



WTA Summer Field Day Has Something for Everyone

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

The WTA Summer Field Day will be here before you know it. The date is set for Tuesday, July 27, 2010. This is a wonderful day for you to visit the OJ Noer Facility and see all the new turfgrass research being conducted at the University. There are over 80 studies ongoing this summer and several of the most pertinent ones will be showcased during the morning research tour. The talks in the research tour will describe new research to help managers of sports turf, golf courses, sod production, lawn care, parks, and other commercial turf areas.

Presentations and interaction with the researchers promise to go more in depth than past years. Comments from attendees asked for longer discussions about the research during the educational tour. Thus quality rather than quantity will be the theme for 2010.

For example: Are you interested in saving time and money while making pesticide applications? Come and see new sprayer technologies and disease management strategies that will save you time and money.

Or learn new and improved turf establishment strategies. UW researchers are investigating whether it is possible to uniformly apply seed, fertilizer, and a pre-emergent herbicide in one step, while also stabilizing the soil. Learn how hydroseeding can save you time and money.

One more question to ask yourself is; are you prepared for the new state of Wisconsin regulations on water use. Come to Field Day and learn about how the regulations may affect you. The regulations may require irrigating based on soil moisture. There will be hands-on experience with the latest soil moisture monitoring technology and a discussion of the pros and cons.

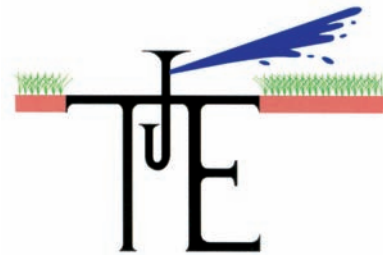
And that's just the beginning. Many other presentations will answer your day-to-day turf management questions. You won't want to miss what the UW Turf Team has been unraveling in their latest research.

In addition to the research tour there is a lawn care workshop in the afternoon providing more valuable education. This workshop was introduced during the 2008 field day to resounding acclaim, so it returns for the third year. The workshop is not included in the field day registration price and requires an additional fee. Attendees from last year commented that it was well worth the additional cost. Space is also limited, thus attendees will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis to provide for a unique interactive experience.

The large and revamped trade show will likewise provide great education. Here you'll learn about all the latest supplies, services, and equipment available to the turf industry from helpful vendors willing to answer questions about all their latest products. Several equipment vendors allow test drives of their products so you can compare between brands.

Summer Field Day is a great way to learn the latest research coming from the UW-Madison, compare the newest commercial offerings from the trade show, visit with colleagues over a great lunch, and to possibly participate in the Lawn Care Workshop. You will surely leave Field Day with many ideas to put into practice back home. Call Audra Anderson at 608-845-6536 if you have any questions or have suggestions of subjects you'd like to see addressed during Field Day.

You will receive your Field Day brochure differently this year. The brochure is being emailed rather than mailed to you. It will also appear in all your association newsletters or can be downloaded from the WTA website - www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org. Also new this year, you may pay online if so desired. Field Day 2010 is going to be the best ever, and I hope you can fit it in - July 27. 🌱



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