



# I Wish This Day Would Last

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

Summer Field Day, 2002 is in the history books. The only problem is that the day went by too fast. Everyone at the Noer Facility spends such an incredible amount of time and effort preparing for the day. Then before you know it the day is over. We all regret not talking to as many folks as we hoped to. It's a good time to get feedback on how Field Day went. The comments I heard, though, were very favorable of the education and commercial exhibits. So I have to report that if you missed Field Day, you missed a good one.

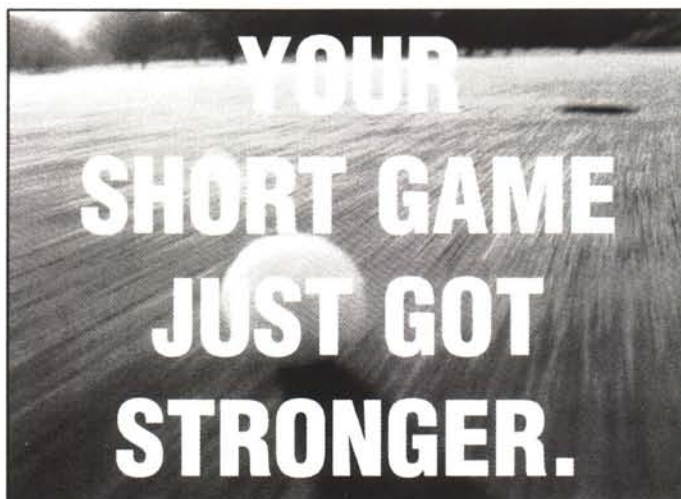
The weather was perfect during the day as an extended heat wave in southern Wisconsin finally broke. It was 75 degrees with a mild breeze and overcast skies. Unfortunately the cold front that pushed through set off a rainstorm, just as the trade show vendors were showing up in the morning. Thus a few muddy ruts were created in that area of the Facility. The weather was beautiful by the time attendees showed up. It is so often a 'Catch 22' with rain. You're damned if it does, and damned if it doesn't. I didn't want the Facility messed up with muddy truck traffic yet the rain was worth a million bucks for the new 10 acres that we just seeded the previous week.

Speaking of the new 10 acres, the person responsible for shaping the new land was honored at this year's Field Day. Lee Bruce, founder and owner of The Bruce Company, received recognition from the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, not only for his support of the Noer Facility, but for all his contributions to Wisconsin's turf and landscape industries over 50 years of business. Dean Elton Aberle from the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences said how impressed he was of Lee starting and taking this small father/son operation and building it into one of America's largest landscaping companies. He offered these and other words of praise during the opening session of Field Day. He also presented to Lee a commemorative plaque that will remain on the Noer grounds for you to see whenever you visit. Marion Brown, vice president of the UW Foundation, also had admirable words for Lee. She described him as an impressive example of how industry and the University work together to make Wisconsin strong.

The crowds of attendees lined up for the research tour after that memorable opening session. There were two research tours, one for golf subjects and the other for landscape/athletic field subjects. The golf subjects included two presentations on fairway renovation. One renovation talk explored using Basamid soil fumigant for

the renovation process while the other talk addressed using compost to improve fairway soils. High and low maintenance turfs for re-grassing those fairways were discussed in other presentations. Two talks addressed new systems of putting green construction. The golf tour ended with a fungicide/plant interaction talk, and one on ornamental grass maintenance and selection. The lawn and sports tour topics included using portable athletic fields for replacing heavy traffic areas, insect management, and new herbicides for broadleaf control. In addition the lawn and sports tour addressed management of different species, blending cultivars of Kentucky bluegrass, and how to choose turf cultivars based on National Turfgrass Evaluation Program data.

A huge trade show took place after the research tour. The trade show is where quality socializing and deal-making is done. That's where the UW Turf Research Team really wishes the day would last longer.



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We are all too busy in the morning to talk to anyone. The afternoon is where the exhibitors take over the presentations and we can visit with colleagues and friends. The number of vendors was down this year but they still put on a quality show. Those exhibitors could answer any questions about the commercial end of turfgrass management. They also sponsored the auction, which raises important dollars for turf research every year. So I hope you call on these companies throughout the year whenever you need expert advice on turf equipment, products, and services. The 2002 Field Day vendors are listed here.

The list is shorter than last year with 39 vendors compared to 42 last year. And there were only 93 sales personnel compared to 115 last year. The number of attendees was down this year also, with 334 compared to last year's 406. The rain early that morning and the previous evening may have kept some people away, and the Wisconsin Landscape Federation summer field day that was held on the same day as ours may have kept other people away. You just never know why attendance goes up and down. Let us know if you have any suggestions to increase attendance. Also let us know if you know how to make the day last longer so we can see more old friends and make more new friends. ♻

### 2002 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day Exhibitors

Be sure to call these Summer Field Day exhibitors any time you need supplies, equipment, or advice on growing better turfgrass.

BASF	Olds Seed Solutions
Bayer Environmental Science	Pearl Valley Organix
Brillion	Pendelton Turf Supply
Contree Sprayer and Equipment	ProLawn
Custom Manufacturing	Prosource One
DHD Tree Products	Reinders
Dow AgroSciences	Simplot Partners
Great Lakes Golf	Spring Valley
Horst Distributing	Syngenta
Innovative Turf Products	Tee Shot Marketing
J.W. Turf	The Andersons
Jefferson County Farmco	Town and Country Garden Center
Johnson Turf Equipment	United Horticultural Supply
KEI	Waupaca Sand and Solutions
Landscape Equipment Suppliers USA	Wisconsin Dept. of Ag. Trade and Consumer Protection
Lebanon Turf Products	Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association
Lesco	Wisconsin Turf Equipment
McFarlanes	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association
Miller and Associates - Sauk Prairie	Wolosek Landscaping and Golf Course Materials
National Seed of Wisconsin	

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