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emerald lawns inc.®

Lawn Watering Conservation and Management Newsletter



water levels are decreasing



Record heat index in 2005, drought in 2006, what awaits us in 2007?

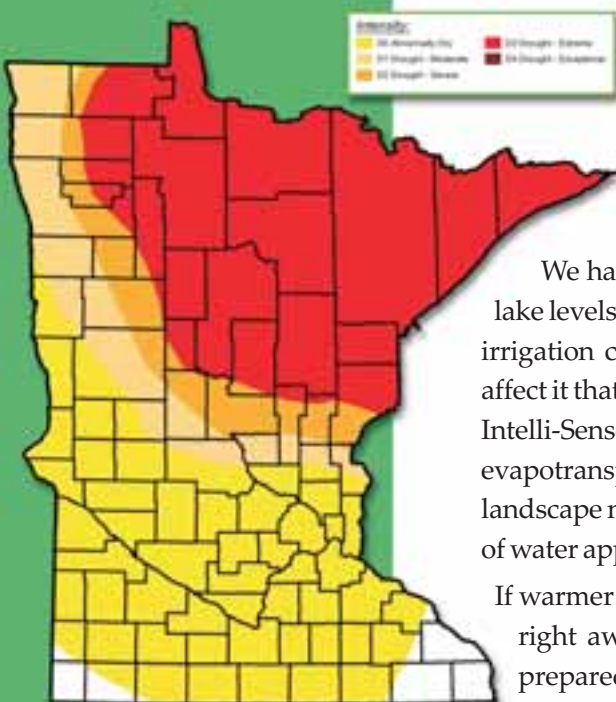
by Frank Soukup III

According to scientists at the NOAA National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., the prediction is for lower than normal precipitation from January to March and warmer than normal temperatures for that same period. NOAA also reported 2006 as the warmest year on record for the U.S. So what does that mean for us?

With the lake levels down, all lake systems will need to have their suction lines extended to prevent costly damage to the pump should it lose prime. In addition, if your dock has not been installed prior to our arrival, then we recommend waiting for the startup until after the docks are installed, so when we extend the suction line it will only have to be placed once.

We have been asked how much water does my system pump, is it affecting the lake levels? To answer this question, we could calculate how much water you use per irrigation cycle and average that across the entire season only to realize it doesn't affect it that much. If you are concerned, then we recommend the installation of a Toro Intelli-Sense controller with WeatherTRAK™ technology. Smart controllers with evapotranspiration (ET) data automatically adjust irrigation schedules based on landscape needs and local weather conditions. This controller will reduce the amount of water applied, thereby improving your landscape while reducing runoff pollution.

If warmer temperatures and less precipitation are a cause of concern for you, call us right away before your spring startup to make sure our technicians are better prepared to carry out your requests.



emerald lawns earns CIC and CID certifications

by Ron Soukup

Effective use of water has become a necessity in light of decreasing water sources and increasing population and agricultural demand. An increase in the number of irrigation systems installed has created a demand for trained irrigation technicians, and the irrigation industry has become highly sophisticated in both engineering and product use.

As a co-owner, I have been certified for a number of years as a Certified Irrigation Contractor (CIC) and last year Frank achieved his Certified Irrigation Designer (CID) qualification. These certifications are administered by the Irrigation Association (IA). The IA began its certification programs to help homeowners and businesses identify qualified and competent irrigation contractors and designers. Emerald Lawns takes pride in knowing knowledgeable technicians are working on your property and we've become experts in producing the finest designs available.

When you hire a professional certified by the IA, you are hiring someone who is experienced, trained and working to meet irrigation industry standards. Certified irrigation specialists must first have a certain level of experience and/or training. They must then pass a comprehensive exam covering general irrigation subjects as well as specialty areas and agree to follow a code of ethics. To maintain active certification, specialists must take continuing education classes. The following outlines the qualifications of each certification.



Frank Soukup Jr. discusses aspects of the design and installation with a valued client

Certified Irrigation Contractor

The Certified Irrigation Contractor (CIC) is an irrigation professional whose primary business is the execution of contracts or subcontracts to install repair and maintain irrigation systems. The CIC must meet the specifications and requirements of the project contract.

Certified Irrigation Designer

The Certified Irrigation Designer (CID) engages in the preparation of professional irrigation designs. The CID evaluates site conditions and determines net irrigation requirements based on the needs of the project. The designer is then responsible for the selection of the most effective irrigation equipment and design methods. The objective of a CID is to establish specifications and design drawings for the construction of an irrigation project.





another visit to the 2007 mn green expo

by Ron Soukup



At the beginning of 2007, the staff and management of Emerald Lawns spent the week at the Minnesota Green Expo. The MN Green Expo is a consortium of Associations in the

State of Minnesota that have ties to Minnesota's green industry and each year they stage a trade show for professionals in Minnesota. The Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association is the state's largest green industry trade association with more than 1,500 member businesses including garden centers; landscape contractors and designers; tree and flower growers; irrigation contractors; and lawn, tree, and garden services.



As a member of the Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association (MNLA), Emerald Lawns has been attending the educational sessions for attaining continuing education units, networking with fellow green industry professionals and locating new technologies and practices for our industry. As a result of our dedication to continuing education and implementation of water-efficient principles and practices we remain as one of the top Irrigation contracting companies in Minnesota.



© Minnesota Nursery & Landscaping Association

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the new website revealed

by Frank Soukup III

Our new website has been revealed. In it, you will find plenty of information our customers have requested over the years. Located at www.emeraldawns.com, the site has some unique additions to it that provide you a variety of insights about our company; from installations and design to service and products in a user-friendly interface.

have helped create for our happy customers.

In our *services* section, we illustrate the different aspects of our service offerings. From spring startup, fall winterizations to our Carefree Summer programs. In addition, you can find more information about our RPZ testing for those systems that require that device.



In our *installation* section, you will find irrigation displays of residential homes, lake cabins, commercial properties and athletic fields. We have been designing and installing systems since 1984 and this section of the site shows some of the visions we

In our *products* section, we identify some of the products that we sell and install on our systems. For those looking for upgrades, this is a great way to become more familiar with these products. For



those who already own systems, this is an opportunity to download manuals or receive technical instructions on your current products. Either way it's a great way to learn more about what you have and how to use it.

Our *contact* section offers information about us, our crews, and a means to contact us for answers to questions or concerns you may have, as well as driving instructions to our facilities.

emerald's tips -n- tricks



cleaning 570 screens

Toro's 570 Series are great sprinklers for covering 15' radiuses or less. One thing that can restrict the flow of water to the nozzle is a plugged screen.

By unscrewing the nozzle on the top of the sprinkler (assuming the water source is turned off) the white screen is easily located. Take the screen and run under water, shake or tap gently on hard surface to remove plugged debris otherwise try using an old toothbrush also works great.

Then simply replace, screw on nozzle and start the system back up to check. If you have reoccurring problems—contact us immediately to insure the problem isn't something worse.

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