

Update at Purdue

A Turfgrass Extension Specialist will be hired to join the faculty of the Department of Agronomy at Purdue University. This person will fill the opening created when Dr. Freeborg retired. The funding for this position will come from state appropriations to Purdue University. This will be the first time that two turfgrass specialists at Purdue University will be supported by state funds.

The individual hired as the Turfgrass Extension Specialists will be responsible for planning and coordinating the annual Turf Conference, Turf Field Day and Turf and Ornamental Pesticide Use Seminars. This individual will also interact with professional turf managers through meetings, newsletters and publications in trade magazines. A portion of the Turfgrass Extension Specialist's time will be spent to help homeowners with their turf problems. This will be accomplished by training session for County Agents and writing extension bulletins. The individual hired will also devote some time to research in an area of his interest.

Dr. Throssell will be responsible for teaching all the turfgrass courses and be the leader of the turfgrass research efforts. Dr. Throssell will continue to serve as Executive Secretary of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation and participate in extension activities.

The presence of two individuals at Purdue devoting all their time to turfgrass is a major step forward for the turfgrass program. This will allow us to be more active in teaching, research and extension. Since the Turfgrass Extension Specialist's salary will be paid for by state appropriations the money raised by the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation can be directed toward research. Once an individual is hired and familiar with the position we will be able to accomplish much more than we have in the past.

The Turfgrass Extension Specialist position is open immediately and qualified applicants are encouraged to apply. The minimum educational requirement is an M.S. degree with specialization in turfgrass science. Practical experience working with turfgrass would be helpful. Interested individuals can apply to or contact Dr. Clark Throssell, Department of Agronomy, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907, (317) 494-4785.

Planting Lawngrass Seed by the Square Inch

Ever wonder about how lawngrass seeding rates are determined? Calculations start with the knowledge that about 6 lawngrass plants per square inch are needed in an established lawn. To get 6 established plants, some 12 seeds per square inch are required in the seeding process. Some seeds will be raked in too deep and others are left on the surface. Neither of these are likely to become well established. Birds may eat some seeds and rainfall may wash other seed away. Not all seeds have equal vigor and some may produce weak seedlings that die from damping off diseases. Experience has shown that about two seeds need be planted for every one that develops into the mature lawn. Since lawngrass seed is so inexpensive, these recommended seeding rates prove to be economical. Use of less than recommended seeding rates will cause the new lawn to be open and weedy and take longer to mature into high quality turf.

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