

BACKGROUND ON THE TURFGRASS EXPERIMENTAL AREA

Fine Turf Plots (Crops Field Lab)

The basic Fine Turf Experimental Area was established in the fall of 1961. More recently, a new set of bentgrass cultivar evaluation plots was established in August of 1968. In 1961, the Conover sandy loam soil on the site was amended with sand to a depth of 8 inches to achieve a loamy sand soil mixture. Cultural practices utilized on this experimental site include the following: mowing 6 times per week at 0.25 inches with clippings removed; irrigating as needed to prevent wilt; topdressing 2 times during the growing season using 0.25 cubic yard per 1000 square feet.

General Turf Plots (Crops Field Lab)

The basic General Turf Experimental Area was established during the summer of 1962. More recently, new cultivar evaluation plots were established in August of 1968. The soil on the site is a Conover sandy loam. Cultural practices utilized on this experimental area include the following: mowing twice weekly at 1.2 inches with clippings returned; irrigating as needed to prevent wilt. A broadleaf herbicide is applied every second year. No herbicides have been applied for annual weedy grass control. Similarly, no fungicides have been applied to the experimental area.

Shade Turf Plots (Crops Field Lab)

The natural shade experimental area was cleared and established in August of 1961. An irrigation system was finally installed in 1971. The tree canopy (sugar maples) was also selectively pruned at that time to provide a relatively uniform light intensity equivalent to approximately 5% of normal sunlight. The soil was tilled and tree root pruning accomplished. Various sod transplanting studies were then established during the last week in August of 1971. The turf is mowed once per week at 2.5 inches with clippings returned. Irrigation is applied as needed to prevent wilt. No herbicides or insecticides have been applied.

Soils Turf Plots (Soils Field Lab)

This is the oldest turfgrass experimental area existing at Michigan State University. The soil on the experimental site is a fine sandy loam. Sod was removed from all plots other than the bentgrass soil mixture study area in July of 1965, and the soil was fumigated. Subsequently, the bentgrass and red fescue areas were established in the fall of 1965. The fertility studies were initiated in 1967. Cultural practices include the following: mowing twice weekly at 1.5 inches with clippings returned; irrigation is practiced as needed to prevent wilt. No chemical weed control has been practiced on most of the soils experimental area. Weed infestations are good indicators in evaluating the beneficial responses to various fertility practices.

GENERAL TURFGRASS
RESEARCH AREA
DIAGRAM

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