

# U of M Update

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This is the first in a series of University of Minnesota based articles and other informational items that will appear in *Hole Notes* on a regular basis. The purpose of these articles is to update the readers of *Hole Notes* on turf and associated green industry research, education and outreach (extension) at the University. This article focuses on new activities for the Minnesota Extension Service (MES) and the Department of Horticultural Science.

This past year was one of change and growth for the MES and the Department of Horticultural Science. The promotion of effective internal and external communications and the support of unity within the green industry were major goals identified in 1993. Three significant events that support these goals were initiated; these included the creation of a new *Horticulture Specialization* within the MES, the creation of an *Environmental Horticulture Advisory Council* (EHAC) and assistance in the establishment of the *Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation* (MTGF).

## Horticulture Specialization

A new Horticulture Specialization was approved and implemented at the MES Annual Conference in October. The Horticulture Specialization brings together state specialists and county educators, representing county clusters that work with horticulture food crops and/or environmental horticulture. Other specializations include Child and Youth Development, Community Resources, Crop Systems, Environment and Natural Resources, Family Development, Financial and Business Management, Leadership/Citizen Education, Livestock Systems and Nutrition, Food and Health.

The scope of the Horticulture Specialization as stated is to "provide educational programming for commercial producers, marketers, processors; for the providers of horticultural goods and services and for the consumers of those goods and services. Horticultural products include fruits, vegetables, nursery and greenhouse plants, bedding plants and turf. Providers of horticultural services include retailers, wholesalers, installers and maintainers of landscapes, the recreation industry, public agencies, government agencies, environmental educators, volunteers and people who serve in the realm of people/plant interaction."

**The purpose of the Horticulture Specialization** is to "promote the technical, research-based advancement of horticulture to the public and horticultural industries in an environmentally responsible manner, including water quality and pesticide safety, and in an economically sound manner;

Challenge and support the horticultural industry to oper-

ate in an environmentally sound manner based on statistically sound research;

Integrate disciplines such as soils, community forestry, nutrition, plant pathology, entomology and wildlife in the planning and implementation to these goals;

Educate the public on the complexity and the economic and social values of horticulture;

Foster horticultural business as it relates to economic development;

Educate citizens and volunteers (Master Gardeners) about the production and utilization of horticultural crops, services and products;

Provide staff development in horticulture for all clusters; Serve as a liaison between specialists and cluster needs."

The Horticulture Specialization is currently composed of 34 members each, with a portion of their responsibilities in horticulture. The specialization is divided into five working groups. Working groups include commercial, consumer, environmental, programming, information delivery and publications. The turf industry is a hybrid, like many horticulture industries, and falls under both the commercial and environmental categories.

Program priorities supported by the Horticulture Specialization for 1994 include the *Environmental Horticulture Advisory Council* (EHAC), and the *Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation* (MTGF).

## Environmental Horticulture Advisory Council

The EHAC, while still in the early developmental stages, has met once at this writing to discuss industry challenges and solutions. The EHAC is a major effort by the MES and the Department of Horticultural Science to promote communications and coordination within the green industry. Objectives of the council could include the enhancement of University Environmental Horticulture internal and external visibility, awareness, image and credibility; to advise and counsel on programs and priorities and to actively direct, implement and participate in specific activities.

The EHAC is composed of representatives from commercial and noncommercial organizations, government agencies, legislative foundations, committees, commissions, task forces, educational institutions as well as homeowners. Greg Hubbard currently represents the MGCSA on the council. Other turf industry representatives include Curt Clint, Ron Gjerde, John Hopko, Dave Krupp, Doug Madsen, Dan Miller, Glen Rasmussen, Tom Rudberg, Larry Vetter and John Wiley. Additional information about the council will be provided as it develops.

## Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation

Many of you have followed the progress of the *Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation* (MTGF), over the past year as the steering committee solicited your input and Greg Hubbard, your MGCSA representative, reported in *Hole Notes*. I want to again acknowledge the steering com-

(Continued on Page 11)

# U of M Update

(Continued from Page 7)

mittee for the tremendous job it did in researching, organizing and developing the MTGF Constitution.

As outlined in the constitution, the purpose of the Foundation is to "promote the turf and grounds industry in Minnesota; to encourage and support research, education and outreach at the University of Minnesota, and to represent allied associations including sports fields, cemeteries, campuses, school grounds, golf courses, lawns, parks, public grounds, roadsides, airports, sod and seed producers and others in matters regarding the turf and grounds industry." The Foundation is unique in that anyone who is a member of an allied association automatically becomes a member of the Foundation.

Following the completion of the constitution, each allied association was asked to elect a representative to the MTGF Board of Directors. According to the by-laws the Board of Directors then appointed a vendor representative to the Board.

The Board membership includes: Steve Balfany, *Minnesota Turf Association (MTA)*; Jim Habstritt, *Northern Minnesota Forage and Turf Seed Growers Committee (NMFSTSGC)*; Dean Heng, *Minnesota Park Supervisors Association (MPSA)*; John Hopko, Vendor; Greg Hubbard, *Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association (MGCSA)*; Doug Madsen, *Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA)*; Jim Ostvig, *Minnesota Association of Cemetery Officials (MACO)*; Tom Redmann, *Minnesota Association of School Maintenance Supervisors (MASMS)*; Tom Rudberg, *Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association (MSTMA)* and Brad Pedersen, University of Minnesota.

The University has also appointed an advisory group to work with the MTGF Board. Members include Dr. Mark Ascemo, Dept. of Entomology; Dr. Nancy Ehlke, Dept. of

Agronomy and Plant Genetics; Robert Mugaas, MES; Brad Pedersen and Dr. Don White, Dept. of Horticultural Science; Dr. Carl Rosen, Dept. of Soil Science, and Dr. Ward Stienstra, Department of Plant Pathology.

At this writing the MTGF Board is completing the house-keeping chores involved with registration and tax-exempt status. A complete allied association membership roster is also being compiled. Additional goals under discussion for 1994 include a joint MPSA/MTGF-sponsored Summer Turf Expo, and a joint MGCSA/MTGF-sponsored Winter Conference and Trade Show.

The MTGF Board of Directors is excited about the possibilities associated with the establishment of the MTGF, not only for turf, but for the entire Minnesota green industry.

## Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association

As indicated by its official participation in the MTGF, the *Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association (MSTMA)*, is also, just recently, an official association. The MSTMA Constitution has been completed and officers elected: Tom Rudberg, University of St. Thomas, President; Mike McDonald, Bierman Field, University of Minnesota, Vice President, and Brian Deyak, St. Cloud Sports Center, Secretary/Treasurer. The MSTMA is also planning its first event for 1994.

Questions or comments regarding these new initiatives or other turf and landscape-related activities at the University of Minnesota can be directed to Brad Pedersen, Turfgrass Specialist, Department of Horticultural Science.

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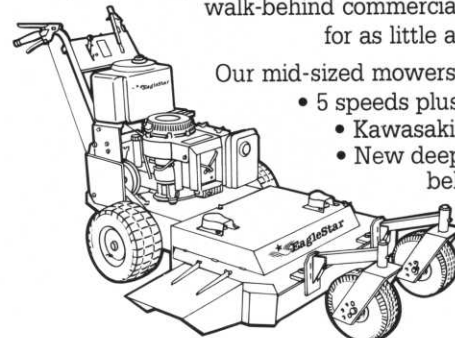
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