



# Summer Field Day Eludes Mother Nature's Wrath Once Again

By Tom Schwab, Superintendent  
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On the night before this summer's 14th annual turfgrass field day, all I could think about was the rained out 4th field day held at Camelot Country Club ten years previous. As we were leaving the Noer Facility after doing last minute preparations the skies opened up. I thought I was going to get washed off the road on the way home. I had thoughts of trying to crowd 500 people into the facility the next day like we did into Camelot's barn in 1986. I also thought about towing sunk-in-the-mud trucks and trailers out of the trade show area. Fortunately the rain only amounted to 9/10 inch. Since that was the only rain we received in August it soaked into the ground as quick as it came. Field day was spared. The day turned into a very pleasant one for this annual gathering of turf professionals.

The good weather was only the beginning of the success of field day 1996. There was a record number of vendors that exhibited in the trade show (58, one over last year's record of 57). These vendors give so much support to turf research in Wisconsin that it's great to be associated with

them and to see their numbers increase every year. The attendees are the real benefactors of the larger trade show. It gives each attendee more avenues to attain information on better maintaining their lawn and landscapes.

The morning trade show featured an equipment demonstration that showed off many of these new and improved technologies. There were aerators of all types, mowers for all heights, sod cutters, brush cutters, topdressers, weed whippers, utility vehicles, and anything else you could use in your maintenance operation. They were all there for you to test out and compare with hands-on demonstrations. The new six acres that we seeded this spring was left long for rough mower demonstration. The whole field was trimmed in no time at all by the flurry of different mowers being demonstrated.

The lunch was again superb and it provided a great time to converse with old and new friends. Following lunch, the announcement of silent auction winners took place. The table was filled with great prizes that were donated by the vendors and some

attendees. As usual those items were acquired for pretty nice prices by the bidders. Those bidders were not the only winners. The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association made \$2,450 from that auction. The field day is one of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association's main fundraising events. Including the auction, the WTA walked away with a very nice chunk of change totaling more than \$10,000 which will mostly be used to fund additional turf research at the UW.

The main focus of field day is the afternoon turfgrass tour which presents all the latest turf research efforts done at the UW-Madison. A more informal tour was planned for this year than was used in other years. The idea was to be more flexible and allow attendees time to visit each station for as long as they would like, or they could move around with the group and spend short times at each station. Although this year's tour was short on professors with the retirement of Drs. Koval and Meyer and the relocation of Dr. Rossi, we were fortunate that students, Noer staff and industry representatives stepped in to give some



The speck in the sky, which flew over the Noer Facility around noon...



took this great aerial photo of 1996 Field Day.

great talks. The golf manager's tour had presentations on putting green construction, management strategies, and turf selection. Also for golf were strategies on using plant growth regulators and controlling patch diseases and dollar spot. Drs. Maxwell, Parke and Andi Guerin discussed disease controls using some of the new biologicals. The Lawn and Landscape tour featured talks on urban runoff, prairies, and ornamental grasses, along with lawn establishment and renovation strategies and how to control the number one homelawn disease pest—necrotic ring spot.

For the record I'll note that attendance was down slightly this year. There were almost 50 fewer attendees than last year's 425 record number. These numbers exclude speakers, guests and exhibitors. It's hard to tell why the numbers were down but the folks who did attend were treated to another wonderful turfgrass summer field day and lots of new ideas to take home with them. And my fears of the evening before didn't materialize. The weather for field day was, once again, great.

### 1996 Field Day Exhibitors

Our thanks go to these exhibitors who help so much to make field day possible. Thank them when you get a chance.

Bachtold Bros.  
 Bayer Corp.  
 Cannon Turf  
 Central Wisc Evergreens  
 Century Rain Aid  
 Check Signature  
 Chipco Specialty Products  
 Ciba-Geigy  
 Cole Grower Service  
 Conserv F/S  
 Contree Sales  
 F S Seed  
 Flexstake  
 Glenn Rehbein Excavating  
 Greensmix  
 Hanley Company  
 Hanson & Associates  
 Horst Distributing  
 HSK & Associates  
 ISK Biosciences  
 J W Turf  
 Johnson & Assoc  
 KEI  
 Kellogg Inc  
 Land Pride Turf  
 Lange-Stegmann Co  
 Lebanon Turf Products  
 Lesco Inc.



Turf specialist Amy Sausen led one of the many tours of the research area.



Tom Schwab, host of the WTA Field Day.



Professor Kusow ponders a question from the Field Day crowd.



Cherokee's George Magnin visits with Professor Doug Maxwell.



PLCAA president Terry Kurth and WGCSA president Mark Kienert.

McFarlane Implement  
 Medalist America Seed  
 Melcher Equipment  
 MidAmerco Inc.  
 Miller & Assoc.  
 Milorganite  
 Olds Seed Company  
 Olsen Distributing  
 Par Aide Products  
 Pendelton Turf Supply  
 Precision Labs  
 ProGreen Plus  
 ProGreens of Midwest  
 ProLawn  
 Reinders Irrigation  
 Reinders Turf Equipment  
 Rhody's Town & Country  
 Rohm & Haas Company  
 Scotts Company  
 Spring Valley  
 Tee Shot Marketing  
 Terra International  
 Tillmann Wholesale Growers  
 Tyler Enterprises  
 Uniroyal Chemical  
 Vigoro Industries  
 WDATCP  
 Wisconsin Turf  
 Wolosek Landscape  
 Zorbit Technologies



The Noer Facility exists in a large part to this man—Dr. Leo Walsh. He was CALS dean during planning and construction, and was instrumental in guiding industry efforts.



A new flag and flagpole grace the Noer Facility landscape.