

UF/IFAS Field Day Scrapbook

Photos by Joel Jackson

Moving the UF/IFAS Field Days from July to May was a good move weather- and comfort-wise and much appreciated by the crowd of industry professionals who attended the annual event in Gainesville and Citra.

If I had any disappointment it was that I was not aware of a single county or city representative in attendance to learn about new grass varieties, water use or nutrient leaching and runoff. All these topics seem to be on the front burner and yet no one bothered to come and ask questions.

That is the hard part for most turf professionals to swallow: when the politicians start making rules without good science behind them. It's right here at the Envirotron and Plant Science Center. Come and get it!



Dr. Billy Crow is still on his Quest for the Holy Grail – an effective alternative to Nematicur. By the way EPA extended the sale of Nematicur until Nov. 30.



Dr. Jason Dettman-Kruse discussed the pros and cons of artificial turf versus natural turf. He said the fake stuff loses its credibility when it too has to be watered just to keep it cool enough to play on.



Dr. Eileen Buss admits she thinks that turf is bug food. Here she shows off a bunch of trained hunting bill bugs.



Fertilizer Guru Dr. Jerry Sartain has only been researching the fate of fertilizer for 30 years or so. When the Dr. says very little nutrients run off a site, why won't people listen?



Geneticist Dr. Freddy Altpeter, left, discusses the way genes can be used to create new Florida Friendly grasses.



Dr. Phil Harmon has been busy. New grasses have bred some diseases we haven't normally seen down here before. Don't forget the Rapid Diagnostic Service at UF. Get those samples ID'ed in 24 hours.



The Master Moisture Monitor, Dr. Michael Dukes seeks the best ways homeowners can water lawns more efficiently. He says only one day a week on St. Augustine can be a gamble.



From bermuda to zoysia, Dr. Kenworthy is putting scores of grasses through their paces to find varieties that might work more effectively in Florida.



Dr. Laurie Trenholm has been one of the most visible BMP crusaders around the state. She knows how much nitrogen is leaching through the lawns. When you apply it right, it isn't much.