



# Good September for the Station

By Tom Schwab, Superintendent  
O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Noer Facility is constantly evolving. That is what makes this job so interesting for everyone who works here. The two big things we accomplished in September were to expand our irrigation system and to install a bunch of new investigations. We have been quickly running out of irrigated plots for research projects. Previously there were 81 irrigated plots at the Noer Facility, and almost all of the unoccupied plots were taken with the installation of eight new studies this fall. The new irrigation will provide twelve new irrigated plots, easing some of this overcrowding for 1999.

Installing the new investigations took precedence over the irrigation project this September. We were battling the clock trying to get the plots planted before the September 15 seeding cutoff date for southern Wisconsin. Everyone contributed many late nights and long weekends to get the plots in. Several nights involved using utility vehicle headlights to do seeding well past dark. The seed for all the plots germinated and were established quicker than I have ever seen before. All conditions were suitable for fast germination including warm soils and air temperatures in September, good supplemental irriga-

tion, and available fresh seed. We also used various turf covers to speed establishment. The new investigations that were installed include:

- \* Aggressiveness of bentgrass clones
- \* Different seed mixtures for athletic field use
- \* Evaluation of new bentgrasses, sand green
- \* Homeowner turfgrass mixture demonstration
- \* Regional Kentucky bluegrass demonstration
- \* Three different National Turfgrass Evaluation Program: fine fescue, fairway height; bentgrass, push up green; and bentgrass, tee/fairway height

There were many challenges installing each of these new projects. The 'aggressiveness of bentgrass clones' project will observe how the bentgrasses compete with *Poa annua*, however we didn't have continuous plots of *Poa annua* to test against at the Noer Facility. We discovered that Clark Rowles was rebuilding some greens at Nakoma Country Club, because they were largely populated with *Poa annua*. So we relocated the sod from two of his greens to the Noer Facility. The chal-

lenge of a few of the other investigations involved fumigating the soil to lessen weed competition. The fumigant works well but is dusty, smelly, and difficult to apply. Seven of the eight new investigations presented the challenge of seeding them with shaker jars since the plots are too small for conventional seeding equipment. Each investigation averaged about 100 separate small plots. The extensive handwork is why seeding continued well into the night and dur-



Tammy and Jim Krieger treated us like royalty.



The contestants for the first Noer Open.



Professor Doug Maxwell puts on a clinic for the young pups.



ing some long weekend days this September. Protecting these valuable investigations from erosion also presented a challenge. Many types of turf covers were utilized including Futerra, Curolex, and Evergreen mats as well as marsh hay.

The irrigation project could now commence after the new seedings were successfully installed. Jeff Gregos wanted to test his irrigation design knowledge by drawing up the irrigation system. A quick check with Phil Zastrow and Dan Bilski from Reinders Irrigation checked out that the system was designed perfectly. Funds were quickly procured, parts ordered, and installation begun. Reinders helped out once again by donating a trencher for installation. As of this writing the system is now pressurized, and partially cleaned up. The only work left to do is finish cleaning up, level heads and boxes, repair four leaks, and wire the system to the satellites.

These projects were not without some entertainment. We managed to squeeze in the first-ever Noer Open Golf Invitational in early September. The Faculty and staff at Noer were all invited to enjoy the golf and cui-

sine of Windy Acres in Monroe. We could not have had better hosts than owners Jim and Tammy Krieger. We were just planning on walking nine holes but Jim insisted we ride carts complete with refreshments. The course was so much fun that we had to play another nine holes. Jim then invited us to dinner for Friday night fish fry. He gifted the golf to us but we were firm that we'd pay for dinner which he agreed to. But he lied. After the wonderful fish fry, he would not give us the bill, and after some arguing would still not let us pay. Our first crew outing will not only be remembered for the fun golf course but for the gracious hospitality of our host.

We also had another diversion in September when working one night. A visitor stopped by to see if he could practice tennis on some of our grass. The visitor was former UW-Madison basketball and tennis coach, John Powless. John was recently rated the top grass tennis player for his age group in the country. He had an upcoming tournament in New York and wanted to get the feel for playing on short grass of which there isn't any in Madison. Luckily we had

some bentgrass plots that were scheduled to be torn out in a couple days so we let him play. I even tried to volley with him — and quickly learned why he is top rated!

The faculty and staff accomplished a lot at the Noer Facility in September and had some fun while working hard. The addition of the new investigations and more irrigated plots for future studies will help us add to our base of local turfgrass knowledge. We hope you had a good September too. 🍷



Top rated John Powless pays a visit to the Noer Facility.



Headlights were needed to seed into the night.



Irrigation for the 12 new plots were installed this fall.



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Oconomowoc, WI 53226

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