

Education Abounds at Field Day 2006



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

Turfgrass Field Day 2006 delivered excellent education and inspiration to over 300 guests who took a break from their busy work schedules on August 1st. Attendance at Field Day included 266 attendees and 78 sales representatives from 31 companies. Several distinguished guests also attended including Dr. Molly Jahn, the new Dean of the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and Dr. Irwin Goldman, Associate Dean of the College. Kirk Hunter, Executive Director of Turf Producers International, was also in attendance.

The day was extremely warm with temps in the 90's and full sun, and the Noer Facility was in all its glory from an inch of rain five days earlier. The research tour was likewise in all its glory with interesting presentations covering many 2006 turfgrass management investigations and findings.

The day started out with a welcome by Dr. John Stier representing the WTA, Brett Grams from the sports turf industry, and Dean Molly Jahn representing the UW-Madison. This was Molly's first day as the new Dean of our college, and we feel honored she chose that day to attend our industry's foremost summer event.

Next the 300 plus guests broke into two groups for the research tour, one group visiting golf turf research and the other group visiting research focused on the sports turf, sod production, and lawn care industries. There were eight presentations on each tour with so many new discoveries to be learned about. Many talks crossed over and had information for all turf management profes-



Dr. John Stier talks sod production with distinguished guests Kirk Hunter and Rusty Stachlewitz from Turf Producers International.



Dr. Chris Williamson talks with distinguished guests Drs. Molly Jahn and Irwin Goldman, Dean and Associate Dean from the UW-Madison College of Ag and Life Sciences.



Large crowds gathering for the beginning of Summer Field Day 2006.



Dr. Wayne Kussow always draws large crowds for his nutrition talks.



Graduate student Eric Koeritz talks about futuristic turf management.



Displayed here are a few of the supplies and equipment used to maintain the Noer Facility that are annually donated by industry.

sions. Graduate student Jake Schneider gave one such presentation about using rain gardens to control urban runoff. His work evaluates the ability of turfgrass and native plant rain gardens to filter rainwater and replenish groundwater.

Attendees also learned about new and old turfgrass species and cultivars. Dr. Geunhwa Jung presented his work on breeding perennial ryegrass and creeping bentgrass with the goal of resistance to multiple diseases. Graduate student Eric Koeritz presented his work about managing an old fairway and greens specie that has had limited use to

date but holds good potential for the future.

Attendees learned of the effectiveness of a new herbicide to remove annual bluegrass from athletic fields, sod farms, and other turf areas. Additionally there was a presentation about a new product for selective control of quackgrass and tall fescue. One other presentation focused on pre-emergent crabgrass control products.

There were two nutrition presentations, one for managing existing turf and the other for establishing turf. Attendees learned about new and existing products for control of dollar spot on golf courses and further

learned all about five common home lawn diseases.

Two talks exposed concerns with animal and insect pests. Dr. David Drake spoke about wildlife damage in and around suburban areas. Dr. Chris Williamson spoke about a potentially larger problem of the emerald ash borer, which could eliminate many of the ash trees in our state.

All this information from the research tours was educational and empowering. So was the value from the afternoon trade show. The summer field day exhibitors provided every tool, service, or advice needed to better manage turf areas. This year's participants

in the trade show are listed below. Be sure to call on them for all your turf needs.

To finish the day, there was an optional Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association sponsored tour of Warner Park, the home field of the Madison Mallards baseball team. This tour included an educational tour of Olds Seed Solutions, located near Warner Park. The day was jam packed with varied learning opportunities. I hope you were able to take advantage of the wonderful day. ♻️



The water donated by Wisconsin Turf Equipment and Horst Distributing was a welcome relief, as temperatures reached 90 degrees during Field Day.



Lots of iron was checked over during the trade show.

**2006 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association
Summer Field Day Commercial Participants**

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Arthur Clesen | Miller & Associates -
Sauk Prairie |
| Bayer Environmental
Science | Midwest Turf Products |
| Bell Laboratories | North Pacific Ag Products |
| Champion Greens | Olds Seed Solutions |
| Conserv FS | Olsen Distributing |
| Contree Sprayer &
Equipment | Pendelton Turf Supply |
| Deer Creek Seed | Players Choice
Athletic Fields |
| DHD Tree Products | ProSource One |
| Dow AgroSciences | Reinders |
| DryJect of Wisconsin | Syngenta |
| Ero-Tex | The Andersons |
| Frontier FS | UAP Professional Products |
| Green Image | Waupaca Sand & Solutions |
| Horst Distributing | Wisconsin Dept of
Agriculture |
| Lesco | Wisconsin Turf Equipment |
| Lohmann Sports Fields | |



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