

TDDL No Longer, Now it's the TDL

By Jeff Gregos, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

For over three years I have been writing articles within the TDDL section of the Grass Roots, but this article will be the last. Before you jump to conclusions, corporate America has not downsized us, rather we have taken the next step in diagnosing all your turfgrass related problems. On January 27th members of the Turfgrass Team met and came to the agreement to consolidate all turfgrass diagnostic services into one lab. Starting this season all turf samples (disease, insects, and weeds) will be processed at the newly formed Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab (TDL)

The TDL, as was the TDDL, is a revolutionary concept that separates it from other diagnostic labs. Most diagnostic labs across the country, and within our University, deal with a broad range of crops. These labs are very qualified to diagnose problems, but some of the time the problem submitted is actually caused by something other than what it was submitted for. For example, what appears to be a disease problem is actually caused by an insect or cultural problem. This is when it is convenient to have people

familiar with all aspects of the crop on the receiving end. In the past several years at the TDDL the most commonly diagnosed problems are abiotic. If you were not familiar with the crop, many questions could go unanswered.

In light of the many differences found in turf (perennial crop, traffic, etc.), the Turfgrass Team decided it is best to remove any middlemen. For example, if you have a sinus infection, you may first go to your general practitioner. If he is unable to solve your problem, he will probably send you to an ear, nose and throat specialist. This is a time consuming process, of which you have very little when dealing with many turf problems. With specialists on board from each discipline, the TDL should be able to serve all your diagnostic needs, one stop shopping-if you will. Dr. John Stier will be assisting with weed and physiology related problems and Dr. Chris Williamson would assist with entomological identification.

Another important aspect that will be tied into the lab is educational experience for graduate students. Over the summer months graduate students will be assisting in the sample diagnosis. When the Turfgrass Team met in January, we agreed that one thing lacking in graduate programs is practical experience. Many of the graduate students will be diagnosing problems of turf managers someday. It is important for them to gain an understanding of how to evaluate a sample as well as learn clientele relations.

So as you go to submit a turf sample this year, remember that there is only one address to send it to: TDL, 3101 Highway M, Verona WI 53593. We look forward to not hearing from you, but if we do, we are ready to help with any turfgrass problem you might have. 🌿

Our Business Is Growing.

With superior fertilizers, combination products and seeds, Lebanon Turf Products can solve any turf problem. Guaranteed. With over 200 different product offerings and a fleet of turf-care professionals on staff, we can answer your toughest questions and provide you with the perfect product for your soil conditions and turf needs. Call your nearest Lebanon Turf Products dealer or distributor for information. Or 1-800-233-0628.

Country Club

greenskeeper

ISOtek³¹

NX-PRO

par ex

Lebanon Pro

ISOPRO

ProScape

Frank Baden
Territory Manager
Bettendorf, IA
(319) 332-9288



**FEICK
DESIGN
GROUP**

SPRING GREEN, WISCONSIN

608-588-7888

GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

NEW COURSE DESIGN
RENOVATIONS
MASTER PLANNING

IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS

NEW & EXISTING COURSES
SYSTEM EVALUATIONS
GPS AS-BUILTS