

normal plant growth.

The aeration of the soil is also decreased by compaction. Continued traffic, particularly when the soil is excessively wet, causes the soil particles to move closer together. The water actually facilitates the process, acting as a lubricant for the movement of soil particles. When compaction occurs the larger pores

are compressed first. It is these larger pores that are important in the free transfer of gases in and out of the soil. Similarly the rapid movement of excess water from the soil is dependent on the larger pores.

Compaction also increases the physical force the root must exert to penetrate the soil. Experiments have shown, however, that if adequate

oxygen is provided the physical limitation is greatly reduced, indicating the first limitation to root growth in compacted soils is aeration.

Hence the understanding of the relationship between pore space, air and water is critical to the proper management of turf.

## OUR MEMBERS

### PROFILE OF G.C. DUKE EQUIPMENT LTD.

G.C. DUKE EQUIPMENT LTD. was incorporated in 1955 under the trade name of Duke Lawn Equipment. Prior to this incorporation, its founder and President, G.C. Duke, operated for several years as a proprietorship. In 1983, the company's name was changed to its present form. This change was necessitated as the company's name suggested that its business had to do with lawn equipment only when, in fact, the company has, over the years, greatly broadened its product range. The company's diverse range of products includes 750 h.p. airport snowblowers, 95' aerial devices, large municipal streetsweepers, large municipal-sized sewer cleaners, and, of course, a full range of lawn equipment.

The company is situated on a 5 acre site in Burlington where it maintains a large warehouse and parts facility which is backed up by its separate, modern service facility.

G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd.'s major market area is in the Province of Ontario where it markets its industrial products on a direct basis to golf courses, parks departments, municipalities, and Provincial and Federal Government Departments.

The company also has a group of dealer salesmen who market many of the company's products through lawn and garden, and farm equipment dealers throughout the province.

In 1982, the company formed Turfco Inc., a Quebec corporation, to duplicate all of the sales, service, and parts activities in the Province of Quebec. This company has been enormously successful in serving the equipment needs of its customers in "La Belle Province".

The Duke/Turfco organizations sell a wide range of grounds maintenance equipment. Included in these



equipment ranges are well-known manufacturers such as Athey, Mott, National, Kut-Kwick, Ryan, Cushman, Ransomes, Sweepster, Super Products and the Hi-Way Equipment Company.

The company is headed by its President and founder, G.C. Duke, who for many years has made it a policy to make sure that the company was actively involved in the associations of its various customer groups. A few of the organizations in which the company holds a membership are The Ontario Parks Association, The Nursery Sod Growers Association of Ontario, The Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association, The Alumni Association of the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture, Landscape Ontario, etc.

In 1963, G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. began offering two scholarships yearly to the University of Guelph. Similarly, in 1983, the company began offering two scholarships to the Niagara School of Horticulture. The company also sponsors an annual golf tournament for Assistant Golf Course Superintendents in the Province of Ontario.

For many years, the company has received "Best Distributor" and "Quota Buster" awards from many of its suppliers. All of the plaques of recognition from its various suppliers are proudly displayed in the company's showroom.