
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

THE TORO COMPANY

(Exact name of issuer as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

41-0580470
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

8111 Lyndale Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

2000 STOCK OPTION PLAN

(Full title of the plan)

J. Lawrence McIntyre, Esquire
Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel
The Toro Company
8111 Lyndale Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420
Telephone number: (952) 888-8801
(Name, address and telephone number of agent for service)

Copy to:

Helen P. Starr, Esquire
Perkins Coie LLP
607 Fourteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum offering price per share	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share(a)	1,000,000 shares(b)	\$35.25(c)	\$35,250,000(c)	\$9,306(d)

(a) Each share of Common Stock includes one Preferred Share Purchase Right pursuant to the Rights Agreement dated May 20, 1998. Value attributable to such Rights, if any, is reflected in the market price of the Common Stock.

(b) An indeterminate number of shares will be issued from time to time to participants pursuant to the Plan.

- (c) Estimated solely to calculate the registration fee, pursuant to Rule 457(c), on the basis of the average of the high and low prices reported in the consolidated reporting system on June 7, 2000, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange Composite Tape.
- (d) Restricted fee to be applied to account number 737758.
-
-

PART I

All information required by Part I to be contained in the prospectus is omitted from this Registration Statement in accordance with Rule 428 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

PART II INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission allow the Registrant to "incorporate by reference" information into this Registration Statement. This means that the Registrant may disclose important information to you by referring you to another document.

The following documents have been filed by the Registrant with the SEC and are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement:

1. Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 31, 1999 (File No. 1-8649).
2. Its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 28, 2000 (File No. 1-8649).
3. The descriptions of its Common Stock and Preferred Share Purchase Rights contained in its Registration Statements filed with the Commission pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such descriptions (File No. 1-8649).

All documents subsequently filed by Registrant pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be part of this Registration Statement from the date of filing of those documents. The information contained in a document will automatically update and supersede any information previously incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

The Common Stock is registered under Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

The opinion of counsel as to the legality of the securities being registered, which is Exhibit 5 to this Registration Statement, is rendered by J. Lawrence McIntyre, Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel to Registrant.

This Registration Statement incorporates the consolidated financial statements and related financial statement schedules of Registrant as of October 31, 1999 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended October 31, 1999. Registrant relies on the reports and expertise of KPMG LLP, independent certified public accountants, in incorporating these financial statements.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 145 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware empowers a corporation incorporated under the statute to indemnify its directors, officers, employees and agents and its former directors, officers, employees and agents and those who serve in such capacities with another enterprise

at the corporation's request against expenses (including attorneys' fees), as well as judgments, fines and settlements, actually and reasonably incurred by them in connection with any action, suit or proceeding in which they or any of them were or are made parties or are threatened to be made parties by reason of their serving or having served in such capacity. The power to indemnify exists only where such officer, director, employee or agent has acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and, in the case of a criminal action, where such person had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. Unless a court determines to the contrary, a corporation has no power of indemnification in an action or suit by or in the right of the corporation, where such person has been adjudged liable to the corporation. Indemnification against expenses is mandatory to the extent a claim, issue or matter has been successfully defended. Indemnification and advancement of expenses are not deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those indemnified may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of stockholders or otherwise. A Delaware corporation also has the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person it has the power to indemnify, whether or not indemnity against liability would be allowed under the statute.

Section 2 of Article XI of the Registrant's Certificate of Incorporation mandates indemnification of a director or officer of Registrant or a person serving at the request of the Registrant as a director, officer, employee or agent of another entity to the fullest extent authorized by the Delaware General Corporation Law against expenses, liability and loss and authorizes the Board to express such rights in written contracts.

Section 1 of Article XI of the Registrant's Certificate of the Incorporation provides, in accordance with Section 102(b)(7) of the Delaware General Corporation Law, for the elimination or limitation of the personal liability of a director to the Registrant or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director under certain circumstances.

The Registrant also maintains liability insurance policies which provide for indemnification of a director or officer of Registrant or a person serving at the request of the Registrant as a director, officer, employee or agent of another entity against certain liabilities under certain circumstances.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

The exhibits are listed in the exhibit index.

Item 9. Undertakings.

1.

Rule 415 offering.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

- (i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
- (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement;

II-2

-
- (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(i) and (1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission by the Registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

- (b) Filings incorporating subsequent Securities Exchange Act of 1934 documents by reference.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(h) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question of whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

II-3

/s/ ROBERT H. NASSAU

Director

May 23, 2000

Robert H. Nassau

/s/ DALE R. OLSETH

Dale R. Olseth

Director

May 23, 2000

/s/ CHRISTOPHER A. TWOMEY

Christopher A. Twomey

Director

May 23, 2000

Gregg W. Steinhafel

Director

/s/ EDWIN H. WINGATE

Edwin H. Wingate

Director

May 23, 2000

II-5

EXHIBIT LIST

Exhibit Number	Description
4	Instruments defining the rights of security holders, including indentures
4(a)	Specimen form of Common Stock certificate (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(c) to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-8, Registration No. 2-94417)
4(b)	Certificate of Incorporation of Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3, Registration No. 33-16125)
4(c)	Certificate of Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation dated December 9, 1986 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended January 30, 1987, Commission File No. 1-8649)
4(d)	Certificate of Designation to Certificate of Incorporation dated May 28, 1998 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit (c)(1) to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 27, 1998, Commission File No. 1-8649)
4(e)	Bylaws of Registrant, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3(ii) and 4(d) to Registrant's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 30, 1999)
4(f)	Rights Agreement dated as of May 20, 1998, between the Registrant and Norwest Bank Minnesota National Association, relating to rights to purchase Series B Junior Participating Voting Preferred Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit (c)(1) to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 27, 1998, Commission File No. 1-8649).
4(g)	Indenture dated as of January 31, 1997 between Registrant and First National Trust Association, as Trustee, relating to Registrant's 7.125% Notes due June 15, 2007 and its 7.80% Debentures due June 15, 2027 (incorporated by reference Exhibit 4(a) to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K for June 24, 1997, Commission File No. 1-8649).
5	Opinion of counsel regarding legality.
23(a)	Consent of KPMG LLP.
23(b)	Consent of counsel (contained in Exhibit 5).
24	Powers of Attorney (contained in signature pages).

QuickLinks

[PART I](#)
[PART II INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE](#)
[SIGNATURES](#)
[POWER OF ATTORNEY](#)
[EXHIBIT LIST](#)

[LOGO]

EXHIBIT 5

June 12, 2000

The Toro Company
8111 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420

Re: Registration Statement on Form S-8

Gentlemen:

I am Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel of The Toro Company (the "Company"). In connection with the Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to an aggregate of up to 1,000,000 shares of Common Stock, \$1.00 par value per share (the "Common Stock"), and up to 1,000,000 related Preferred Share Purchase Rights (the "Rights") of the Company, to be issued in connection with The Toro Company 2000 Stock Option Plan, please be advised that as counsel to the Company, upon examination of such corporate documents and records as I have deemed necessary or appropriate for the purpose of rendering this opinion, it is my opinion that:

1. The shares of Common Stock being offered by the Company, when issued in accordance with proper corporate authorizations, will be legally issued, fully paid and non-assessable; and
2. Assuming that the Rights Agreement dated as of May 20, 1998 (the "Rights Agreement") has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Rights Agent, the Rights, if and when issued as contemplated by the Rights Agreement, as it may be amended from time to time, will have been legally issued and entitled to the benefits of the Rights Agreement pursuant to which they will be issued.

The foregoing opinion is limited to the Federal laws of the United States and the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, and I am expressing no opinion as to the effect of the laws of any other jurisdiction.

I hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the above-captioned Registration Statement, and to the reference to my name under the heading "Interests of Named Experts and Counsel" contained in the Registration Statement. In giving such consent, I do not hereby admit that I am in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Act.

Very truly yours,

/s/ J. Lawrence McIntyre

J. Lawrence McIntyre
Vice President, Secretary
and General Counsel

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S CONSENT

The Board of Directors
The Toro Company

We consent to the use of our reports dated December 13, 1999 incorporated by reference in this Form S-8.

KPMG LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota
June 12, 2000

QuickLinks

[INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S CONSENT](#)