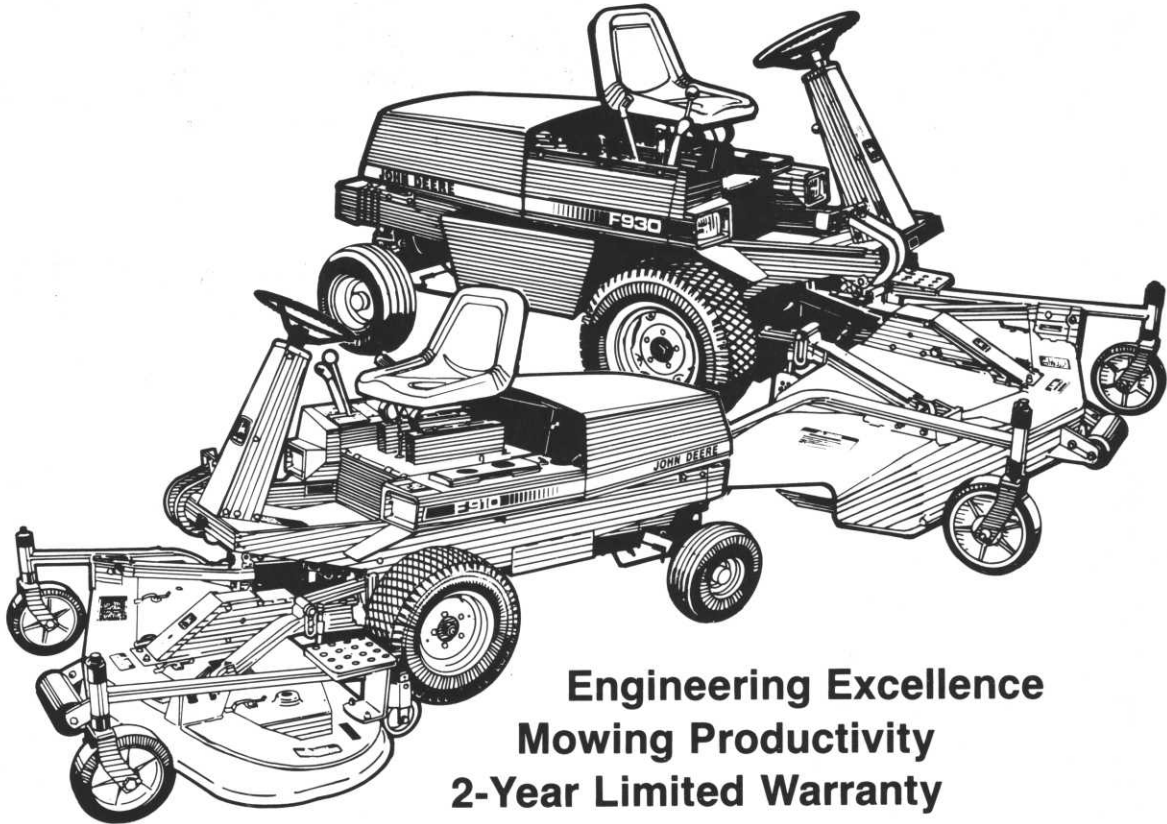


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FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S
DESK
DOUG MAHAL

Have you had that sinking feeling that 1987 may be a tough year to grow turf? You've been working your hardest and just don't seem to be catching up, right? Well, you're not alone. The phenomenon has been quite familiar this spring. If your turf is still alive, you've definitely been well tested. Thankfully, June is here and our staffs are once again full. Schedule a break for yourself by either getting out to play the game or spending time at the lake, pool or on a picnic with the family. It's much too early to be burning out!

Our May superintendent meeting at Somerset C.C. was certainly enjoyable. Strong wrists proved to be very helpful while attempting shots from the rough. But what a treat to play such a unique club. Thanks, Murph!

Plans are being formulated for a MGCSA Research Tournament to be held in early October. For this inaugural season, we'll be asking 20 clubs from the Twin Cities Metro area to donate 4 tee times in order to not put the play burden on any one club. If we can obtain 4 tee times from 20 clubs, the event could involve 320 players. An awards dinner would follow at some central location for all the participants. Keep your eyes open for further developments on this handicap event.

I've seen an unusual amount of shrub damage due to the strange winter experienced in Minnesota in 86-87. Never plantings were the most seriously affected, most of which will require replacement. Just another job in an already busy season.

Let's hope for a better June! See you at Tartan Park.

THE AVTI SYSTEM

by RICHARD ROBINSON
ANOKA VTI
HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSON

As an educator and businessman, I would like to share two related thoughts with you. The first is an update on the future of the vocational technical education system. The second involves those qualities that make our program at Anoka VTI successful.

Many of you are concerned with the future of the vocational technical system and the AVTI system in particular. During the last couple of years, the State of Minnesota has been exploring different options for the AVTI system. These options are being considered due to two major factors: fewer high school students graduating each year and the growing cost of operating the AVTI system. The State will have 50,000 fewer graduates this year compared to 1976 and we haven't even reached the bottom of the graph yet. The cost of operating the AVTI system is in direct correlation to the student population. AVTI's are funded by the State of Minnesota and as you know the State has been watching its operating budget very carefully.

At this time no one can predict what changes will be made, if any. Currently before the House is a bill proposing that the AVTI and Community Colleges merge together forming one system. One can only speculate what the negative and positive effects of such a merger would be. One of the foundations the AVTI system was built on is "hands on training". Colleges generally concentrate on theoretical aspects of education.

With the declining numbers of high school graduates and the ebbing of the green survival period, we find that it is now a major concern of ours to keep our student population at a State mandated level. We are operating with 50-60% of the 1970 level of student enrollment. Anoka VTI shares this declining enrollment problem with other educational facilities throughout the state. Some AVTI's have been forced to close down their Horticulture Departments as a result.

Our student ratio has been maintained in large part through your continued support. A group that has been a great help is our Advisory Board. The Advisory Board is made up of industry people like yourself who are willing to meet with us once or twice a year and give us input on the direction and focus of our program. Discussions concerning curriculum, program recruitment, potential employment, industry trends and much more are part of the guidance that the Advisory Committee extends to the program. In addition, many of our industry friends donate equipment and supplies to the program, assuring training on up-to-date equipment. No one advisor or Anoka VTI staff person has all the answers. However, by combining new ideas with tried and true practices, we have continued to provide quality education.

Along with the Advisory Committee, we have the MGCSA membership who provide us with a multitude of help. In particular, they are employers who provide our students with "on the job training". They also offer seminars, class trips, and guest speakers. Our program is enriched by industry suppliers and vendors who lend equipment, furnish product samples and provide product literature.

We are deeply indebted to all the individuals and businesses that have helped us maintain our high level of training. With positive legislation and your ongoing support, we look forward to the continued success of the Anoka VTI Horticulture Program.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

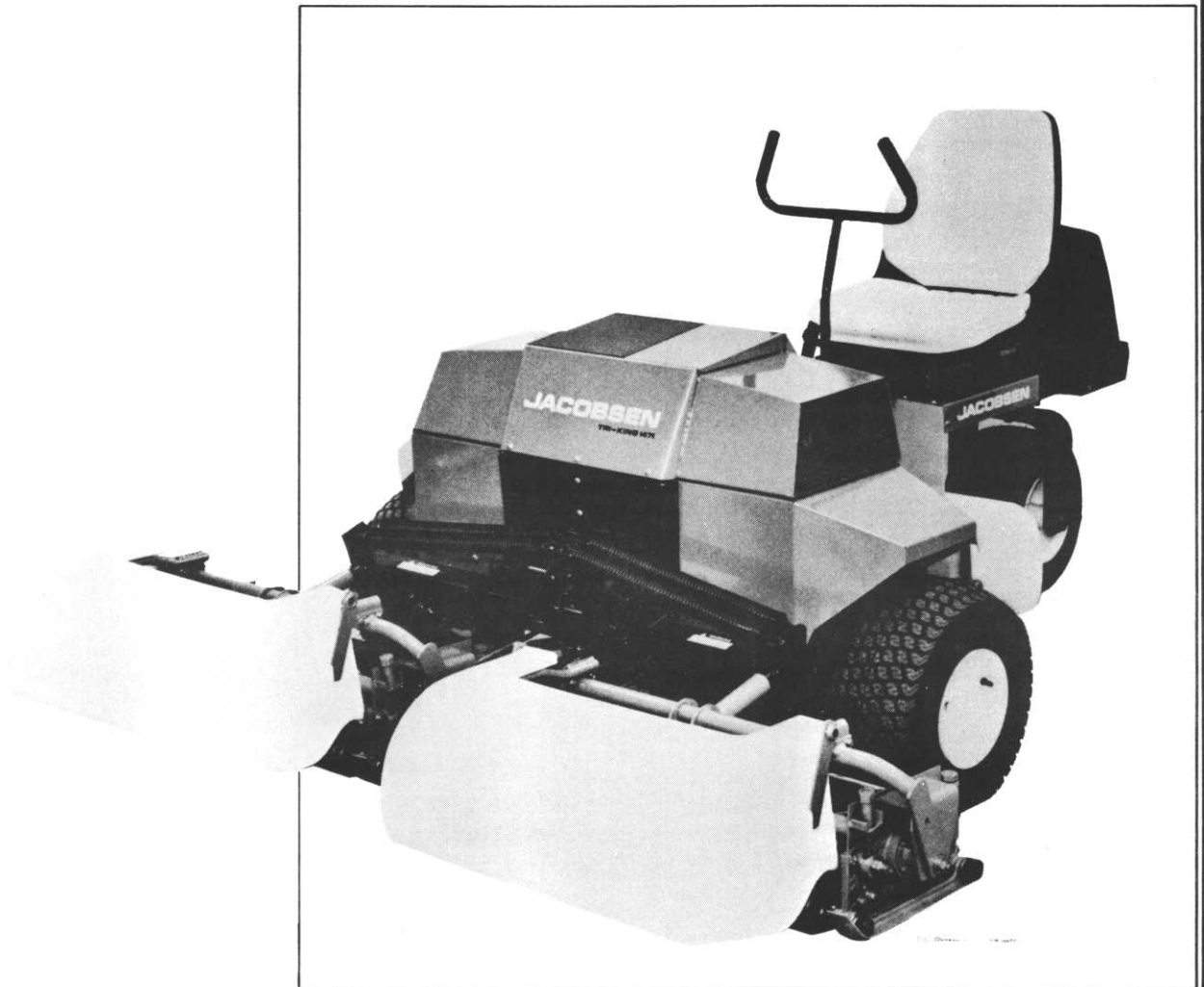
During the busy season for applicators, it's easy to pay less attention to safety. Here are a few reminders for safer cleansing/disposal of contaminated clothes:

DISPOSE of clothing that has been spilled on in a sanitary landfill. It is not safe to burn them and rinsing will not get out all the residue.

PRE-RINSING clothing worn while applying chemicals will help decontaminate it, but make sure to rinse twice in a separate tub and dispose of the water in the sewer

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system or spray clothing with a hose while it is hanging on a clothesline. Be sure to keep well away from areas used by children or pets.

WASH CLOTHING IMMEDIATELY after work day is over. Other safety equipment such as goggles, gloves boots and aprons should also be rinsed with hot water after EACH application. ALWAYS wash your hands thoroughly after each application.

USE A FULL WATER LEVEL for each two items of clothing being laundered. This lessens the chance that chemicals will re-deposit on clothing during washing.

IT IS A MYTH that bleach or ammonia will reduce chemical contamination of clothing. Use heavy-duty liquid detergent on clothes with emulsifiable concentrate chemicals and granular detergents on water soluble chemicals.

DON'T MIX clothing contaminated with different chemicals when laundering. Don't wash clothes that have not been exposed to chemicals with those that have.

IF YOU USE A MASK, change the cartridge and wash the mask in hot water after each application.

KEEP CHILDREN AWAY from all areas where chemicals are stored and/or have been recently applied. Make sure all chemicals are stored properly.

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Recently we accepted the application of Steve Schumacher and added yet another Class A member to our ranks. We are obviously pleased that this individual has made a commitment to professional growth through membership in GCSAA.

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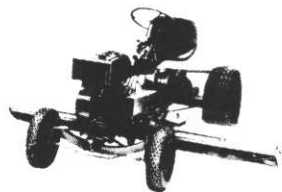
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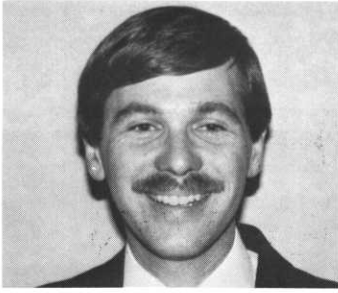
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EDITOR'S CORNER

TOM FISCHER

If you were unable to attend the April meeting last month you missed a dandy. Somerset Country Club was in excellent condition from tee to green. Even the three inch rough was mowed for our enjoyment. We would like to thank Gerry Murphy and his staff for the fine dinner and use of the golf course and clubhouse.

This year's fishing opener had a gamut of reports. If you were angling in the southern areas, it felt like July with a high temperature of 93, while in the north the temperatures were similar to many fishing openers, cool in the 50's and 60's. As in most openers it just had to rain to make the weekend complete. The

fishing reports were varied similar to that of the weather with one group reporting a catch of seven walleye while another group was reeling in northern. Good luck to the anglers for the remaining season.

Congratulations go to Keith Scott who was appointed to serve on the USGA Greens Section Committee and also to serve as a Minnesota Golf Association Director.

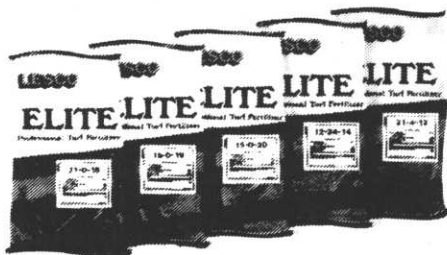
The Association feels our dress code is very important to the image of our Association. Therefore, I am reminding you that at our evening meetings a suit coat or sport coat is required for dinner.

PLANT HELP FROM U of M

by MS. JILL D. POKORNY
DIRECTOR, PLANT DISEASE CLINIC

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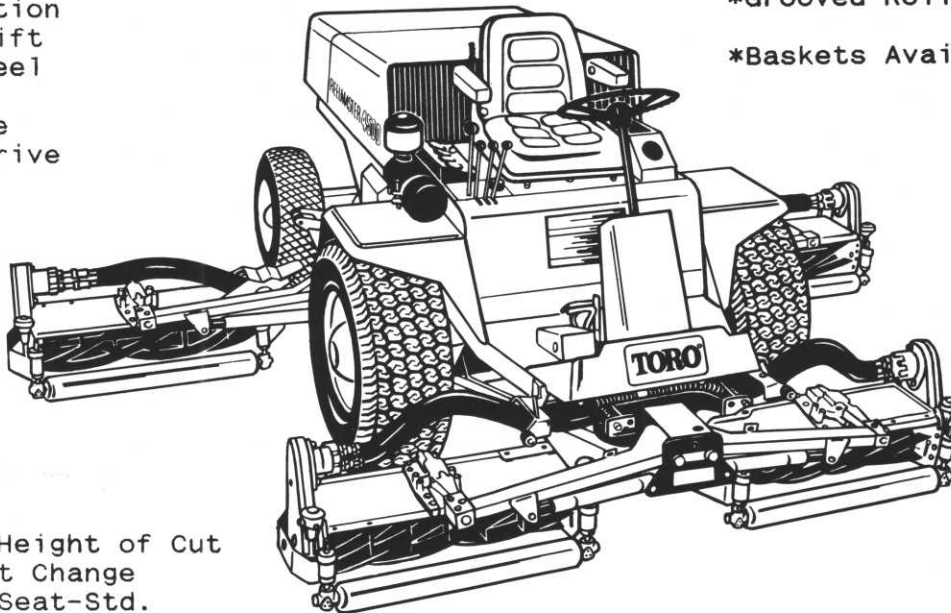
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The Plant Disease Clinic is equipped with modern, state-of-the-art, expertise and facilities for the diagnosis of most turfgrass disease problems occurring on Minnesota turf areas. A suitable sample to submit would be a 4 inch x 4 inch core of turf taken from the margin of the problem area. A 4 inch core taken with a cup cutter would also be an acceptable sample. If you need to store samples for a day or two after collecting, place them in a refrigerator (not a deep freeze) until you're ready to submit the sample. Samples should be mailed the fastest way possible or may be brought directly to the Clinic. Provide as much background information as possible concerning species and cultivar of grass affected, weather conditions, description and pattern of damage, cultural conditions, chemicals applied, and any other relevant facts. A photograph of the damaged area might also be useful. Forms for submission of samples may be obtained from your county extension office or from the Clinic directly. There is a \$15.00 fee per sample, payable to the University of Minnesota, to help defray the cost of personnel, supplies and equipment required for analysis. Samples and information should be submitted to:

Plant Disease Clinic
495 Borlaug Hall, 1991 Buford Circle
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108 (612)625-1275

Last season, with a grant from the Golfcourse Superintendents' Association, the Plant Disease Clinic worked

cooperatively with Dr. Ward Stienstra and Dr. Phil Larsen to survey the occurrence of "Patch Disease Syndrome" in Minnesota, and isolate and identify associated fungal pathogens. Through this study, *Leptosphaeria korrae* (necrotic ringspot disease) was positively identified for the first time on turfgrass in Minnesota. Although a positive identification of *Leptosphaeria korrae* requires four months of greenhouse testing and is not a practical diagnostic procedure, a tentative identification can be made in 7-10 days. The tentative identification is based on the presence of dark runner hyphae on host tissue, and macroscopic characteristics of the fungus in culture.

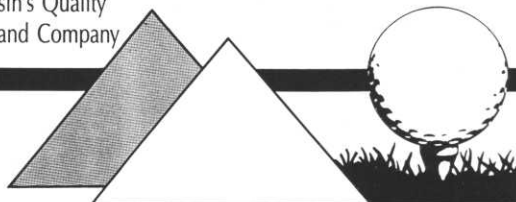
We invite golf course superintendents to visit the Plant Disease Clinic and the Department of Plant Pathology to discuss and observe the services that are provided. Please call or write for our free Clinic brochure.

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