John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz

Can you identify this sports turf problem?

Problem: Irregular brown areas with green stripe down center
Turfgrass Area: Grass island in park
Location: Lincoln, NE
Grass Variety: Tall Fescue

Answer to John Mascaro’s Photo Quiz on Page 39
John Mascaro is President of Turf-Tec International

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This part of Pioneers Park is used for a large number of outdoor weddings each year and this area had just been re-sodded in the spring. On July 6, 2007, a wedding party laid out a carpet runner for the bride to walk across this area of lush green turf. After the runner was properly laid, a person proceeded to spray the turf with a can of personal use insect repellant. Fortunately one of the staff members saw this and was able to get them to stop before they sprayed the entire area. As you can see in the photo, the long runner they put down for the wedding party to approach the ceremony left a nice green rectangular area of grass that was protected from the spray. The sports turf manager thinks they were just afraid of any kind of insect crashing the wedding. The wedding ceremony took place just a couple of hours after they sprayed down the turf and the photo was taken 3 days after the application. The sports turf manager reported that the turf would recover on its own with plenty of water and lots of words of encouragement. Apparently after all this, weddings still do not bug him.

Photo submitted by Dave Alder, Southwest District Park Supervisor for the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department.