

2005 Turf & Grounds Field Day Recap

By LARRY VETTER
Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation

The sixth annual Turf and Grounds Field Day was held on July 29 at the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota. The Minnesota Turf & Grounds Foundation was pleased to be able to sponsor this event in conjunction with the University of Minnesota.

The day began with refreshments at the registration area, which was in the Display and Trial Gardens on the St. Paul Campus. Mother Nature cooperated beautifully and the event was graced with tremendous weather. The total attendance increased from previous years but continues to be disappointing. Those who did attend were amazed at the expansion and quality of the work being conducted at the TROE Center and other horticultural activities and projects in place in various areas.

Following the official welcome by Larry Vetter, MTGF Executive Director, and Dr. Eric Watkins, University of Minnesota turfgrass breeder and instructor, attendees were split into two groups, one interested in the turf activities and the other touring current grounds research and programs. The grounds group began at the Display and Trial Gardens while the turf group boarded wagons for the trip to the TROE Center site.

The "grounds" group had six stops that included "Garden Design & Construction," "Herbaceous Trials," "Plant Growth Greenhouses & Classrooms," a tour of the CAD Lab, a walking narrative of various trees on campus and a description of tree research experiments currently being conducted and funded, in part by the MTGF.

The "turf" group spent the morning at the TROE Center rotating between nine different research projects. They included "Nutrient & Pesticide Loss with Runoff," "NTEP greens trials," "Turf Insects", "Fine Fescue/Colonial Bentgrass Fairways," "NTEP Fairway/ 10-input fairway trials," "Tall Fescue & Kentucky Bluegrass Trials," "NTEP Perennial Ryegrass Trials," "Remote Irrigation Sensing" and "Low-input Turfgrass Plots."

Dr. Jeff Gillman hosted a stop at the TRE Nursery on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus which is the home of many new and exciting investigations into tree selection, growth, and care. Numerous organizations support this research including the MTGF, the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association and the Minneapolis Park Board.

Some of the projects currently underway at the TRE Nursery include evaluations of Dutch Elm disease resistant elms, investigations into the effects of planting deeply on stem girdling roots, and experiments on the effects of various techniques applied to potbound plants to encourage root growth.

Reinders will donate
\$5 to the MGCSA
Scholarship Fund for
every case of
Daconil or pound of
Heritage purchased.

Reinders
has donated more
than \$104,000
to the
WI Turfgrass
Association
over the past
12 years.



Reinders

Solutions & Supplies for the Green Industry

MIKE REDMOND (612) 963-0752 North Central Minnesota
PAT WALTON (612) 770-2015 Twin Cities Area
FRED ANDERSON (715) 456-0971 NW Wisconsin