



Dudeck's overseeding trial results on 43 seed varieties.

After a short hop back to the main campus, the attendees toured the Envirotron 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.

TIDINGS FROM THE TC

## Turf, Ornamental Faculty Make Great Speakers

### IFAS Summer Field Day

**B**ig congratulations to the Milton Research and Education Center for hosting a great University of Florida Turfgrass Field Day in conjunction with their annual Gulf Coast Expo June 23.

A heartfelt thanks to Center Director Donn Shilling, Assistant Professor Bryan Unruh, and Professor Barry Brecke for leading the Milton effort and for extending yeoman-like effort to put on a fine program. The IFAS Field Day was held for the first time at this Northwest Florida location. The University of Florida turfgrass program gets bigger and bigger!

### Interim Center Director

Dr. Joan Dusky is Interim Center Director of the Ft. Lauderdale Research

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### Turf Advisory Work Group

George Agrios, Plant Pathology .....	352-392-3631
Jerry Bennett, Agronomy Department .....	352-392-1814
Randy Brown, Department of Soil Water Science .....	352-392-1803
John Capinera, Department of Entomology and Nematology .....	352-392-1901
Joan Dusky, Ft. Lauderdale REC .....	954-475-8990
John Gordon, Department of Food and Resource Economics .....	352-392-1826
Terril Nell, Environmental Horticulture .....	352-392-1831
Donn Shilling, West Florida REC – Jay .....	850-994-5215
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<b>IFAS ADMINISTRATION</b>	
Mike Martin, VP for Agriculture and Natural Resources .....	352-392-1971
Extension: Jim App and Chris Waddill .....	352-392-1761
Research: Everett Emino and Richard Jones .....	352-392-1784
Academic Programs: Jimmy Cheek .....	352-392-1961

and Education Center (FLREC). She replaces David Buchanan who retired June 30. Dr. Dusky comes our way with plenty of administrative and scientific experience. Moreover, she is quite familiar with

Florida agriculture. As you may know, she is a long time professor of weed science at the University of Florida. Until this appointment, Dr. Dusky was located at the Everglades Research and

Education Center (EREC) in Belle Glade, where she conducted important weed science programs for agricultural crops. Recently, she got involved in weed research for the sod production industry. Join with me in congratulating Joan and wishing her the best of luck in her new job.

### 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

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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 turfscientists 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 Com-

mittee Chair for schedules. Dr. Su's phone number is 954-475-8990.

The FLREC extension/teaching entomology faculty position brought in five applications. The Center is attempting to extend the search period to attract more applicants. Please 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

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# 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.

Association "Future of Golf" tournament, Steve Pearson, superintendent at the Falls CC and a director of the PBGCSA, presented the FLREC with a check for \$7,500 to support new research on ultradwarf bermudagrasses.

At the April Envirotron Classic, the Seven Rivers Chapter announced that it would be providing financial support of a shade-tolerance research study in the Envirotron to be conducted by Drs. Russell Nagata, EREC and Grady Miller, Gainesville. This is a great precedent for Envirotron funds to support interdisciplinary research. Seven Rivers also announced support of Dr. Jerry Sartain's soil and tissue analysis research. All the scientists extend their deep appreciation.

## Turf Faculty Notes

Congratulations to Dr. Lawrence Datnoff, EREC pathologist, on his promotion to professor, beginning this summer 1999.

Our three Florida turf faculty on sabbatical leave are set to return in mid to late summer. I recently heard from Dr. Robin Giblin-Davis, FLREC, so I guess the great white sharks and the crocs from down under haven't gotten him yet.

The Florida First Conference May 20-21 was VP Mike Martin's exciting new approach to focusing on the University of Florida's future role in Florida agriculture. Turfgrass was one of the key groups included as industry sector. Many thanks to Joel Jackson, Ray Carruthers, Mark Jarrell, and Don Benham for representing the turfgrass industry.

JOHN CISAR

Turf Coordinator

## FLORIDA FIRST

### Focusing IFAS Resources on Solutions for Tomorrow

**O**n May 20th and 21st the University of Florida held a conference in Safety Harbor, Fla to bring together representatives of all the state's agricultural commodities.

The purpose was to discuss the future course that the Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) should take to meet the needs of producers, managers and consumers in Florida.

For the golf industry there were some