

# *Insight*

## *One Turf Professional's Perspective*

### *Dr. Brian Horgan*

*University of Minnesota*

#### *Course and Statistics*

University of Minnesota TROE Center in St. Paul. I oversee 21 acres of turf used primarily for research.

#### *Years in the Business*

I have been in the turfgrass industry for 15 years. I started work at Montgomery Country Club in Olney, MD. Then worked at Faulkwood Shores Golf Course in Howell, MI. Interned at Old Baldy Club in Saratoga, WY. Shifted focus in the turf industry to research at Michigan State University, North Carolina State University and the University of Illinois.

#### *Why and/or How Did You Enter The Turf Management Industry?*

Love of outdoors. Love of answering questions.

#### *Who Was Your Professional Mentor and Why?*

Mike Sullivan. Mike was the first Superintendent that I worked for who took time to explain the "why" and also the benefits of turf to our environment

#### *What Has Been the Highest Point in Your Career?*

Getting a faculty position at a Big Ten university.

#### *What Has Been Your Lowest Point?*

In the midst of building a newly defined turf science program at the University of Minnesota, having one faculty member retire and one resign, leaving me doing the job of three.

#### *Are Your Greatest Challenges Political, Agronomic or Managerial?*

Political. The University is a great place to work if you are familiar with the politics involved.

#### *Is It Hard to Find Good Help in Your Area of the State?*

Yes, especially people with experience that we can keep longer than a growing season.



*Dr. Brian Horgan*  
*University of Minnesota*

#### *Where Will Our Industry Be in Ten Years?*

Using more technology to make our jobs easier; like autonomous mowers, smart irrigation systems, precision and site specific inputs and genetically modified turf.

#### *Where Would You Like To Be in Ten Years?*

Here at the U, tenured.

#### *What Is Your Perspective of Our State Association and What Would You Change?*

It seems as if the association has a group of 75 people that participate in association sponsored events. Those 75 people are great to work with but we often lose site that this is a small percentage of the membership and should actively recruit member participation.

#### *Name Your Foursome, Who Would You Play With and Why?*

James Watson (great story teller), Jack Nicklaus (arguably the best golfer ever), Paul Horgan (father and good friend).



**Without you, who knows where we'd be.**

Thanks for placing our products where they belong. On your golf course. 1-888-893-2433

