



DALE CALDWELL

IT'S GONNA BE BROWN

Much of the conversation overheard when two golf course superintendents get together of late centers around the question, "What are the golf courses going to look like in the spring?" In an effort to find an answer to this question, we contacted two highly responsible sources of information, both quite knowledgeable in the field of turf, Dr. Ward Stienstra and Dr. Donovan Taylor. Each of whom seemed more optimistic than one might expect.

The common concensus is that things will come out of the winter looking very brown. This, we are sure of. Due to the lack of moisture the past fall and the lack of snow cover this winter, there is a real good chance of winter dessication of turf. Right now this is more superficial than actual. Superintendents who have taken plugs of turf in and thawed them out have gotten good results. At

the same time, we might emphasize that no two situations are ever the same. What might be true at one location is not necessarily true at another.

There are many variables which come into play which can affect the present conditions. What is more important is what kind of weather we receive from now on and the kind of spring we get. If we get good growing weather this spring we will be looking good. Early and fast growth determines how long the turf will stay brown.

Perhaps we should be more concerned with problems we might have with the young trees, ornamentals and perennials which were planted last fall. Because of the dry fall, the subsoil or root zone area of many small trees and ornamentals is also very dry.

Right now it appears that the condition of our turf and ornamentals depends on an early and wet spring. However, knowing Minnesota climates and weather systems, we realize that this is something we can't count on. So, it would be a good idea to be prepared to assist your turf and ornamentals as much as possible this spring by irrigating as soon as possible.

We're seen in all the right places.



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