

7th Annual MTGF Conference & Trade Show Set December 6, 7, 8 in Minneapolis

By **LARRY VETTER**
MTGF Executive Director

The 7th Annual Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation Conference & Trade Show will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center December 6-8, 2000. Attendees, exhibitors and educators representing most segments of the Green Industry will be participating, including golf courses, schools, parks, arborists, cemeteries, sod growers and sports turf areas.

The educational sessions include presentations by a number of researchers and educators from across the country. University personnel from Minnesota, South Dakota State, Iowa State, Georgia, Ohio State, Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Nebraska will be present sharing the latest information and research data. Topics will include selection, establishment, renovation and maintenance of turf areas, flowers, trees, shrubs and other plant materials. Weed, insect, disease and other problems affecting various plant materials will be discussed. Additional topics in the areas of personnel and budget management, hard surfaces, environmental considerations, weather and safety are also included in the program.

Again this year, the MTGF Conference offers professionals in various fields the opportunity to attend pesticide recertification training sponsored in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. This portion of the Conference begins with registration at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 7th and runs throughout much of the day. A special session, "Phosphorus in the Urban Environment" will be presented from 10:00 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. on Friday, December 8th. This is a very timely topic as legislation is being considered that will certainly impact the use of phosphorus fertilizers throughout our industry.

This year's Conference will offer hands-on diagnostic opportunities for managers and their key personnel. An introductory turfgrass management session for staff technicians will be presented on Thursday from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. A three-hour session Thursday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:30 will be presented featuring topics that mechanics will find both informative and enjoyable. Also Friday afternoon there will be a two-hour presentation on Spanish Culture from 1:30 to 3:30. Dr. Jon Powell's Turf Diagnostic Workshop will again be held from 1:30 to 3:30 on Friday. A special opportunity for networking and relaxation will be the All Industry Reception held again this year on the Trade Show Floor from 4:30 to 6:30 on Wednesday evening.

A wide range of products and services supporting many of the topics covered in the educational portion of the conference will be on display. Trade Show hours will be from 11:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday and from 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Thursday. Please support our vendors who are exhibiting at this year's conference. This event could not take place without their generous support.

Advance registration is now available. Registration at the door begins at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 6th and continues throughout the three days of the conference. For more information, please contact the MGCSA office at (952) 473-0557.



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