

# Minnesota Toro Builds New Facility

Minnesota Toro, Inc., full-line distributor of the maintenance and irrigation equipment produced by The Toro Company, will move its offices and warehousing to Plymouth on November 1, James M. Kaufman, president, has announced. Minnesota Toro now serves from its present quarters (850 South Florida Avenue) in Golden Valley a market area that includes all of Minnesota and North Dakota, part of South Dakota and the western segment of Wisconsin.

According to Kaufman, the Rauhenhorst Corporation of Minneapolis is building the 36,000 square foot facility on a four acre lot at 14900 21st Avenue North in Plymouth. The building site is being carefully carved out of the wooded setting to preserve the maximum number of trees and safeguard the original wooded environment. Kaufman said a special automatic irrigation system will be installed for added protection.

Present plans call for 6,000 square feet for administrative offices, approximately the same amount of space for parts inventory, a well equipped 3,000 square foot service shop, with the rest of the space given over to warehousing.

There will also be a mezzanine with an additional 6,000 square feet to be developed as a training and meeting center for Toro dealer and installer personnel. The Minnesota Toro president said he intends to make the training center available to local and regional professional turf associations as well.

The concrete block building, whose cost is estimated in excess of \$600,000, will incorporate the latest in insulation techniques, Kaufman said, to ensure minimal energy use. Loading docks will be built to accommodate both semi-trailers and pick-up trucks.

The new facility, Kaufman pointed out, will more than double his present floor space, as well as increase substantially the outside yard storage area, much needed for the rapid growth in turf and agricultural irrigation and the professional turf product business.

Minnesota Toro has annual sales in excess of \$7 million and employs 45 persons. Kaufman, as president and owner, has headed the firm for the past eight years.

In addition to Toro products, Minnesota Toro also distributes Poulan chain saws and a variety of allied products.

