

# TROE CENTER UPDATE

By Dr. Brian Horgan  
*University of Minnesota*

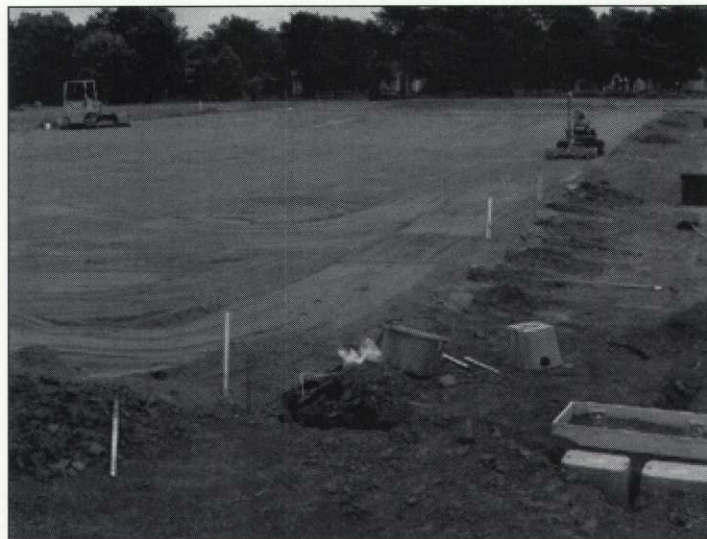
We didn't waste any time following the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Turfgrass Research, Outreach and Education Center on the St. Paul Campus.

**EXCAVATION:** On July 25, the College of Agriculture Food and Environmental Sciences had a formal ground breaking ceremony for the TROE Center held in conjunction with the most successful Turf Field Day to date. Immediately following the ceremony, the Hartman Company began excavating the soil for the USGA specification green designed by Jeff McDowell of Bonestroo and Associates. By August 1, 2002, the Hartman Company had installed the drainage tile, donated by Prinsco, and filled in the cavity with 4 inches of pea-gravel donated by Plaisted Companies.

**IRRIGATION:** Irrigation design and all irrigation parts for the green were provided by MTI and The Toro Company. From August 7 through August 13, the irrigation was installed by Premier Irrigation and staff from the University of Minnesota Turf Program. The irrigation design, as seen in the photo, may seem as a bit of overkill. However, the focal point of the irrigation system is individual control of 10 by 10 foot areas in a 2500 square foot portion of the green. These micro-irrigation plots will enable researchers at the U to use water rates as a treatment in the experimental design. In addition, scientists from the United States Department of Agriculture donated 8 lysimeters that were installed in the green within the micro-irrigation plots. In short, the combination of the micro-irrigation plots and the lysimeters will be used to measure the amount of water necessary to leach nutrients and pesticides through the USGA green.

**TOP-MIX:** Following the installation of the irrigation system, on August 15 and 16, the top-mix, which was donated by the Plaisted Companies, was delivered. Again, the Hartman Company moved the top-mix and leveled the surface to a specified 1.5% slope. Seeding as to be completed by August 31 with seed and fertilizer donated by Simplot Partners.

**THANK YOU FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA:** All of companies mentioned in this brief update on



the TROE Center and the dozens of others that made this possible deserve a sincere thank you. For all of you that participated in the "Drive for the U" program, thank you. For all of the members of the MGCSA research committee that donated their time and energy in helping make the green a reality, thank you. The University of Minnesota appreciates all of your support and efforts and I personally look forward working with you in the future. **STAY TUNED.....**

## TROE Center Green Construction Vendor Participants

**DRAIN TILE**  
Prinsco Pipe

**SITE DESIGN**  
Jeff McDowell, Bonestroo Assoc.

**EXCAVATION & DRAINAGE**  
Hartman Co.

**IRRIGATION SUPPLIES**  
MTI Distributing, Inc. & The Toro Company

**IRRIGATION INSTALLATION**  
Premier Irrigation

**DRAINAGE ROCKS & TOP MIX**  
Plaisted Companies

**SEED FERTILIZATION**  
Simplot Partners

**LYSIMETERS**  
USDA

