



First Impressions: 1993 Field Day

By Scott MacIntosh

Thanks to everyone, Field Day '93 will be remembered as a "packed house," with great participation and fantastic support for the ongoing research efforts here at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility. The 13-acre Research Facility was "busting at the seams" with local industry displaying the latest products and machinery. Gary Richards, Assistant Superintendent at Maple Bluff Country Club, orchestrated the parking which spilled over close to the impressive looking research area (is it time to get more land?). Everything ran smoothly thanks in large part to Tom Harrison, Monroe Miller, Gary Richards, Tom Schwab, and the Staff at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility working together.

As part of the itinerary, Professors Chuck Koval, Wayne Kussow and Frank Rossi, research specialist Catherine Smejkal, graduate students Chris Bulinger, Mike Carlson, and Steve Millet; and summer help, Mike Kosmak, presented research and answered questions from an interested and insightful audience.

After a generous lunch, in which I had my first and second and almost third bratwurst, donations from the trade show exhibitors were auctioned off and many lucky people left with some nice purchases.

I can say confidently that Field Day 1993 was a big success. Dr. Rossi will be distributing evaluation forms in the mail to about 20% of the attendees. Be sure to send us your comments as we strive to improve each year. To all those who could not make it this year, make room in your calendars for August 16, 1994!

Maintenance Log

The last couple of weeks in August around here reminded me of typical Southern New England weather—hazy, hot, and humid. Warm humid night temperatures and hot sticky day

temperatures jump-started *Pythium*, *Rhizoctonia solani*, and even *Puccinia gaminis* on newly seeded endophytic ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and a Kentucky bluegrass-tall fescue mix. In response, curative applications of fungicides were made to all newly established turf stands to relieve disease pressures. Additionally, a mature stand of bentgrass cultivars was infected with *Rhizoctonia solani* and left untreated to observe any cultivar differences in response to the invasion. Needless to say, the cool weather brought a welcome relief from warm weather disease pressure.

What's New?

Everyone here at the Noer Facility is making use of the fall season to initiate research. Dr. Wayne Kussow is studying factors regulating bentgrass spring response to a dormant application of Milorganite and is installing lysimeters in the Turfgrass Runoff and Leaching Study. Dr. Chuck Koval is evaluating 20 perennials (i.e. Astilbe, Bugleweed, Coral Bellies...Yarrow) for their potential use on golf courses and is also working in conjunction with Dr. Julie Meyer by investigating the resistance of endophytic grasses to insects and diseases. Dr. Julie Meyer will also

be evaluating the effect of commercial organic fertilizers and compost amendments on the development of turf diseases and continue work on the management of gray snow mold.

Meanwhile Dr. Frank Rossi is getting ready to establish National Fine Fescue and Bentgrass Evaluations, along with various winter variety trials. In our spare time, we are working on getting construction underway with two 2,500 sq. ft. greens—one native soil and one meeting most of the USGA specifications.

Next time you stop by the Noer Facility do not be surprised to find a new bookshelf as you walk into the foyer which will contain updated information from the WTA meetings, turf magazines, and other relevant information. This spring a billboard adjacent to the front door of the facility will be built to contain current information on research being conducted and its location on the turf plots.

Everyone at O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility is dedicated to assisting the turfgrass industry (i.e. homeowners, lawn care professionals, sales representatives, superintendents, etc.) Therefore, if there is anything we can help you with please do not hesitate to call 608-845-6536. Also, for up-to-date turfgrass information please call 1-608-845-TURF.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone here at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility, the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, and the local turfgrass industry for welcoming me and my family to the beautiful state of Wisconsin. 🍷

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