

Special Sessions

at the MTGF Conference in December

There will be several "Special Sessions" at this year's MTGF conference that will appeal to superintendents and key staff members. Building on last year's positive feedback, there will again be an Affiliate Workshop addressing "Back To the Basics -- Turf Management 101." This workshop features fundamental turf management issues such as fertilization, watering, mowing, etc. Key staff personnel will find this a great refresher course that will provide information that will enhance their value as staff members within the overall operation of the turf maintenance program. This workshop will be held on Thursday, December 7 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

The second "Special Session" will feature Dr. Jon Powell, Turfgrass Pathologist at the University of Minnesota, again conducting his hands-on "Turf Disease Diagnostics Lab." Seating is limited to the first 30 registrants for this session, so early registration is required. There is an additional charge for this session which must be included with the Conference registration. This workshop will be held on Friday, December 8 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

An exciting addition to this year's Conference is the 1st Annual Mechanic's Workshop. Here is an opportunity to involve one of THE key members of the staff for a three-hour session on Friday that is geared especially towards issues that relate to equipment maintenance. Two speakers will inform and entertain throughout the afternoon session. Robert Sokol, who is the Technical Editor for Intertec Publishing Company, will present two 50-minute sessions addressing key issues related to maintenance of equipment being used in today's turf maintenance programs. Mr. Sokol is an ASE triple certified Master Mechanic. He is an active member in the Service Technician Society and the Automotive Service Excellence organization. He has been a mechanic for over 25 years and will provide samples, books and magazines for handouts during his presentations. These presentations will be made on Friday, December 8 from 12:30-1:20 and 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Joining Mr. Sokol for the Mechanics Workshop will be Kevin Ross, CGCS, from the Country Club of the Rockies, presenting "Gadgets, Gizmos and Inventions" which is a presentation that he has made at the GCSAA Conference. Mr. Ross will feature ideas that he has encountered that can be made and/or modified to serve a variety of useful functions when it comes to grounds maintenance. Mr. Ross' presentation will be from 1:30-2:20 p.m. on Friday, December 8.

Another new feature at this year's conference will be

"Diverse Crews Working Together" which is a presentation made by Jennifer Thomas. Jennifer's seminar explains and predicts what happens when individuals who have grown up in contrasting cultures work with one another. She teaches management and laborers simple language and cultural bridges to reduce misunderstandings and increase production efficiency. In other words, "Communication = Productivity." Jennifer works with most segments of the Green Industry and has been featured at the GCSAA Conference. Her topic is extremely timely and important. Jennifer's presentation will be on Friday, December 8th from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The above "Special Sessions" complement the balance of the educational sessions throughout the three days of the MTGF Conference & Trade Show, December 6-8 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Look for your registration form in order to take advantage of a full three days of networking, education and camaraderie, or call the MGCSA office for more information.

Industry News

Par Aide's New Markers Help Track Contest Play

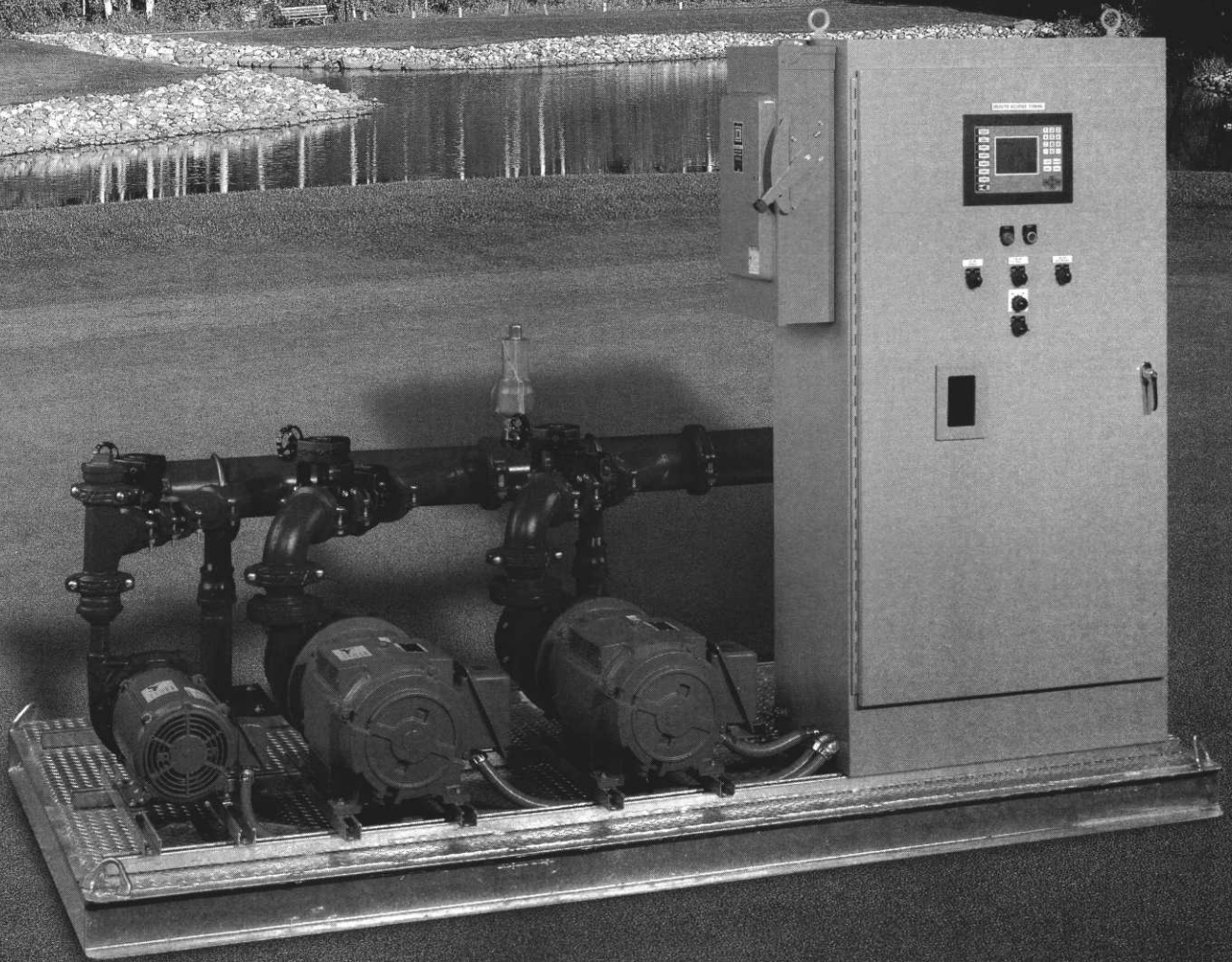
A leader in golf course accessories has introduced a pair of products for tracking contest players in a tournament. Par Aide's new Proximity Marker and Contest Indicator make it easy to facilitate contests like "Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive and Longest Putt."

The Contest Indicator stands at the tee announcing the contest for the hole while the Proximity Marker stands on the green or fairway marking the best shot. Both of these polycarbonate signs are sturdily built and virtually indestructible. The grease pen, included, will keep players' names legible even in wet conditions. The Contest Indicator and Proximity Marker can withstand rain, wind and hail. Both signs can also be customized with a course logo.

Par Aide Proximity Markers and Contest Indicators join the family of premium golf course accessories that Par Aide has been manufacturing for 45 years. For more information on these products, call 1-888-893-2433.

HYDROLogic™

Water Management Systems



**Plymouth, MN • Eagan, MN • Maplewood, MN • St. Cloud, MN
• Sioux Falls, SD • Rapid City, SD • Des Moines, IA**

1-800-422-1487

Mowing at the Speed of Light

New Future Tech Mower Unveiled at Trade Fair in Cologne, Germany

It had to happen. For years, people have predicted that someone would find a way to use lasers to cut the grass. One major obstacle was the development of a power supply small enough to be part of a mower.

Now, a German company says it has developed a lawnmower that eliminates the blades and slices grass by laser, chopping it into a fine mulch. They say maintenance should be limited to wiping off the laser 'eye' after each mowing session.

Wolf, a maker of traditional lawnmowers, developed the new mower on the chassis of a Mercedes Smart cabriolet, a two-seat convertible. The unit is apparently powerful enough to be registered for road use, and would cost \$30,000.

The cost is expected to go down in future production models. "It's a bit like color TVs when they first came out," said Juergen Goos, designer of the mower, which has leather seats, Internet access and a computer to control the



Photo courtesy of WOLF Garten GmbH, Betzdorf, Germany

laser beams.

The company unveiled the Zero mower at a gardening and recreation fair in Cologne, Germany. If there's enough interest by dealers, it will go into production for the year 2002.

QUALITY SUPPLIER OF TURF

- **Washed** and Regular Turf (Sod) in 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ yd. or up to 55 yd. Big Roll Size (42" Wide)

TURF TYPES:

- ELITE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS BLEND
- SPORTS TURF
BLUEGRASS/P. RYEGRASS BLEND
BENTGRASS



MEMBER

NCTGA	MGCSA
MSTMA	WTA
SDGSA	ISTMA
MTGF	TPI

8651 Naples St. N.E.
Blaine, MN 55449

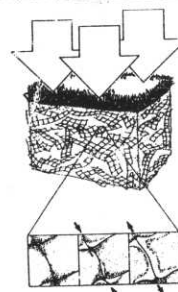
QUALITY CONSTRUCTION & RECONSTRUCTION

- *Golf Courses*
- *Sports Fields*



NETLON® ADVANCED TURF SYSTEMS

Self-Cultivating means healthier turf and better drainage.



NETLON® MESH ELEMENTS AND MIXES

For Compaction Resistance on cart paths, sports fields and other high use areas.

For Quality Construction & Nelton® Products Contact:
(612) 784-0657 • FAX: (612) 784-6001

For Quality Turf Contact:
(612) 674-7937 • FAX: (612) 674-7044

A NEW BEGINNING...

Simplot *Acquires*  *from ECO Soil System*

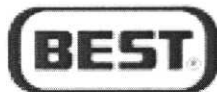
Our New Name is:



Our Mission Statement

To Provide the Highest Quality Products and Services to our Customers

Added to our product line is:



Simplot Partners / Local Illinois Office

525 N. Enterprise Street • Aurora, IL 60504 • Office: (630) 499-1966 • Fax: (630) 499-1971

Tee Construction With Laser Technology

By PATRICK M. O'BRIEN

Director, Southeastern Region, USGA Green Section

Constructing level tees is a big challenge for golf course builders and golf superintendents. Traditional grading techniques many times result in surface irregularities. A new laser grading technology, however, is a faster and more efficient method for tee construction today.

The Seminole Golf Club, in Florida, recently rebuilt its tees using the new laser tee-grading operation. The essential equipment includes a tractor, a landscape boxblade, and the laser apparatus. A laser emitter is stationed adjacent to the tee and is programmed for the amount of slope associated with the nearby terrain. The laser emitter rotates and sends a signal to a receiver mounted on the lever arm of the landscape blade. The receiver relays this signal to the control box on the boxblade itself. The control box connects to the hydraulic lift, which commands the rise and fall of the boxblade based on the laser beam signal to the receiver. A manual override also exists, which allows the tractor operator to make soil adjustments, if necessary.

"A golf superintendent can spend two to three days leveling a tee with a transit, and I'll take a laser-guided boxblade over that tee and discover inaccuracies with just one pass," says Hal Hicks, Seminole's golf superintendent. The boxblade produces a flawless surface as long as the rootzone mixture is free of debris and old roots.

The laser method is also faster than using a transit, according to Superintendent Hicks. All tees on a golf course are easily constructed in 7 to 10 days with the laser grader method, compared to 40 to 50 days with other methods. Golf course renovator Ed Connor, who uses this technology, did the Seminole project.

For smaller tees, a modification of this laser technology is possible. The Honors Club, in Tennessee, didn't have enough room for the tractor and box-blade to operate on their smaller pod-type tees. Instead, a method similar to laying a concrete foundation was selected by golf superintendent David Stone. However, the laser emitter, rather than a transit, determined all perimeter stake elevations. A unique wooden border, set one inch above the grade with a laser emitter, allowed for accurate placement of the rootzone mixture over the subsurface. Once the new rootzone was compacted through vibration with a concrete finisher, a flat board was pulled across the foundation border for final grading.

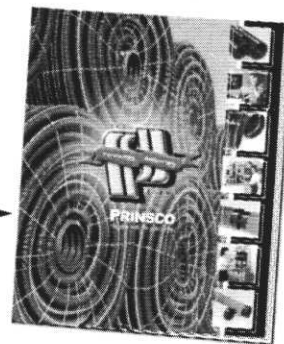
The new laser tee-grading operation has helped these two golf courses. For new golf courses or older tees that have become unlevel,

consider using this technology for the most level tees ever at your golf course.

(Editor's Note: This article was reprinted with permission from the USGA Green Section Record. 1991 March/April Vol 29(2): 28-29).

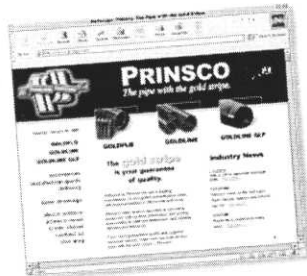
Two ways to check out the new and improved Prinsco...

Call



Call for a free catalog at
(800) 992-1725, or
see the distributor nearest you

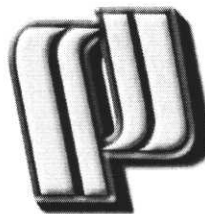
or



Visit our new website at
www.prinsco.com

Click

**MN Corporate
Headquarters
(800) 992-1725**



Website & online
catalog:
www.prinsco.com

PRINSCO
The pipe with the gold stripe.

NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL UPDATE

BY: R.A. (BOB) BRAME AND BOB VAVREK

North Central Region, USGA

The last week of August produced some of the hottest temperatures experienced this summer. Clearly, it has been a mild year, and as you would expect, there are no major agronomic issues. The single greatest concern and the most frequently discussed topic is labor. Following close behind under the agronomic topics is dollar spot disease.

Dollar Spot Disease: Leaf wetness is an issue that needs to be considered when battling dollar spot disease. On many visits it has become apparent that dollar spot disease activity is distinctly worse on those surfaces that are mowed last. Not surprising, leaf surfaces that stay wet longer does elevate disease activity. More and more golf courses are going back to dragging dew as an IPM strategy that does make a difference. As a side note, a 5/16-inch link chain tends to work better for dragging than rope, cable, or hose.

Labor Issues: There continues to be no easy answer for the labor crunch that most golf courses are experiencing. Even though we have entered late summer/early fall, the issue continues to compromise maintenance work as needs like aerification become a priority. A competitive starting wage, golf privileges, meals and even other benefits thrown in do not always draw dependable employees. Unfortunately, in many cases it seems to be a desire to avoid hard work. It does paint a scary picture for the future.

Roughs: A common topic this summer continues to be roughs. Most golf courses are maintaining a weekly cycle with rough mowing and very often a twice a week schedule is being pursued. Thicker, more aggressively growing rough does tend to bring out the whiners. Some have forgotten that rough means "not easy" and the purpose is to reward a ball hit on the fairway. If in fact complaints about the rough are the number one issue this season, then it has been a good season.

Hopefully, aerification work is on the calendar or already in the process of being completed. Next year may not be quite so gentle, and what is done over the upcoming fall season will have a big impact on the product presented next

summer. Thus, do not get bogged down with renovation projects at the expense of needed maintenance work like aerification. -- *Bob Brame*

As I head back to the office following a week of visits, the weather forecast is calling for scattered frost in the morning. Clearly, the 2000 season is coming to an end. Generally speaking, it has not been a difficult year, but I'd stop short of saying it was an easy year. Although Mother Nature did not combine the wet weather with high temperatures, wet conditions alone have caused some compromise to turf quality and playability. Drainage issues have certainly been exposed and they should be placed high on the priority list. Drainage and efficient irrigation coverage are always investments worth making. Now is the time to make the investment if such needs exist.

Dollar spot disease intensity has subsided and gray leaf spot is at least on hold. There have been numerous sightings of grub damage both where insecticides have been applied and where none was used. The wet weather has caused more acreage to be vulnerable to grub damage. In most cases there would still be value in spot treating, as every grub killed now will be one less to deal with next year - but hurry, they will be going down soon.

Fall is a good time to identify trees for removal. Don't mark the trees; simply take notes of where tree removal needs to be pursued for better turf quality and playability next year. Actually, the earlier tree thinning/removal can be accomplished this fall the better. If now isn't possible then winter is certainly better than not doing it at all. Often the quiet of winter can help soften the emotions/politics.

A visit during the last week of September revealed the legitimate need for a golf course to utilize preferred lies. They had the worst earthworm infestation imaginable and the resulting smears of castings were yielding very poor turf quality and playability. We all know that there is no product labeled for earthworm control, as they offer many positive benefits. Yet, I had a hard time trying to convince the Committee that the smeared castings spread uniformly across every fairway on the course was in fact positive. Actually, I didn't try, and the final resolve was preferred lies. You see some strange things traveling for the USGA, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

It won't be long before the snow flies, so in the meantime build a solid foundation for next year's battle. As always, make sure your family is given the highest priority slot along the way. -- *Bob Vavrek*



Mel Strand, CEO
35 years experience

**Double Eagle
Golf Construction**

*Redesign the Old
...Construct the New*

17715 Jefferson St. NE - Ham Lake, MN 55304 (612) 434-0054

How

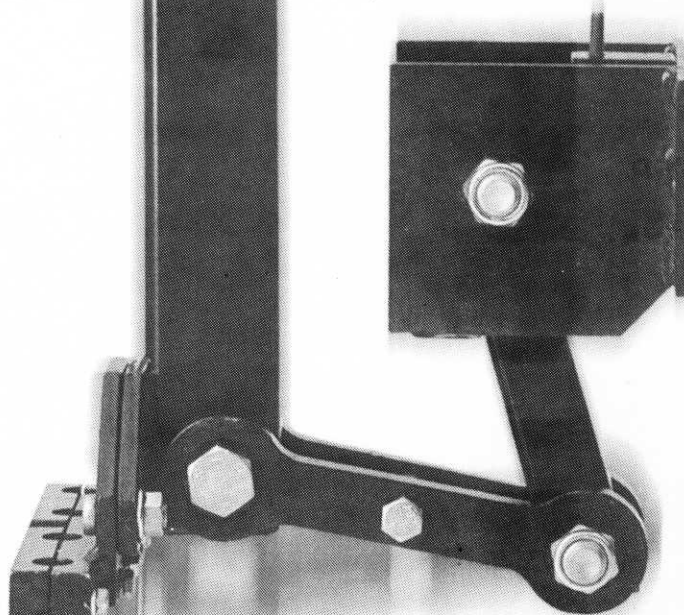
to make the perfect core

900,000 times an hour.



Whoever said consistency is boring never aerated a green. With the John Deere line of Aercore[®] Aerators, we've taken aeration to a new level of quality and quantity.

A lot of the credit has to go to our unique "Flexi-Link" design. The Flexi-Link is attached to the rear of the tine leg and absorbs the forward motion of the aerator, allowing the tines to stay perpendicular while they are in the ground. As the tines come out of the ground, the Flexi-Link pushes the tine leg forward into position for the next downward stroke.



The result is a very consistent, round hole with minimum tearing on the hole top. This is accomplished by the speed at which the tine rams operate and the Flexi-Link design.



Whether it's the tractor-mounted 1500 and 1000, or the walk-behind 800, a John Deere Aercore Aerator will have you coring like never before. For more information, call us toll-free at 1-800-537-8233. www.deere.com



Nothing Runs Like A Deere[®]

GREENIMAGE

12040 POINT DOUGLAS DR. S.
HASTINGS, MN 55033

(651) 437-7747

(800) 950-4180

Official
Golf Course
Equipment
Supplier



Nothing Runs Like a Deere[®]

New Solution

2000 WINTER
MAINTENANCE
SPECIAL
AVAILABLE
SOON



GROUNDMASTER® 3500-D

Key Advantages

- Excellent cutting performance
- Sidewinder™ System slides decks 12" left or right of center
- 68" width of cut with optional 72"



GROUNDMASTER® 4000

Key Advantages

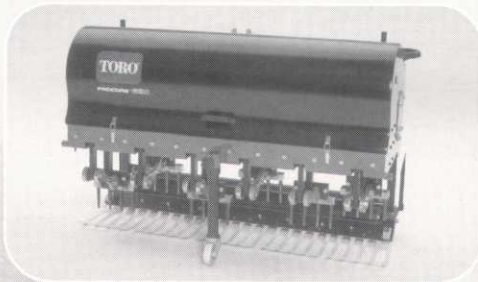
- Highly productive 11' rotary
- 4WD provides excellent footing in a variety of conditions
- Rear discharge decks provide even dispersion of clippings for clean after-cut appearance

PRODUCT
DEMONSTRATIONS
AVAILABLE

"No Pay 'till May" Financing Program

No payments or interest until May 1, 2001!
For more details contact your MTI sales team today.

EQUIPMENT
FINANCE
PROGRAMS



PROCORE™ AERATORS

Key Advantages

- 3 models – 40", 60" and 80" aeration widths
- Excellent hole quality due to exclusive Rotalink™ centering mechanism
- Tractor mounted, 3-point hitch design for increased maneuverability



WORKMAN® 1100/2100

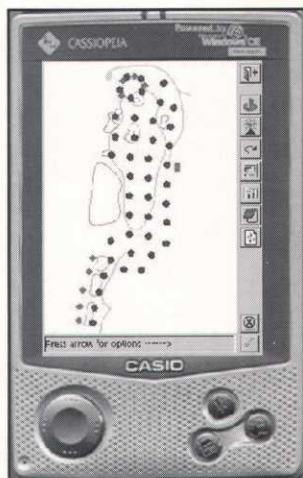
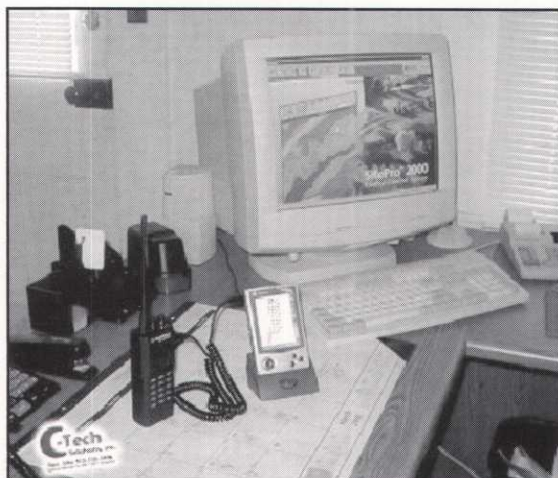
Mid-Duty 11 or 16 HP Utility Vehicle

- Unique Active In-Frame™ suspension creates extraordinary traction and ride
- Highest payload in class
- Dentless and corrosion resistant hood and bed

ns From MTI

PRISM

Pocket-PC Remote Irrigation System Manager



720 Series Sprinklers

The perfect solution for system renovations and upgrades.

Built for the tough requirements of the golf market, the 720 Series is the perfect complement to Toro's complete line of golf sprinklers. It gives you the precision coverage you need for tee boxes, approaches and other difficult-to-irrigate areas.

Contact Your MTI Sales Team Today

MTI

DISTRIBUTING, INC.

TORO

14900 21st Avenue North • Plymouth, MN 55447
763-475-2200 • 800-362-3665

4310 Main Avenue • Fargo, ND 58103
701-281-0775 • 800-782-1031

EQUIPMENT SERVICE

- Trouble Shooting
- Cutting Unit Rebuilding/Sharpening
- Electrical Diagnostics and Repair
- Hydraulic Diagnostics and Repair
- Engines – Motor Repair/Rebuilding
- Field Service

PLYMOUTH

Randy Mackeben, Ext. 229

FARGO

George Vogt

IRRIGATION SERVICE

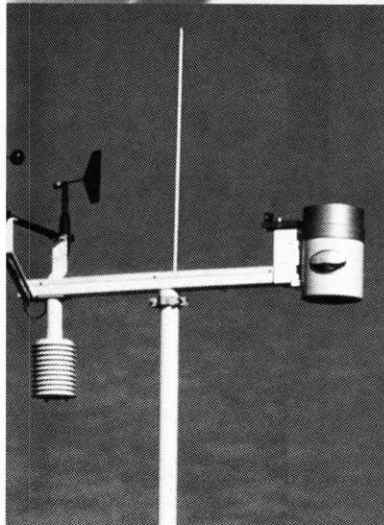
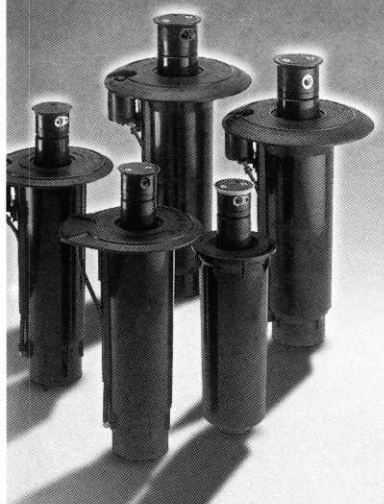
- Pump Station
- Trouble Shooting
- Refurbishing/Updating
- Solid State
- Electro/Mechanical
- Field Service

Call John Artus, Ext. 205

EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS IRRIGATION SERVICE

Call 763-475-2200, Ext. 167
or 1-800-362-3665, Ext. 167

(For service during regular business hours, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, call John Artus at the above numbers, but use ext. 205)



JOIN THE

RAIN  ***BIRD***®

Maxi Family

Contact

HYDROLogic™
Water Management Systems

9835 10th Avenue North
Plymouth, Minnesota 55441

Phone: 612.542.1188

Toll Free: 800.422.1487

Fax: 612.546.7515