SIDELINES

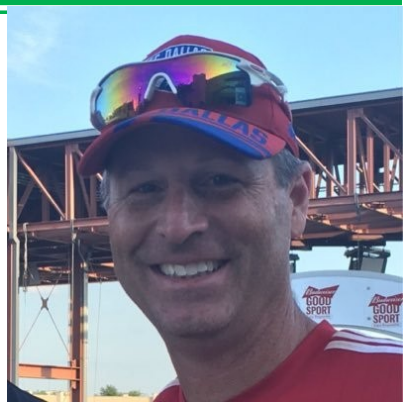
Texas Sports Turf Managers Association

txstma.org

Fall 2018

Providing education and training for safer and healthier sports turf facilities

I hope everyone has had a great summer and was able to take advantage of a wonderful growing season. As summer blurs into fall this means that it is time to begin the overseeding process. I know that there are multitudes of ways to achieve a healthy and full stand of rye grass. I wanted to share with everyone how our team at Moneygram Soccer Park executes this daunting task.



Troy Crawford
Moneygram Soccer Park
TXSTMA President

Here at Moneygram we have 34 acres of athletic fields, in which we need to overseed. It is a 6 week process and is done on a rotation, thus allowing us to not lose any games or training sessions. We begin this process by verticutting each field 2 directions, just deep enough that we are cutting into the soil. Once the verticutting is completed we will mow. When the mowing has concluded we will vacuum up the sprigs/clippings. The main objective here is to get the grass canopy opened up so that the seed can make contact with the soil. Once the field is cleaned off it is time to seed. We have 2 different rates in which we overseed at. On the renovated fields at MGSP we apply seed at 6-7 pounds per 1000 square feet and on the non-renovated fields we apply seed at 12 pounds per 1000 square feet. There are a few reasons for the differing rates and if you would like to know the "why" please feel free to call or email me and I will explain in more detail.

The bulk of the seed is applied with a large broadcast spreader attached to the back of our tractor. The seed is applied in 2 directions perpendicular to each other. At MGSP we keep it pretty simple and just go north, south and east, west. When broadcasting with a large spreader we are very careful to leave a good border so we don't throw or track seed into our common areas. We run strings 3 feet off of our touchlines to create a good border. Staff will use a 36 inch drop spreader to seed the first 6 feet of the border. Upon completing two laps with the drop spreader we, will use a walking broadcast spreader to blend the area between the drop spreader and the large broadcast spreader. One of the most vital parts to overseeding is ensuring that the seed makes contact with the soil.

Moneygram staff will hook up a 12 foot coca mat behind a cart and drag the entire field 2 directions. The process of working the seed into the soil is also helped by the players themselves. The application of the seed is completed on Thursday. Games will then be played on those fields Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The idea is that the players will also help press the seed into the soil with their cleats. We have garnered positive results utilizing this method so we continue to follow that formula. Monday morning staff will spray the fields with a holding type wetting agent and we will commence watering. We water heavy for 3-4 days then pull back depending on temps and moisture levels. The field has 10 days of no play before we will put it back into action.

TXSTMA President's Message

There are many different ways to achieve success in overseeding, this is our process at Moneygram. I hope that this helps. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me either by phone or email.

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Turf Care of Texas

Howdy from Dallas!

Lindsey Hoffman, PhD

Assistant Professor & Turfgrass Extension Specialist

Howdy! My name is Lindsey Hoffman and I am the new Extension Turfgrass Specialist with Texas A&M at the Dallas Research and Extension Center. I started in my position on July 9 and had the opportunity to meet many of you at the summer TTA conference in Bastrop.

I am excited to be a part of AgriLife Extension Services and look forward to working with industry professionals across the state of Texas.

About me: My passion for all things turfgrass grew after working on several golf courses in Massachusetts and Colorado. I decided to pursue a career in the turfgrass industry, which motivated me to obtain my undergraduate degree from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

I continued on to obtain both my M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts concentrating in general turfgrass ecology and physiology. For both degrees, I conducted applied, field-based research that focused on topics such as optimization of fertility programs and cultural/chemical practices for minimizing damage caused by abiotic stresses such as cold and drought. Following graduate school, I had the opportunity to work with breeders at the University of Minnesota and Rutgers University to assist in the development of improved cultivars for commercial production.

Throughout my graduate and post-graduate school positions, I maintained a strong connection to the turfgrass industry and developed relationships with golf course superintendents, sports field managers, sod growers, and seed producers. Ultimately, these relationships have brought me to the position I am in today as an Extension Specialist.

My program: Going forward, my Extension program will be centered around two overarching themes: ecosystem services of turfgrass and resource conservation. Briefly, ecosystem services refers to the measurable benefits of turfgrasses that can be classified into categories such as environmental, aesthetic, recreational, economic, sociologic, and psychological/physiological. Resource conservation, in my opinion, refers to reducing inputs (such as water and fertility) while still maintaining a healthy, aesthetically pleasing turfgrass surface. My program will focus on the needs of the turfgrass industry and will incorporate educational tools and resources that will support the themes of my Extension program.

With that being said, I welcome the opportunity to communicate with all of you to discuss the major issues facing you as turfgrass managers and to evaluate methods for addressing and solving these issues.

In closing, I am very excited to be a apart of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services and look forward to meeting with all of you in the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time with questions, concerns, or ideas.

Lindsey Hoffman lindsey.hoffman@ag.tamu.edu **972-952-9212**

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF NATURAL TURFGRASS

SportsTurf MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

Trap and Store Carbon

During photosynthesis, turfgrasses remove carbon dioxide and add oxygen to the atmosphere. With increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide associated with the greenhouse effect, turfgrasses serve as a source of carbon storage, or sequestration. Grasses remove about 6 tons of carbon dioxide per acre per year from the atmosphere. Although some benefit is reduced by maintenance practices requiring fossil fuels (i.e. mowing or production of fertilizer), practices such as mowing, returning clippings, fertilizing, and watering increase the ability for turfgrass to sequester carbon. In other words, healthier plants mean more carbon storage. Over the course of a year, a 2,500 square-foot lawn absorbs enough carbon dioxide to produce oxygen for a family of four, and a soccer field can offset the carbon produced by a car driving 3000 miles. (1, 2, 3)

Dust and Pollen

Healthy turfgrass areas have few weeds, which reduce pollen levels. Regular mowing prevents grass plants and weeds from producing pollen-bearing seedheads and flowers. The fibrous root systems of turfgrass plants form soil netting that reduces dust. Leaf tissue also traps dirt and dust particles to protect air quality. About 12 million tons of dust is released into the atmosphere each year in the U.S., and much of it is trapped by grass. (3)

Controls Soil Erosion and Water Run-Off

Run-off and erosion of soil is considered one of the primary causes of nutrient contamination in water systems. Research shows that sediment loss from grass is negligible under normal rainfall conditions. A fibrous root system, characteristic of healthy turfgrass, holds soil in place and provides stabilization on both flat and sloping areas. A dense shoot and root system slows surface water movement and improves the likelihood of water infiltrating into the soil. The average soccer field can absorb 50,000 gallons of water before run-off occurs. Turfgrass systems help protect water sources by stabilizing soil and slowing and filtering run-off before it enters storm water drains or natural water bodies. (3, 4)

Prevent Contaminants from Entering Water Sources

Turfgrass systems are efficient at holding onto nutrients and other pollutants. Nutrients like phosphorus are fixed onto soil particles or taken up by the plant and are not leached out readily. When fertilizer is applied to healthy turfgrass, nutrients are held in the soil and utilized by the plants. The root and thatch layer in turfgrass systems also effectively bind pollutants, such as oil, grease, and other household and industrial wastes. Grass buffer strips are frequently used around farm fields, streams, waterways, and in urban areas to filter soil and remove chemicals before they enter surface or groundwater. (2, 3)

Temperature Modification

Urban areas with fewer grasses and landscape plants are 10-15 percent warmer than rural areas. On a hot summer day, well maintained turfgrass is typically 30 percent cooler than asphalt and 14 percent cooler than bare soil. Research from Brigham Young University indicates that on an 81.4°F day, the average surface temperature on a natural grass surface is 78°F, while the average surface temperature on asphalt is 109°F. Turfgrass cools the atmosphere through the process of transpiration. Water evaporates through the stomata, tiny openings in the grass blades, which cools the grass plants and surrounding environment. Transpiration helps reduce temperatures in the urban environment by dissipating high levels of radiation. The overall environmental cooling effect of turfgrass can be understood by comparing it to air conditioning. The front lawns of eight average houses have the same cooling effect as 24 (3-4 ton capacity) home central air conditioning units. (2, 3, 5)

Fall Field Day Schedule Coming Soon!

All 3 Regions will be hosting Field Days this Fall!

Be sure to watch your email and our website txstma.org for details and registration!

Our Field Days are packed with Networking Opportunities, Field Demonstrations, Education, and Affiliate Product and Service Demonstrations. Like all TXSTMA events, registration is completely FREE to current TXSTMA members!

Affiliates - Lots of sponsorships and demonstration opportunities will be available so please watch your email for details!

Making a pitch: The turfgrass at the 2018 World Cup

Much of the turfgrass on display — and writhed on by soccer players — at the 2018 World Cup was the product of seed bred and produced in the United States.

Sep 2018 | Teresa Carson GCM

The 2018 World Cup took place over a period of 33 days and featured a total of 169 goals scored by 122 players from 32 national teams during 64 matches in 12 stadiums in 11 cities. In addition, countless players — who may or may not have been injured — ended up writhing on the playing field. The games were clearly hard on the players, but think of the repeated punishment inflicted on the soccer pitches.

The true star of the 2018 World Cup may have been the turf, much of which was the product of seed bred and produced in the United States. The story of how Oregon seed made its way to the World Cup games in Russia began in 2011, when Leah Brilman, Ph.D., then the director of research for Seed Research of Oregon, went overseas to explore the possibility of supplying grass seed for the soccer pitches. Seed Research had previously provided grasses for the World Cup venue in South Africa and was working for the bid in Brazil. The company also already had a seed distributor in Russia, which would facilitate importation of the products from the U.S. Seed Research expected to provide a traditional soccer pitch mixture of 20% Kentucky bluegrass (Poa pratensis) and 80% perennial ryegrass (Lolium perenne) along with additional ryegrass for overseeding.

However, in 2013, DLF-Trifolium, a Danish company with subsidiaries in numerous countries, including Russia, acquired the Pick-seed group of companies (Seed Research of Oregon, Pickseed USA and Pickseed of Canada). At that point, the general assumption was that DLF would move forward without American assistance. In 2014, DLF Pickseed supplied the primary overseeded ryegrasses for the World Cup in Brazil, including tetraploid Replicator (named Double in Europe).
Never underestimate the allure of Oregon turfgrass.

By August 2017, Brilman was back in Russia consulting with venue managers regarding the grow-in of DLF's diploid and tetraploid perennial ryegrasses. For previous World Cup games, the grasses for all the venues had been selected by the Sport Turf Research Institute (STRI) in England, but the Russians preferred that subcontractors and turf managers from each of the 12 venues — many of which are regularly used for professional soccer — select the grasses for their sites. Ultimately, eight of the 12 venues selected DLF varieties, which had been recommended by STRI and the Local Organizing Committee for the World Cup in Russia.

The remaining venues selected grass seed from other European companies and from Jacklin Seed in Washington state. Jacklin's Russian distributor reported that, as was the case for DLF, a blend of the company's Kentucky bluegrass seed was used to grow sod in Russia for the pitches, and a blend of its perennial ryegrass was used for overseeding.

From DLF, the Russians selected Fiesta 4, a diploid (2n) perennial ryegrass that was already on a list of grasses approved by the Russian government for import, and the tetraploid (4n) turf-type perennial ryegrasses 4turf, Fabian and Double. The tetraploid perennial ryegrasses have twice as many genes as diploid perennial ryegrasses, are cold- and wear-tolerant, and have larger seeds, which allows them to germinate under colder soil temperatures (as low as 37.4 F [3 C]).

Compared with traditional perennial ryegrasses, the tetraploids germinate faster, are more drought-tolerant and recover from wear more quickly (a definite plus in World Cup play). The U.S. varieties, including Fiesta 4, also have a darker green color that the Russians preferred for their pitches.

In Sochi, a resort on the Black Sea, the pitches were a bermudagrass base with perennial ryegrass overseed. The more northern locations used a Kentucky bluegrass base with perennial ryegrass overseed. However, many of the pitches for competition and practice were "hybrid" fields — a combination of artificial turf overseeded with perennial ryegrass, but with no Kentucky bluegrass. All practice pitches were constructed and maintained exactly like their neighboring competition pitches so that players could practice under conditions nearly identical to those of the actual games.

A veteran of two World Cups, Brilman says she was still somewhat surprised by her experience in Russia. In a situation where the rules are usually hard and fast, the Russians selected their own cultivars, presenting themselves as independent thinkers who relied on their own professional expertise.

Brilman's takeaway: "You have to be respectful of other cultures. You may think you know how things should be done, but you can't instill your way of doing things in their country because you don't necessarily know the constraints they work under and the regulations and customs they are expected to follow."

SportsTurf MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

The 2019 Conference and Exhibition
January 22–25 in Phoenix, Arizona

STMA's Annual Conference & Exhibition allows members to share information with other successful members of the sports turf industry at exciting locations. In addition to educational seminars, hands-on workshops and the latest technology on display, conference attendees are able to tour professional, college and municipal facilities that offer a range of insights to take back home. There is simply no better conference around!

2019 STMA'S 30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

January 22-25, 2019
Phoenix, AZ

View the 2019 Conference Brochure here.
CONVENTION CENTER

Phoenix Convention Center
100 N 3rd St, Phoenix, Arizona 85004

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

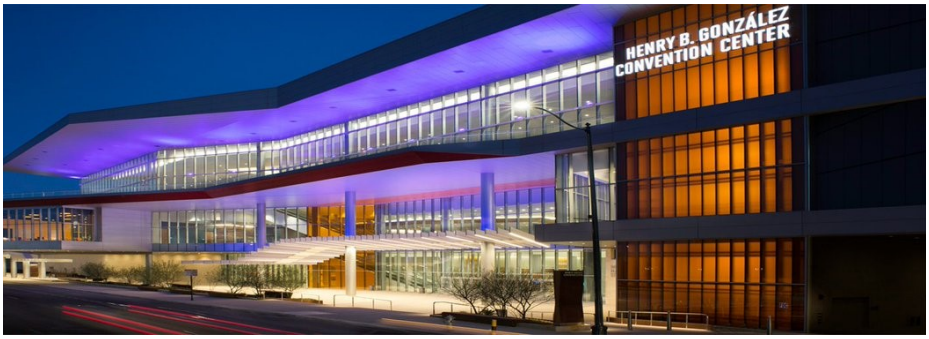
The host hotel for the 2019 STMA Conference will be the Hyatt Regency Phoenix with a rate of $179 a night for Single/Double rooms and $199 for Triple rooms. The Hyatt is 0.2 miles away from the Phoenix Convention Center. The cutoff date for reservations will be **Mon., Dec. 31, 2018**.

HYATT REGENCY PHOENIX
122 North Second Street
Phoenix, Arizona, USA, 85004
Phone: (602) 252-1234

To make your reservation, click here.

Save the Dates!
Annual Conference
and Trade Show

December 11 - 13
San Antonio
Details Coming Soon



Texas Turfgrass Association
Fall Magazine Issue Now Available
texasturf.com

HOW SOIL WATER CONTENT IMPACTS HYBRID BERMUDAGRASS ATHLETIC FIELDS

Many athletic fields in the US are built with native soils in contrast to constructed sand rootzones such as those developed according to the United States Golf Association. Native soils high in silt and clay tend to have greater soil water contents and slower water infiltration rates compared to constructed sand root zones. The decreased water infiltration rates of cohesive soils (i.e., non-sand soils) are potentially problematic when precipitation occurs prior to athletic events. It has been reported that cohesive soil athletic fields with high soil water content tend to lose green turfgrass cover faster than those with lower soil water content.

Constructed sand rootzones are used on many US collegiate and professional football fields. Sand rootzones are preferred because of consistent air-filled porosity, rapid drainage, and compaction resistance, which help avoid rain delays or cancellations. While multiple types of constructed sand root zones exist, the USGA specification is the most common for high-end athletic fields because it provides acceptable stability and optimal drainage. However, sand rootzones may not be used on all athletic fields due to high construction costs.

The objective of this research was to determine the impact of soil water content on the performance of hybrid bermudagrass on cohesive soil (silt loam) and non-cohesive (USGA specification) rootzone when subjected to traffic. Two field studies were conducted from 2014-2015 at the University of Tennessee Center for Athletic Field Safety (Knoxville, TN) to determine soil water content impact on compaction and loss of green turfgrass cover on 'Tifway' hybrid bermudagrass. Study I was conducted using plots established on a Sequatchie silt loam soil (fine-loamy, siliceous, semiactive, thermic Humic Hapludult). This soil was selected due to its common use on high school athletic fields in Knoxville, TN. Study II used plots established on a sand meeting USGA specifications (0.7% very coarse, 14.3% coarse, 61.4% medium, 18.1% fine, 5.1% very fine, and 0.4% silt and clay by weight) mixed with 20% (volume) reed sedge peat moss.

Study I had four soil moisture ranges: low (6 – 13%), medium (14 – 21 %), medium-high (22 – 29%), and high (30 – 37%). Study II soil moisture ranges were: low (5 – 11%), medium (12 – 19%), and high (20 – 27%) throughout the study for both years. Differences in the amount of ranges between rootzones were due to plant available water of the soil texture. Water was applied to each experimental unit as needed based on the average of seven rootzone moisture measurements (3 in depth) collected daily using a handheld time domain reflectometer (TDR) probe. Traffic was applied to both studies using a self-propelled core aerifier similar to the Baldree Traffic Simulator (BTS) described by Kowalewski et al. (2013). Each plot received 50 traffic events each year.

Silt loam rootzone

This study's findings indicate that increased soil water content on cohesive soils resulted in greater loss of green turfgrass cover when trafficked. High soil water content ranges lost green turfgrass cover approximately four times faster than the low or medium soil water content and three times faster than medium-high soil water content treatments. Surface hardness varied across traffic events due to soil water content. These findings indicate surface hardness of a field can be manipulated by adjusting soil water content, suggesting that high soil moisture and soil compaction have significant impacts on surface hardness values. Cohesive soils, due to the higher quantities of silt and clay, are more responsive to increases in water content.

Regardless of soil water content, soil bulk density increased as traffic events increased. The increase in soil bulk density was due to reduction of the air-filled pore space of soil. Shear strength declined most rapidly at the high soil water content treatment. The high soil water content had the greatest loss of green turfgrass cover, extremely low surface hardness values and unacceptable shear strength throughout a majority of this study. This study found plots maintained at 7 to 20% soil water content provided the optimal surface for athletic field performance for the silt loam athletic field.

USGA sand specification rootzone

Soil water content treatments had little impact on the non-cohesive root zone when trafficked. The high soil water content treatment resulted in less than ideal surface hardness values, but not unstable conditions. Soil bulk density increased six percent after 50 traffic events, which was accompanied by a six percent decrease in air-filled porosity. Results suggest that shear strength values were not affected by soil water content in the sand rootzone, but by the loss of green turfgrass cover due to traffic. No optimum soil water content range was identified of those tested in this study for the sand rootzones.

In this study 50% was selected as the worst case for low input athletic fields (i.e., parks, recreation, etc.). The authors are aware that higher green turfgrass cover levels could be the minimum acceptable limit for professional athletic fields. Also, the soil water content ranges determined as optimal are not for all root zones, these are only for the listed soils described above. Slight changes in the composition of sand, silt, and clay in addition to sand particle size could greatly change the optimum ranges for those soils.

Conclusions

Results from this research indicated that hybrid bermudagrass established on a silt loam soil performs best when soil water content ranges were in the low and medium range. These results of the optimal range for silt loam soils correspond to plant available water and potentially explain the superior results. The high soil water content treatment lost cover at a rate four times faster than the low and medium soil water content treatments. The high soil water content treatment decreased turfgrass stability and negatively impacted field performance because of the saturated soil conditions. Soil water content treatments minimal impact on hybrid bermudagrass traffic green turfgrass cover loss on sand root zones with few differences detected among field performance characteristics or soil physical properties. Our results indicate that low to medium soil water content provides optimum field performance for hybrid bermudagrass on silt loam rootzones, while no optimum range was identified in sand rootzones.

Kyley Dickson, PhD, is a turf researcher at the University of Tennessee; John Sorochan, PhD, is a professor turfgrass science at UT and director of the University's Center for Athletic Field Safety.

Turfgrass expert clips his last blades of grass for research purposes

Writers: Kay Ledbetter and Beth Ann Luedeker

Dr. Richard White retired from his position as a professor in the Texas A&M University Department of Soil and Crop Sciences and Texas A&M AgriLife Research turfgrass management scientist in College Station on Aug. 31.

White came to Texas A&M after working as an assistant professor at Rutgers University-Cook College in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Auburn University and his doctorate from Virginia Tech.

He started as an assistant research scientist in 1989 at Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Dallas and then moved to College Station in 1993 as an associate professor.

"Dr. White was instrumental in developing the turfgrass science major for the department and has served as a leader in advanced teaching techniques and assessment," said Dr. David Baltensperger, head of the Texas A&M soil and crop sciences department.

"My favorite memories will be the people I have worked with in the department and in the industry," he said. "I have enjoyed helping our students and watching them become successful professionals and leaders in the industry. Also, mentoring junior faculty and watching their successes."

Some highlights of his career included:

- Contributing to the development of best-use practices for cycling bio-resource nutrients through turfgrass sod.
- Establishing a strong relationship between osmotic adjustment in zoysia grass cultivars and their water requirement.
- Demonstrating the impact of irrigation frequency on creeping bent grass performance in hot, humid climates.
- Contributing to a better understanding of nitrogen requirements of ultra-dwarf Bermuda grasses.
- Co-discovering thermo-morphogenic response in dwarf and ultra-dwarf Bermuda grasses.
- Definitively establishing the benefit of blending bent grass cultivars for improved disease resistance and performance.

"Dr. White has been a national leader for the turf industry, working across a broad range of industry, academic and agency partners to advance the role turfgrass can play in enhancing our environment," Baltensperger said.

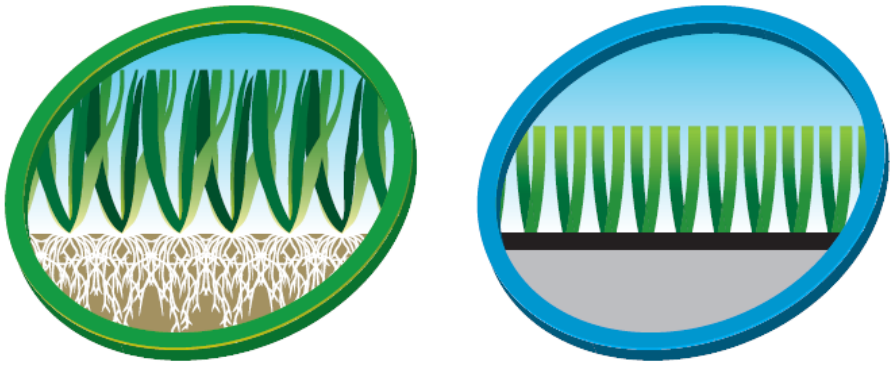
Maybe his most enduring legacy will be his shepherding of the ScottsMiracle-Gro Facility for Lawn and Garden Research, located at 3100 F&B Road in College Station, through its 15-year journey to reality. White coordinated the design and development of the facility to provide the needed infrastructure and facilities for the turfgrass program. He had already developed and constructed a state-of-the-art surface water runoff facility at the same location in collaboration with other soil and crop sciences personnel and the Scotts Company.

He has been recognized with two Texas A&M University Vice-Chancellor's Award in Excellence, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Research Team Awards; the Texas Environmental Excellence Award for the Rio Grande Basin Initiative in the Agriculture category; and the Texas A&M University Soil and Crop Sciences Department Award for Teaching.

4TH EDITION

A Guide to Synthetic and Natural Turfgrass for Sports Fields

Selection, Construction and Maintenance Considerations



STMA has prepared this Guide to provide basic information about the selection and maintenance of synthetic turf and natural turfgrass fields. Now in its fourth edition, the Guide provides information on field construction, protecting your asset, managing special events, developing an equipment list, addressing heat on fields, protecting the health and safety of athletes, assessing warranties, and more.

Access the Guide here.

Researchers from the AgriLife Research and Extension Programs will be presenting on topics such as breeding for improved turfgrasses, weed identification and herbicide selection, water conservation tools and techniques, disease diagnosis and fungicide use, and management of insect pests. Field day attendees have the opportunity to earn up to four (4) CEUs from TDA and four (4) CEUs from TNLA.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

2018 Texas A&M Turfgrasss and Landscape Field Day

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 | 7:00 am - 2:00 pm

Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center

17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX 75252

http://bit.ly/TAMUFDDallas

Featured Speakers:

Muthu Bagavathiannan: Best practices for herbicide resistance management in turfgrass.

Ben Wherley: Potential of spent coffee grounds for improving turfgrass health, disease, and weed suppression.

Justin Eads and S.T. Kong: Sprayer calibration using the 1/128th method.

Janet Hurley: Safety first: why personal protective equipment is there to help you.

Kevin Ong: What makes a good sample for disease diagnostics?

Dennis Genovesi: Breeding efforts to improve large patch tolerance in zoysiagrass.

Meghyn Meeks: Performance and management of turfgrass under shade.

Lindsey Hoffman: Evaluation of new zoysiagrass and St. Augsutinegrass varieties for the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP).

Ambika Chandra: Persistence and survival of turfgrasses under long-term drought and new turfgrass varieties from Texas A&M AgriLife research.

Tony Provin: Reviewing the root causes of increasing runoff and poor turfgrass responses to fertilization, irrigation and recover.

Patrick Dickinson: The water efficient landscape.

Becky Grubbs: Integrated weed management.

Scott Nolte: Weed ID and herbicide selection for turfgrass.

Charles Swanson: Managing irrigation through technology.

Young-Ki Jo: Turfgrass disease diagnosis and management.

Robert Puckett: The curious life of the pest ant…and how to end it.*:*

REGISTER HERE: http://bit.ly/TAMUFDDallas

Turfgrass and Landscape Field Day Agenda

7:00 am – 8:00 am: Registration

8:00 am – 8:15 am: Opening remarks

8:30 am – 12:30 pm: Field talks

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm: Lunch, poster session, trade-show

$55.00 before October 5, 2018

Late/Onsite Registration: $75.00 after October 5.

Registration includes morning refreshments and BBQ lunch.

No refunds after Friday, October 5, 2018.

A $15 processing fee will incur for all refunds.

Contact Dr. Lindsey Hoffman at lindsey.hoffman@ag.tamu.edu for more information.

STMA INNOVATIVE AWARD SUBMISSIONS DUE OCT 15

As a sign of appreciation and acknowledgement, STMA's Innovative Awards Task Group developed a program to recognize STMA commercial member companies that improves the sports turf management profession. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to showcase your ideas!

What is it: The Innovative Awards Program recognizes those commercial company members that have developed a product, service, equipment or technology that substantially enhances the effectiveness of the Sports Turf Manager. The innovation could also make the playing surfaces safer and more playable for the athletes.

Criteria:

- Must be a Commercial Member and exhibiting at the upcoming STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition
- Allowed to submit one entry annually
- Company must display the innovation in its booth
- Have introduced innovation for sale within a two-year period
- Is either a brand-new product OR is a material improvement to a product that benefits a sports turf manager

Award: The winner(s) will be announced prior to the STMA Conference. Winner(s) will be able to use the special innovative award logo in their promotion of the winning product, service, technology or equipment and will receive an award to display. STMA will publicize the winners through its communication vehicles, STMA press releases, signage and promotion at the conference and with special recognition during the Annual Awards Banquet.

Click here to download the Innovative Awards Form. Submittals must be received electronically by October 15.

TORO ANNOUNCES 2019 SUPER BOWL SPORTS TURF TRAINING PROGRAM

The Toro Company is pleased to announce the 18th annual Toro Super Bowl Sports Turf Training Program. In January 2019, one lucky turfgrass science student will travel to Atlanta, Georgia, to help the grounds crew prepare the field for the biggest game in football. With an extensive history of supporting student scholarships and educational activities, Toro and the National Football League are proud to offer this unique learning experience.

Toro equipment and representatives have been involved in preparing the stadium and practice fields for the Super Bowl for over 50 years. Starting with the inaugural World Championship in 1967, the NFL grounds crew has relied on Toro for its expertise and equipment in preparing the game field and multiple practice facilities. In 2002, the organizations partnered to establish the Toro Super Bowl Sports Turf Training Program.

Through the Sports Turf Training Program, Toro and the NFL's Super Bowl grounds team collaborate to offer a program aimed at enhancing the skills of emerging sports turf professionals. This program provides hands-on experience in establishing and maintaining one of the highest quality and safest playing surfaces in the world. This year's recipient will work alongside NFL field director, Ed Mangan, George Toma, and the Super Bowl grounds crew at Mercedes-Benz Stadium on synthetic turf maintenance, logo painting, field preparation for media day, halftime preparation and field clean-up. Beginning on January 26, 2019, the winner will be on hand at Mercedes-Benz Stadium preparing the field leading up to the game on February 3, 2019.

To be considered for the program, applicants must complete and submit an application form, as well as a 500 -word typed essay, describing the applicant's professional goals. A reference and résumé are also required.

Entries must be received by October 19, 2018. Applicants must be enrolled in at least the second year of a two-year turf program, or in at least the junior year of a four-year turf program. The application must include the contact information of a school advisor or representative, as well.

The winner will be notified no later than November 2, 2018. Applications can be completed online here. For additional information, potential applicants can learn more about the program by consulting with their school's turf program.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ROUNDUP?

From North Carolina State's Turffiles' Dr. Rick Brandenburg:

There has been a lot in the news lately about the herbicide glyphosate (most know it as Roundup) and its potential health hazards. In our world of social media, this topic has circled the globe many times and there is a lot of information on the subject; some of it factual and educational, much of it propaganda. I fully recognize that by posting this information, it will generate some discussion. This conversation is further complicated by certain advocacy groups who are on a mission and may not have all the pertinent information on the topic. I have no mission other than education and open science communication, nor am I am advocate for anything other than knowledge and using facts to get to the truth. As a scientist, I have spent more than 35 years teaching the importance of integrated pest management, including the value of reduced pesticide input and organic approaches as well as conducting research on those same topics.

Glyphosate has been studied as much as any pesticide in use today. It has been used extensively worldwide and has provided incredible value to agriculture since it has come on the market. Over the past few decades, the public has become increasingly disengaged with agriculture. Advances in technology and improvements in management approach and available products have resulted in increasing efficiency in agriculture production. As a result, a smaller percentage of the population is involved in that sector. Your average person on the street has no idea what it takes to produce the food on our table, protect public health, and maintain excellent green spaces, just like most farmers (and agricultural scientists) can't program a computer, design a bridge, or perform heart surgery.

Any discussion on pesticides and their use in agricultural systems should be based on facts and research, not personal opinions. The recent MotherJones.com article "The Roundup Chemical Found Responsible for Cancer Might Also be in Your Cereal" is a perfect example of information offered by an advocacy group that is simply NOT accurate, but it grabs headlines and promotes fear. Advocacy groups use the anonymity and lack of fact-checking on social media to circulate misinformation that is accepted by the general public as "the truth". To add further to the confusion, we all suffer from "confirmation bias", searching out supporting documentation that confirms our opinion on a subject. We all have topics or issues with which we are familiar and often fear, or treat with suspicion, those with which we are less comfortable. I recently was made aware of the concern over a few bottles of wine in California that were found to contain 1 part per billion of a possible carcinogen, glyphosate. There was a lot of wringing of hands, general alarm, and demand for banning glyphosate. No one seemed the least bit concerned that each bottle contained approximately 120 million parts per billion of a known carcinogen…alcohol.

My intent with this post is to address concerns regarding pesticides in general, provide links to information regarding glyphosate specifically, and, hopefully, some ideas on how to move forward. My hope is that for those of you who have fears, these may serve as educational materials. I also hope that for those who deal with the public on a daily basis, you can use some of this information for educational purposes and perhaps help you communicate the facts.

In closing, it is important to acknowledge that for those who truly fear glyphosate, their fears are real, not imaginary, so keep that in mind. These people are not uneducated nor ignorant, they are just operating with a different set of information and from a different perspective. All we can do is provide the facts as best we know them and let them decide what they want to believe. Mocking them, making fun of them, or criticizing their intelligence is never appropriate and reflects poorly on all of us in our respective industries. It certainly doesn't make them feel any more comfortable about us applying pesticides.

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