



What's New With the Badger Turf and Grounds Club?

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Winter is that time of year where everything calms down on the golf course. While the turf on courses around Wisconsin is dormant, turfgrass students at UW-Madison are not, and you might be curious what the Badger Turf and Grounds Club has been doing.

We started this school year with a general turf club meeting where members gave presentations on their summer employment and what they learned from the experience. It was a great way to spend our first meeting as well as to welcome some new members to the Badger Turf and Grounds Club.

In late October we toured Lurvey Sod Farm in Whitewater, Wisconsin. We saw a full-scale sod production facility, where they grow Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, and some salt tolerant fescues for roadsides. We also were fortunate enough to see their sod harvester in action, which was pretty amazing. We talked with Dick

Carlson and Tammy Uraynar, who told us everything that went into their operation and the different practices that they use to get the sod perfect for golf course superintendents, athletic field managers, and home lawns. We were very lucky to be able to see the process that goes into producing the sod that we might one day be ordering for use on our courses.

Turf club members were also involved in an annual aerification project out at the OJ Noer Turfgrass Research and Educational Facility. Turf club volunteers get a taste of what goes into the aerification and topdressing process, as well as lots of core shoveling. It went smoothly until the rain gave us some problems with wet topdressing sand, but we got the job done before the heavy stuff fell. Members are also given the opportunity to go and look at some of the research plots and learn a little bit about what is going on out at the O.J. Noer center.

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On November 11th Badger Turf and Grounds Club was lucky enough to be invited to tag along on a field trip to Miller Park with Dr. Stier's Introduction to Turfgrass Management class. Everyone that went had a firsthand look behind the scenes of Miller Park and everything that goes into preparing a major league ballpark for a televised game. Gary Vandenberg, the field superintendent was kind enough to take us out onto the field and gave us a great comparison between what it is like preparing for a game and taking care of the field vs. what it is like preparing a golf course for play.

Turf club members recently attended the WGCSA Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium on November 17th and 18th at The American Club, in Kohler WI. The main topic of the symposium was "Fewer Dollars Requires More Sense." We saw many speakers and leaders in the industry speak to WGCSA members about different ideas and ways to save money on the golf course which is very important especially when budgets are being reduced. Speaker's topics included the reducing pesticide use on the golf course, renovations to save money, developing maintenance standards, sustainable golf course management, low maintenance grasses, and economic fungicide options. The symposium is also a great opportunity for the turf club to build relationships with some of the superintendents in Wisconsin.

Turf club members are also looking forward to elections, where we will vote for a new president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. This gives newer members the opportunity to run for an office and to develop their leadership and communication skills. Most members are also looking forward to attending the 2010 Golf Industry Show in San Diego in February. The Golf Industry Show is a great way for turf students to network with superintendents and other leaders in the turf industry. Many turf club members will use the trip as an opportunity to meet superintendents from various courses to set up an internship or meet with superintendents for an assistant position for next summer. We are also setting up study sessions to ensure that we do well in the turf bowl. Last year we took tenth place, which will prove to be a solid goal for this coming year's turf bowl.

We have had two great guest speakers this semester. Steve Sanborn from Syngenta gave a great presentation on Tenacity™ growth regulator. Monroe Miller who gave a great presentation on what it takes to be a successful superintendent as well as some life lessons that prove useful on and off the golf course. We are certainly blessed as a club to have such a wealth of knowledge to pull from. Professors, superintendents, and turfgrass managers all take time out of their day to come and speak and serve as mentors for the Badger Turf and Grounds Club. We are truly indebted to all of you, and extend a sincere thank you for being there for us and for giving something back to the industry. We really appreciate it and enjoy having you. 🌱

ELIMINATE GUESSWORK WHEN SPRING FEEDING

Spring fertilization varies greatly on a number of factors. Cultural practices performed, soil amendments made, irrigation and drainage upgrades, fertilizers applied, and what happened last fall plays a significant role with this season's success. However, having a sound fertility program will provide you with your best chance of success for the upcoming season.

Typically, spring applications are applied after the early flush of shoot growth has occurred, but predicting spring weather can be a challenge when it comes to soil and air temperature, and precipitation. That's why choosing a fertilizer that performs in cool climates is so vital.

The nitrogen applied with UMAXX, a top performer in cool weather, is plant available as soon as watering in occurs. In addition, what the plant does not immediately use will be held onto the soil colloid as a reserve for future use.



John Meyer
Regional Manager
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This is a drastic change from other fertilizers.

Coated products are a great example of fertilizers that don't offer immediate plant nutrition and are subject to leaching once the protective coating breaks down.

Still other products rely on a process called mineralization, depending on soil microbes to break down nitrogen. Whereas soil microbes aren't fully active until the soil temperature reaches 55 degrees – which might not happen until late spring depending on the region – UMAXX begins working immediately and is not dependent on soil temperature for nitrogen release.

Although fine-tuning a spring fertilization program varies on many factors, its importance will be felt all summer long and even into the fall. The benefit of using an all-weather, long-lasting performer such as UMAXX provides immediate benefits, as well as a positive long-term impact. UMAXX gives the freedom to apply as a nitrogen component in a blend or part of a soluble fertilizer program. UMAXX offers consistent performance regardless of temperature or application type.

**For more information on UMAXX contact me
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