



... And You Thought You Saw It All At Field Day

By Tom Salaiz

A full parking lot, Wayne Kussow and Mike Carlson on their research plots, Frank Rossi and Henry Burg seeding, student workers buzzing around on mowers, and me trying to keep on top of all the activity. These are some of the things you might have seen if you happened to stop by for a visit this fall after field day. On the heels of a very successful field day, many research projects have been initiated since, and many more are being scheduled for yet this fall and next spring. Here's a brief sampling of the activity:

Bentgrass Evaluation

This trial was planted on August 15, just three days prior to field day. Since then the cultivars have germinated quite well (Figure 1). As of this writing, the plots are currently being mowed at 3/8". After the turfgrasses have filled in completely, plans are to bring them down to two mowing heights, 1/4" and 1/2". Notes on snowmold incidence, quality and color will be taken on these cultivars.

National Tall Fescue Evaluation Trial

Ninety two, count them, 92 tall fescue cultivars and experimental lines were planted on September 24. Plans were to plant the study the week of September 14, but Mother Nature had other ideas. The grasses were planted in 5' x 5' plots and will be evaluated for germination rate, winter survival, overall quality and adaptability to Wisconsin's environment.

Crested Wheatgrass Evaluation Trial

Not quite the size of the tall fescue trial, the crested wheatgrass trial includes two experimental lines from the turfgrass breeding program at Colorado State University and three commercially available cultivars. The trial was seeded September 25. Crested wheatgrass is cool-season perennial

bunch grass native to the former Soviet Russia. It is adapted to the cold, low rainfall climate of those areas, and is being evaluated for potential turfgrass use under low and medium maintenance regimes.

Crested wheatgrass is maintained at 1" and 2.5" in trials at Colorado State. Higher quality has been obtained at the taller heights. We will evaluate then at 1.5 and 3".

Soil Compaction Effects on Nutrient and Pesticide Losses from Turf

Wayne Kussow and Mike Carlson have been busily working on installing the runoff collection system previewed at field day (Figure 2). Each of the 24 collection units must be perfectly aligned with the ground surface in order to insure collection of runoff at the proper depth; not a fast process by any means.

Hopefully Wayne will have had several opportunities to do some preliminary runs this fall. Questions on the environmental impact of turfgrass management practices will soon be answered.

Spring Valley Turf Products

Clipping weights and more clipping weights. It seems as though every time I turn around, Wayne Kussow is out on his plots collecting grass clippings with his ingenious collection system on his walk behind mower. Clipping yield is a way for him to get a handle on fertilizer performance.

Turfgrass Species Demonstration

This project will serve the purpose of educating students, clientele and turfgrass professionals on the different grass species grown for turf in the upper Midwest. Planted on September 25, these grasses will be maintained at two mowing

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Figure 1. Creeping bentgrass variety plots begin to fill in.



Figure 2. The runoff collection system includes a long rectangular frame which collects the runoff and funnels it into the large trash can on the downside of the slope.

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heights within their tolerance range and two fertilization rates for comparison purposes.

Future Projects

As mentioned at field day, Wayne Kussow and Mike Carlson will be evaluating several organic amendments to USGA greens.

Initial steps toward construction have begun, starting with stripping away sod from the site (Figure 3).

A 500 ft² area of Kentucky bluegrass has been brought to fairway height (0.75") for a snowmold control study. Frank Rossi and Julie Meyer will be cooperating on this project.

A 500 ft² area of 'Penncross' creeping bentgrass will be used to evaluate winter covers for bentgrass greens.

Twenty Kentucky bluegrass cultivars/experimental lines will be evaluated at fairway mowing height. Fertilization rates in addition to mowing height treatments will be imposed.

Bob Newman will be evaluating competitiveness of Kentucky bluegrass varieties in different seeding rates of perennial ryegrass. His objective is to obtain some information on optimal bluegrass:perennial ryegrass ratios in seed mixtures.

As Frank Rossi said in the last issue of *The Grass Roots*: "HERE WE GO!"



Figure 3. Sod is stripped away from the future site of organic amendment evaluation green.

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Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz



Who Went Where? (Part I)

By Monroe S. Miller

As the years pass by, an ever-increasing percentage of WGCSA members are alums of the UW-Madison Turfgrass Management program. However, a thorough check of the membership roster shows a rich variety of educational background. See how you do on the first part of the *GRASS ROOTS* college quiz.

1. This WGCSA member attended Union College. Name him and tell us where Union College is located.
2. Name a WGCSA member who graduated from Iowa State.
3. Name three WGCSA members who attended Pennsylvania State University.
4. Name three WGCSA members who attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.
5. Name a WGCSA member who attended Michigan State University.

You will find the answers to the WISCONSIN GOLF COURSE QUIZ on page 29.



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