

## APPLICATION STORY

# NEW AND IMPROVED TREATMENT FOR RECEDING LAWN

**M**any of us enjoy outdoor activities, whether it be a picnic under a shady tree, spending a day at the ballpark, watching our children's soccer game, playing a round of golf or just a lazy stroll down the lane on a summer evening. There's a common denominator that enhances our enjoyment of these activities or simply makes them possible – grass. It's everywhere, and many of us spend countless hours trying to improve what we loosely refer to as our "lawns".

But how does so much grass get planted on such large expanses of land like playing fields or municipal golf courses, and how is it done economically?

**With 250 ft. lbs. of torque, the MA-GT-ST1W allows for accurate feed rates without slippage, regardless of speed.**

A sprig is defined as "a small shoot or twig of a plant". These sprigs are chopped from sod (they also make these machines) into smaller clumps. Simply described, the device takes sprigs of grass and plants them in the ground. The sprigs taken from a 30 square foot piece of sod will plant over 600 square feet, making this type of

planting quite economical. (For those with thinning hair lines, a way to relate to this would be the term "plugs".)

The Sprigmaster Pro and No-Till Sprigger are pull behind units driven by a tractor PTO. The assembly consists of a hopper; a floor feed conveyor, a self-feeding rollback system and a series of coulters and disks which assure correct planting depth of the sprigs. In operation, the ground wheels power the chain which feeds the roll-back system. This "conveyor" delivers the sprigs through a chute and past the coulters for planting. The drive wheels then firm the soil around the sprigs. Accurate distribution is critical.

In his previous design, Jesse found the distribution rates to vary widely. After reviewing his application, the Ogura General Purpose clutch MA-GT-ST1W was recommended. The clutch is driven from the packing tire via a sprocket and chain. Because this is a pull behind device, input speed to the clutch is timed to the speed of the tractor. When engaged, the clutch then powers a series of sprockets which turns the floor conveyor and allows the sprigs to be either broadcast or dropped. With 250 ft. lbs. of torque, the MA-GT-ST1W allows for accurate feed rates without slippage, regardless of



Tow behind Sprig machine



Wheel (ground) driving clutch

speed. When turned off, the clutch disengages the conveyor and allows the wheels to turn, free of load, for transportation. The high torque and small package size of the ST1W not only improved reliability of distribution, but saved over 5 times the cost of the previous assembly. These features, as with all Ogura General Purpose products, convinced Sprigger's to apply the ST1W to all their sprigging products. (Now if they could only make a tiny unit for hair...)



Clutch before sprocket is attached