



Plans are in Full Swing

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

Tons of activities have been taking place at the Noer Facility this spring and summer. Most of this action is focused towards presenting the professional turfgrass industry with as much relevant information as possible during the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association (WTA) Summer Field Day. Over 15 different professors, students, and other helpers are working at the facility every day -- doing research, building new projects, and beautifying the grounds in an effort to bring you a top-notch field day. We hope every one of you can attend this informative and fun event this year, which will be held on Tuesday, August 10th.

This year's field day will include more formal presentations and more speakers than ever before. New on the program are entomologist Dr. Chris Williamson, plant pathologist Dr. Doug Maxwell, and turfgrass breeder Dr. Michael Casler. Jeff Gregos, Dr. John Stier, Dr. Wayne Kussow, Gary Gaard, myself, and several graduate students will also be on the program. Two separate research tours will take place starting at 8:45. One will concentrate on golf concerns, while the second will focus on studies for athletic fields, sod, landscaping, and lawn care. Additional educational attractions will include a wildlife tour, ornamental grass demonstration,

athletic field painting clinic, and one-on-one informal conversation with the researchers.

No doubt you will also enjoy the informative trade show. Over 50 different exhibitors will display their latest products, equipment, and services for our industry. As always, there will be lively equipment demonstrations where you can observe mowers side-by-side and hear about features from factory representatives. Or take a personal test-drive yourself to check out the performance of different equipment. The exhibitors also sponsor a silent auction during the trade show where many deals can be found. The auction proceeds help to support important turf research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

New members that join WTA this year can find another deal at Field Day - free admission. The field day is still a bargain for other attendees. Admission includes all the features mentioned above in addition to coffee and donuts and a wonderful lunch. It also provides a nice time to visit with peers. A first mailing with registration information was sent out in June. Or use the enclosed registration form that you'll find in the Grass Roots. You may call WTA administrative secretary, Audra Anderson, at 608-845-6536 if you have any questions. ♣



NOTES FROM THE NOER FACILITY

