

# UF Turfgrass Faculty Back to Full Strength

## Former Extension Agent to Teach and Conduct Research in Golf and Sports Turf Management

GAINESVILLE – The University of Florida environmental horticulture department has hired Jason Dettman-Kruse as a turfgrass science assistant professor. Beginning August, he has been teaching several hands-on courses to Gainesville students and starting his research program on athletic fields.

Students in Dettman-Kruse's undergraduate courses will be using the Turfgrass Envirotron on campus and the Turfgrass Research Unit in Citra. In these facilities, students get to practice hands-on management of turf, including irrigation, mowing, topdressing, overseeding, and fertilization. He is also team-teaching a Landscape and Turfgrass Management class.

"Having worked in both the industry and as an Extension educator, I recognize the value of hands-on learning opportunities," said Dettman-Kruse. "I look forward to working with my colleagues and the industry across the state to help establish the Golf and Sports Turf Management Program at the University of Florida as one of the best in the nation."

Dettman-Kruse comes to UF/IFAS



*Dr. Jason Dettman-Kruse is the newest addition to the UF Environmental Horticulture Dept. He will specialize in sports turf management and will focus on developing students in all phases of turfgrass science.*

from the University of Wisconsin's Extension program, where he worked as an educator for the commercial horticulture industry. There he developed and taught curricula to Wisconsin's green industry on turfgrass identification, weed control, spreader calibration and pesticide application.

Dettman-Kruse received his B.S. in crop science from the University of Idaho, his native state. He earned

an M.S. in soil and water science at UF, studying the management of ultradwarf bermudagrasses, and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University. His research at Iowa involved the use of remote sensing systems in nutrient and water resources management.

Research will be a priority for Dettman-Kruse in his new position as well. His research program will focus on the management of athletic fields as related to player safety and site-specific management of soil and water resources in urban turfgrass systems.

"Turfgrass beautifies our environment and protects against injuries during athletic activities, while working to filter our air and water resources," said Dettman-Kruse. "My teaching philosophy is focused on creating a learning environment that combines traditional classroom and laboratory experience with a variety of hands-on learning activities and on-the-job training. Students successfully completing the Golf and Sports Turf Management program at the University of Florida will leave with the education and experience necessary to be successful turfgrass managers and good stewards of the environment."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Dr. Dettman-Kruse essentially replaces the position vacated by Dr. Grady Miller. We were lucky to fill the position before the recent budget cuts necessitated a university wide hiring freeze.*

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