



Try One of These In Your Spare Time

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The Noer staff and professors will have held their second Homeowner Field Day by the time you receive this issue of *The Grass Roots*. The field day is open to the public and in its first year was well received with about 500 attendees. You could hold one of these homeowner field days at your golf course and reap tons of goodwill and educate the masses in one fell swoop. The superintendents of Wisconsin's golf courses are some of the best versed experts of turfgrass culture in the country and the homeowners from your communities would love to hear from you.

You wouldn't have to do it alone and it wouldn't be that hard either. You could get hands-on help from your local school's science or agriculture classes, local master gardeners, area soccer clubs, county extension agents, and interested staff or golf members. We, at the Noer Facility, would love to share our Homeowner Field Day book and experiences with you also. Almost everyone is in contact with turfgrass in every day of his/her life and many would attend a field day to hear about their options for caring for it. This is especially true in the spring when everyone is getting out fertilizer spreaders and crabgrass preventer as soon as the snow melts and in the fall when many turfgrass maintenance practices are most successfully accomplished.

To get ideas about what demonstrations or studies to have in your field day just listen to those around you. What questions do friends, community members, and golfers ask you the most?

- What species, cultivars, or mixtures of grass should I plant?
- Should I use mulch and/ or starter fertilizer to establish a lawn?
- Does mowing height effect the number of weeds in my lawn?
- Do I have to mow more often if I fertilize and mow tall?
- How do I get rid of creeping charlie and does 20 Mule Team Borax really work?
- When should I fertilize and what kind to use?
- Should I seed or sod my lawn?
- How can I grow grass in the shade or what perennial groundcover options do I have?
- How do I renovate a tired old lawn or repair winter damage?

It is also possible that you could connect with schools to encourage students to carry out some studies. What do your school's science teachers think would make a good study for their students? For example a high school class

in the Milwaukee area investigated a river that runs through Ozaukee Country Club. These students found that the water is cleaner after it runs through the course than when it enters the course. Some of these demonstrations would not have to be very technical and could even be accomplished by elementary school classes.

You could also show off some of your other existing golf course features to diversify the day. Tell participants how to plant or prune trees, how to plant a prairie, what mulches to use in a perennial flower bed, how to get weeds out of a bed, how to attract birds or butterflies, or even how to sharpen a lawn mower blade.

The Grass Roots has had many good public relations ideas written in it lately like the Audubon Program and volunteering to teach a couple days in your local schools about proper turf care. This homeowner field day would be another way to make a hit with your golfers and community. Besides I'm sure you're looking for ways to fill all your free time in the summer! 🌱

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