

# Editor's Corner

By Steve Shumansky  
Perham Lakeside Country Club



## THE FEELING OF AUTUMN IS IN THE AIR....

As I write this I can't help but think the 2000 season is coming to a close.

All of our summer staff members have returned back to school, our club championships are history, and the thought of preparing for winter is just around the corner. Scheduling the air compressor for our blow-out of the irrigation system is in mind as well as ordering our fall chemicals. If you haven't already done so, it's a simple thing to think about, go around and check all your isolation valves for your irrigation system to make sure they are all open. Trust me, it isn't fun to dig up 20+ feet in the spring just because you thought they were all open, and also check sprinkler heads that might have been manually turned off and forgotten. Buy your mothballs to throw into your satellites to keep the mice out. Soon many of our trees on our courses will all look like a painting hanging in a museum

only to last for such a short time and litter our courses. But even as short as it may last, the beauty of the fall color is well worth the mess it leaves for us to clean up. (Well, some of them are pretty).

Some of the nicest things about this time of year are, the days of heat stress are over for the year, the nasty thunderstorms that pop up out of nowhere are gone and the days are a lot shorter.

## ALWAYS BE PREPARED!!

For all of us, recordkeeping and paper work has become a daily thing. But the day the Minnesota Department of Agriculture shows up for an inspection always keeps us on our toes. In mid-August the MDA came to my course for a routine pesticide check up. Make sure your records are up to date, your storage area is kept locked, your air gap or back flow is in place, and make sure your local fire department is aware of what types of chemicals you're using and supply them with a site map of where you store them. The MDA is not our enemy, they are there to enforce state laws and help us keep safe in doing so. It's easy to think, I'll fill out my application sheet later, then over look it. The easiest thing I've been doing for years, is filling them out before you actually apply anything. That way when you're finished, all you have to do is put down the amount used and sign off on it. There are many more items I didn't list that we must do to keep in compliance, but it is up to you to keep abreast of our laws.

With that I'll close. I hope your fall is a good one and a healthy one as well. See ya next month.

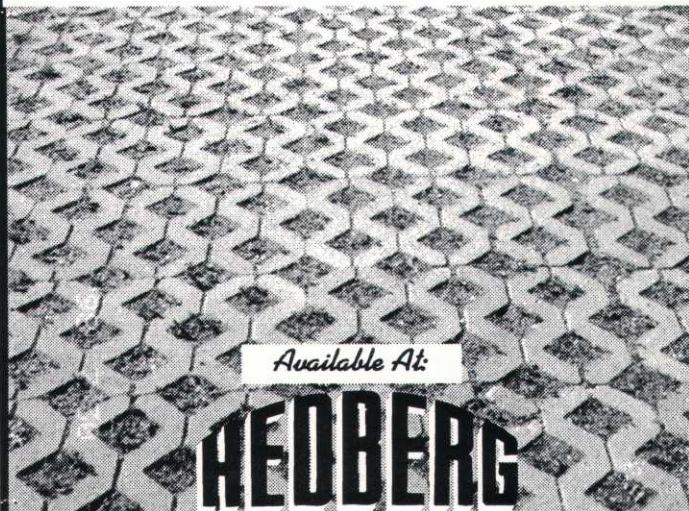
--Steve Shumansky  
Editor

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