And Dr. John Ball, who was on the EXPO program five years ago, was invited back to expand on managing trees in a turf environment. Many other turf and green industry experts both from in and out of state

will be able to answer questions that you don't even know you have yet.

Another speaker and feature from a past EXPO is being brought back by popular demand. The feature is to have a keynote speaker — and that person is the popular and entertaining Mr. Tom Jadin from the Winnebago Mental Health Institute. You won't want to miss hearing his insights on life. In addition, Russell Rasmussen from the DNR's Bureau of Watershed Management will present the latest updates on the DNR NR151 Regulations for Non-Point Pollution Abatement.

To complement the above education there will be the popular roundtable discussions again this year. The Golf, and Lawn and Landscape ses-

sion discussion will be on immigration and migrant labor issues, while the Grounds and Sports Turf subject will focus on construction issues. And don't forget the trade show where you can learn about every piece of turf equipment, product, or service available to manage your turf more productively.

EXPO will have everything — information that is good to know and some that will be critical to know. Mark January 7, 8, and 9th on your calendars now. Tell your friends and consider bringing others that can benefit from your staff. There will be good education for everyone. Call Audra at the Noer Facility if you have any questions at 608-845-6536. ♣

SIMPLOT
PARTNERS



Leading the Industry in Turf and Ornamental Management

STOCKING A COMPLETE LINE OF PESTICIDES, FERTILIZERS, GRASS SEED AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE TURF PROFESSIONAL

Where Success Is Based on a Commitment to People...

CUBBY O'BRIEN
in the south - 630-514-8754

ED HOOVER
in the north - 715-492-6212

525 N. Enterprise Street, Aurora, IL 60504

Experience the Best Golf Course Mixes



(Photo courtesy of Ridges Golf Course)



LANDSCAPING & GOLF
COURSE MATERIALS
SOIL AND SAND
PRODUCERS SINCE 1966.



Phone (715) 423-3909

Fax (715) 423-4215

**3531 Plover Road, Hwy. 54 East
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494**

**Rely on Wolosek for the
Highest Quality Golf Course
Mixes.**

- **Topdressing Sand**
- **80/20 Topdressing Mix**
- **Bunker Sand**
- **Construction Mixes**
- **Reed Sedge Peat**
- **Cart Path Aggregate**

*Call Dan Wolosek for custom on-site blending.
Wolosek, delivering exactly what you need to
keep you out of the "sand trap".*

Lightning Leads Him From Cows to Turf

By Lori Ward Bocher

If it weren't for a bolt of lightning that struck the year he was born, Bill Vogel might not be where he is today – CEO and part owner of Spring Valley. His company, which makes professional turf and ice melt products, is based in Jackson, Wisconsin, where Bill was born on a dairy farm 47 years ago. But if it weren't for that bolt of lightning, Bill might be milking cows today.

"The year I was born, a bolt of lightning hit the barn and killed virtually the entire herd because the cows were in metal stanchions," Bill explains. "Half of the

herd had a second mortgage on them already because Dad was young and just starting out. He had no income and a couple of crying babies in the house.

"He had to go out and try to develop income any way he could, so he started selling alfalfa and corn seed, then hay, and then fertilizer," he continues. "One thing led to another, and soon he had a successful farm fertilizer business here – Vogel Seed and Fertilizer."

Plans to return home...

Growing up with agricultural ties, Bill went to the University of



Proudly Serving the Turf Industry in Wisconsin

Terra's full line of turf industry products includes:

- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Fertilizer
- Grass Seed
- PGRs
- Fungicides
(Including Thalonil™ 90DF and 4L)
- Colorants
(Including Terramark™ SPI and Terramark Lake Colorant)

**For the products, services and advice you need,
Talk to Terra**



Terra International, Inc. • 3525 Terra Court • Sun Prairie, WI 53590
Conrad Stynchula CGCS • (800) 456-0948 (office) • (608) 235-4999 (mobile)

Wisconsin-Madison where he received a BS in agronomy in 1976. As planned, he returned to the family company upon graduation. But he took the business in a different direction by starting the Spring Valley Turf Products Division of Vogel Seed and Fertilizer. "I had always enjoyed working in the green industry," Bill explains. "I enjoyed the people. They were real optimistic and fun to work with. And the idea of taking a piece of ground and making it beautiful had always intrigued me."

So Bill went out to find new customers for this new division. "I went through the Yellow Pages and started calling people," he remembers. "That was very tough. People would ask, 'Who are you? Why should we buy from you if

we've never heard of you?' So I asked myself, 'What can I offer these people that they're not getting now?'

"I decided that, if I got a bag printed up that didn't have a company name printed on top, I could go into 'Joe's Landscaping' and say, 'Here, I can put your name right on top of this bag,'" Bill continues. "So we set up a little screen printing system in the basement of our house and my wife, Joyce, did the printing."

"The first year we started doing this I told her we might print a couple of thousand bags," Bill says. "We ended up doing 60,000 or 70,000. My wife nearly shot me. But she was a real trooper and realized that this was a big help to the business. We don't do this anymore. But it was a way for us to

offer something unique to customers and get their business."

Company evolves...

Within about 10 years, the company evolved from a farm fertilizer business to a professional turf fertilizer business. This was due not only to the new markets Bill was creating, but also due to the manufacturing equipment. "We had to bring in a lot of special equipment to screen and size the turf fertilizer just right," Bill recalls. "That made it very cost prohibitive to do farm grades because you don't need all the special equipment for that. We sold off the farm fertilizer division more than 10 years ago."

But fertilizer is still the main product for Spring Valley. "What we do is get rail cars or truckloads of bulk ingredients, and then we blend and package them to the

What's the Difference?



THE NEW INDUSTRY STANDARD FOR FOLIAR FERTILIZERS AND MICRONUTRIENTS

Do you know the difference between liquid fertilizers and foliar fertilizers? Do you know when a true foliar is clearly the better choice over soluble or dry fertilizers? Today's problems require Nutri-Rational solutions... based on the most advanced chemistry and a better understanding of turf physiology and plant nutrition.

By every standard of measurement, Nutri-Rational™ Foliars are better:

- Higher quality components
- Superior delivery system
- Better tissue penetration
- Excellent foliar absorption

**Call Dan Quast at DHD Tree Products
Toll free 866-DHD-TREE (343-8733)**

Manufactured By:



**Emerald
Isle, Ltd.**

Distributed By:



**MILLIKEN
TURF PRODUCTS**

© 2001, Emerald Isle Ltd.

PUT SCIENCE ON YOUR SIDE™