Dudeck’s overseeding trial results on 43 seed varieties.

After a short hop back to the main campus, the attendees toured the Envirotroon and Envirogreen for updates on projects like: Poa trivialis seeding rates; Rubigan pre-emergence program; nematode control products; tissue testing and soil analysis correlation. Following the glasshouse and lab tours, lunch was served. An optional golf tournament sponsored by the UF Student Turfgrass Club was held at the University G. C.

Editor’s Note: Many thanks to Buddy Keene, external VP of the Seven Rivers Chapter for covering this event and taking pictures.

On the Envirogreen located next to the Envirotron, Field Day attendees were able to evaluate Poa trivialis seeding rates, Rubigan pre-emergence programs, nematode control products and tissue and soil testing analysis. Photo by Buddy Keene.
Turf Advisory Work Group

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Meet the TAWG
The University of Florida Turfgrass Advisory Work Group is composed of department chairs and center directors who have turfgrass program responsibility. Led by Terril Nell, environmental horticulture dept., the TAWG closely advises the turf coordinator and seeks your input about our turf program.

Please invite the TAWG to your programs, meetings, and events. I know they would like to speak to you about the UF turfgrass program and about what is going on in their departments as well, so give them a call for your next
meeting. Below is a list of the TAWG departments, and phone numbers. Upper IFAS administration is not a part of the TAWG, but I know that they would appreciate an invite as well.

These administrators, chairs, and center directors are very accomplished speakers and what they can share with you is impressive as well as very interesting. Give them a call.

More potential speakers
While we are on the subject, are you looking for turfgrass topics for your upcoming meetings? Look no further. The University of Florida has a great team of turf scientists who are ready, willing, and able to speak to your group.

Want a change of pace? Consider inviting one of our great ornamental and landscape faculty to talk about the latest in plant materials and culture. Give me or any of our faculty a call for speaking engagements. We look forward to your invites.

Visit with us
Don’t wait for field days or conferences to stop by. There is plenty of work going on all the time. Come and enjoy. We would love to have you come and visit and get your input. Drop in any time.

Welcome aboard to Gary Pederson as the new research green technician at the FLREC. Gary replaces Marcus Prevatte. Marcus moved on to Indian Creek as an assistant superintendent in February.

New Positions Update
The Turfgrass Disease research/teaching faculty position in Gainesville recently closed for applications. A big list of applications were received. We look forward to filling this key position in the near future.

The FLREC Center Director position attracted 20 candidates. Interviews are being set up. Those interested in attending interviews should contact Dr. Nan Yao-Su, the Center Director Search Committee Chair for schedules. Dr. Su’s phone number is 954-475-8990.

The EREC is currently conducting a candidate search to fill a soil teaching faculty position. Again encourage qualified applicants to apply.

The EREC is currently conducting a candidate search to fill a soil teaching faculty position. Again encourage qualified applicants to apply for this important position.

Research Grants/Awards Update
The recent FTGA call for research proposals attracted 18 grant proposals at a cost of more than $500,000! I have not seen the proposals (except mine) but I am sure that these are significant projects that will help our turf industry and help advance turfgrass science. The sheer cost of the projects shows that more than ever we need your support.

At the June 5 Palm Beach Chapter of the Florida Golf Course Superintendent's
Turfgrass Base Paper

Executive Summary

SITUATION
The turfgrass industry in Florida encompasses 4.4 million acres of managed turf that provides over $7.3 billion to Florida's economy. Homeowners make up the largest segment with 75% of the total Florida turf acreage maintained at a cost of 3.9 billion dollars annually. Florida has the most golf courses of any state in the Union with over 1,400 in use. Only two countries (the USA and Japan) have more golf courses than Florida. Over 60 million rounds of golf were played in the state, making golf a major recreational and economic activity in Florida. More than 53,000 acres of sod were produced annually in Florida in the 1990s making Florida the largest sod production state in the USA, double that of Texas the next largest sod producer. Turfgrasses produced on sod farms are found on golf courses, athletic fields, cemeteries, roadsides, and in the landscape. The turfgrass industry essentially includes and/or impacts all people living in or visiting Florida because nearly all people use it on a daily basis.

CURRENT TRENDS
Many trends are having great impact on the turfgrass industry and will continue to do so in the next decade.
1) increased government regulation including the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act and the resultant loss of chemicals available for pest management;
2) the increase in popularity of golf and athletics, the increased requirement for better performance turf venues, the increased use of outside consultants, and the increased competition for players among golf and sport facilities;
3) Florida population increases leading to greater use of turfgrass sod;
4) aging of the baby-boom generation with migration to Florida for retirement and use of green areas for and recreational activities;
5) increased wealth and expendable income for recreational tourist activities;
6) sod quality issues including off-type contamination and the proliferation of troublesome perennial hard-to-control weeds, diseases, insects, and other pests as impacted by the changes in global weather which influence both turf management and pest pressure in Florida;
7) Environmental issues including water quality and water conservation efforts and impacts of other turfgrass management practices such as agrichemical use on environmental quality and human health; and
8) Labor competition due to low unemployment, and associated communication challenges of a migrant and foreign-based work force concentrated in the large yet low paying job sector in the turf industry.

DETERMINANTS OF CHANGE
Relevant determinants of change which will likely shape the Florida turfgrass industry include politically-heightened environmental regulations, US and state economies, water quality and quantity issues, labor pool issues, global warming, and the unpredictable nature of change itself. Overall as long as the economy is strong and population demographic projections remain on target, there should be an increased demand for turfgrass venues, and for professional turfgrass management.