



Another Great Day - Field Day 2000

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

The 2000 Wisconsin Turfgrass Field Day is now history. This was the 17th in a long list of memorable field days. Attendees' comments were all positive about the day's activities and education. There were so many new things to see and do that they couldn't help but have a good time. Attendance totaled 384 turf managers and 117 sales representatives that descended on the Noer Facility for the big show on August 8th.

The day was perfect but almost became a disaster. The grounds were already soft from a two-inch rain three days before field day, and the weather stations were predicting another inch or more the night before. Everyone was relieved on Tuesday morning to see the ground dry. We all had enough rain disasters for one year! The prediction for rain has to be the reason that attendance didn't beat the previous year's record because the research tour, trade show, and numerous special events should have helped to break records again.

The research tour that the professors and staff put on is second to none. So much information can be gathered from this tour to help those who manage turfgrass do it better. There were talks for golf turf managers on breeding better bentgrass, resisting insect problems, choosing the best chemicals to manage turf diseases, and exploring the use of fine fescue for fairway turf. Additionally golf turf managers explored the use of supina bluegrass for shaded tee boxes, learned about a study that will compare whether fungicides work better on different bentgrass cultivars, and looked at various management options for both above and below ground

putting green management.

Lawn, landscape, sod industry, and athletic turf managers learned about many other interesting subjects on their tour. They learned about attempts to establish turf quicker, use of new herbicides for better post-emergent control of crabgrass and broadleaves as well as herbicide tolerance of supina bluegrass, and they looked at an idea to increase sod shelf life. Other presentations focused on pesticide runoff from urban landscapes, how to properly align a pitcher's mound and rubber, and cold weather tolerance and demonstration of ornamental grasses.

The research tour and education all took place in the morning. An exceptional trade show and many other special events took place in the afternoon. You had to be there to believe all that took place. There was a dunk tank, putting contest, and silent auction to raise turfgrass research dollars. A presentation about attracting bluebirds and a picture-tour of the Spring 2000 Noer facility flood were interesting. The

equipment demonstration also drew lots of attention. And before lunch the most prestigious event took place. Professor Wayne Kussow was recognized for his many years of turfgrass research and assistance to the turf industry. The WTA used the field day to announce a new program that will help support turf-



Dr. Wayne Kussow explains the latest findings in the WGCSA - sponsored putting green management systems research.



An early morning view of some of the Wisconsin turfgrass research at the Noer Facility.



Pat Richter, UW-Madison Athletic Director, joined the welcome to the Noer Facility, which is adjacent to University ledge.



Dr. Geunhwa Jung explains some of his research at the Noer Research Facility.

grass graduate students. It will be called the Wayne R. Kussow and Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in Turfgrass Research Program.

All these factors made Field Day 2000 a huge success. The planning committee should also be commended for this achievement. The committee, which is made up of Jim Trzinski, Chris Wendorf, George Magnin, Bruce Schweiger, Conrad Stynchula, Randy Smith, and the professors and staff at the Noer facility, were dedicated to making this the best field day ever.

The trade-show exhibitors should also be thanked. They always do a great deal to help raise research dollars through their registration fees and their contributions to the silent auction. Plus they make it interesting by introducing all the latest innovations in turf care equipment and products.

And last but not least, you, the attendees are what really made Field Day 2000 a success. You brought vitality, good questions, dedication, and the drive to make turf management better by participating in this annual event. Another great WTA Summer Field Day is completed! 🌿

A list of field day exhibitors is shown below. Be sure to give them a call any time you need supplies or equipment to grow better turfgrass.

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| Ampac Seed Company | National Seed |
| Aventis | Natural Fertilizer of America |
| Bayer | Olsen Distributing |
| Beacon Ballfields | Par Aide |
| Century Rain Aid | Pendelton Turf Supply |
| Contree Sales Inc | ProGreen Plus |
| DTN Weather Service | ProGreens America |
| Finn Corp. | ProLawn |
| Glenn Rehbein Company | ProSource One |
| Goossen Industries | Reinders |
| Hanley | Specialty Seeds |
| Horst Distributing | Spring Valley Turf Products |
| J W Turf | The Andersons |
| Jacklin/Medalist Seeds | Turf & Ornamental Spray Systems |
| Johnson Turf Equipment | Turf Partners |
| K E I | United Horticultural Supply |
| Lebanon Turf Products | WINDS |
| Lesco | Waupaca Sand & Solutions |
| LL Olds Seed Company | Wisconsin Turf Equipment |
| McFarlane Manufacturing | Wolosek Golf Course Mix |
| Miller & Associates - Sauk Prairie | Zeneca |
| Milorganite | |