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## **Toro and Turf Professionals Equipment Company Help Grow the Industry at Kansas State University**

**Manhattan, Kan.**, May 11, 2004 – It’s a normal right of spring for gardens to bloom, but something extra special is happening in Manhattan, Kan. at Kansas State University – the gardens are exploding. What now stands as two acres of gardens is expected to grow tenfold to total 19 acres of diverse gardens and terrain. At the heart of the project is the Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources (HFRR) including 50 faculty and staff and 490 students all working to learn and refine their horticultural and natural resource management skills. The Toro Company and its local distributor, Turf Professionals Equipment Company (TPEC), recently supported the KSU Gardens expansion and other facilities with a contribution of equipment and services -- with a retail value in excess of \$75,000 -- to help make this endeavor a reality.

In addition to supporting the applied curriculum for hundreds of HFRR students, the contribution from Toro and TPEC extends to the K-State Horticulture Research and Extension Center in Olathe, Kan. This center is quickly becoming the hub of the regional turf and horticulture industry and is expecting to open the first regional testing and licensing center for the Associated Landscape Contractors of America in August.

“The Toro Giving Program is proud to support educational institutions with outstanding horticultural programs” says Stacy Bogart, director of The Toro Giving Program. “KSU is a national leader in training the next generation of horticultural professionals. The Toro Company and TPEC are pleased to provide both financial and personnel support to assist them in the further growth and development of these worthwhile programs.”

The partnership between KSU and Toro is already expanding to address the industry’s needs. Dale Getz, Certified Sports Field Manager of the national Sports Turf Managers Association and national sports field sales manager for Toro, has been named an adjunct faculty member in K-State's Department of HFRR. Getz is a veteran turf manager and his credentials include two master’s degrees from Michigan State University and The University of Notre Dame. Getz will expose KSU students to the sports field management career track not previously covered in the university’s curriculum.

Toro and KSU – Page 2

“We’re pleased to have established a partnership with The Toro Company and Turf Professionals locally,” said Thomas Warner, Ph.D. and Head of the Department of HFRR. “Our students will benefit immensely during the applied aspects of their curriculum by gaining first hand experience with leading

landscape equipment. In addition, this equipment brings the growth and maintenance of the KSU Gardens closer to reality.”

“The K-State Research and Extension Center in Olathe is still in its infancy,” adds Warner. “Its growth and expansion will establish new benchmarks for service to the horticulture industry nationwide. The landscape and terrain at the 334-acre Center will be developed into state-of-the-art research and training facilities. Again, Toro’s contribution is a step forward in achieving these goals.”

The KSU facilities are already benefiting from the equipment including mowers, utility vehicles, the Dingo TX compact utility loader with auger, bucket, trencher, tiller and leveler attachments and irrigation equipment including Custom Command® and Turf Pro® controllers as well as a variety of sprinklers. Installation of irrigation components was contributed in part by Master Landscapes, Manhattan, Kan.

**About The Toro Company Giving Program:**

The Toro Giving Program enhances the health and well being of all Toro communities through active outreach and involvement. The primary giving focus is to support organizations that preserve the outdoor environment. Contributions are also focused on programs that enhance education, health and welfare, culture, the arts, and civic projects. Toro also provides product and in-kind donations and employee volunteer opportunities.

**About The Toro Company:**

The Toro Company (NYSE: TTC), with \$1.5 billion in sales annually, is a leading provider of outdoor maintenance and beautification products for home, recreation, and commercial landscapes around the world. Together with its distributors, Toro provides innovative products, agronomic expertise and exemplary service that helps consumers and professionals maintain their landscapes. Visit the company website at [www.thetorocompany.com](http://www.thetorocompany.com). Distributor information is available at 1-800-803-8676.

**About Turf Professionals Equipment Company**

Turf Professionals Equipment Company is a regional distributor of Toro equipment to golf, sports field and grounds accounts. With its headquarters in the Hazelwood, Mo. and five branch locations, it serves the majority of Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and part of Arkansas.

**About Kansas State University**

Located in Manhattan, Kansas State University was founded February 16, 1863, as the nation’s first Land-Grant institution. Kansas State University is an internationally recognized comprehensive university with more than 200 undergraduate programs and options, 61 master's degree programs and 44 doctoral programs. Over 22,000 students are enrolled on the 668-acre Manhattan campus. Kansas State University ranks first nationally among state universities in its numbers of Rhodes, Marshall, Truman and Goldwater scholars in the past ten years. Visit the university website at [www.ksu.edu](http://www.ksu.edu).