

Start Planning For Success In 2012

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The 2012 WTA Winter Turfgrass EXPO will again be held at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. This central location was a success last year providing a great venue for reaching all turf managers looking to advance their education. The date is Tuesday, January 24th. In addition to EXPO there is a Wisconsinizing social gathering the evening before for those staying overnight.

A registration form is included in the newsletter or you may register and pay online at wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org.



A standing room crowd listens to Dr. Kerns at the 2011 Expo.

What a great way to start out the new year - to gather with your peers and learn from local and national turf researchers and practitioners. Speakers will review challenges of the previous season and give tips on how to plan for success in 2012. Contact WTA administrative assistant Audra Anderson at 608-845-6536 or ajander2@wisc.edu if you have any questions about the program.

The conference speakers will discuss challenges that we faced during the 2011 season. The weather was challenging, especially during the hot humid summer. But for many turf managers, even worse than the weather was the thus-far poorly explained "Imprelis" herbicide catastrophe. This herbicide, even when applied correctly, had a secondary effect of damaging adjacent evergreen trees. A roundtable discussion including several lawn care and golf course managers will explain what they had to deal with after the damage was done. Additionally,

Dr. Bert Cregg from the horticulture department at Michigan State University will offer his advice on post 'Imprelis' tree care.

The UW-Madison Turf Team of professors, including Drs. Williamson, Kerns, and Soldat, are going to further explain secondary effects of pesticides including insecticides, fungicides and herbicides. Pesticides are a great tool for turf managers to maintain healthy turf but there are often secondary effects from their use that the professors will delve into.

You may have heard about the new EPA WaterSense program. This is a national initiative to conserve water. This includes landscape irrigation which is estimated to waste up to 1.5 billion gallons of water every day across the country. WaterSense irrigation can help you reduce your water consumption, save money, and maintain healthy and beautiful landscapes. To explain this, we have brought in Dr. David Kopec from the University of Arizona. Dr. Kopec will share some eye opening stories, considering the brutal drought experienced in the Southwest in 2011. He'll explain efficient WaterSense irrigation technologies and techniques used throughout the country.

Two additional talks by Drs. Jim Kerns and Chris Williamson will complete your EXPO education. Dr. Kerns will present an overview of prominent diseases that damaged turf last year and offer research based solutions for keeping grass healthier next year. Dr. Williamson will talk about a new insecticide, 'Acelepryn', that has shown great results in managing both grub and surface feeding insect pests.

There is even more to EXPO than learning from all these good speakers. You will also learn from the very knowledgeable exhibitors during the trade show. There will be time to meet with them in the morning and again after lunch. And you won't want to miss Wisconsinizing the evening before EXPO. This social gathering of attendees and exhibitors will take place on Monday, January 23rd from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Kalahari.

A special room rate of \$102 has been reserved if you call 877-253-5466 before December 24th and mention the Turfgrass block of rooms. The \$102 price may remain the same after Dec 24th, depending on availability. Maybe you'll want to bring the family and enjoy the Kalahari water park. Bring them along to Wisconsinizing.

The show is going to be a great way to start the New Year. The venue and great education will be just what you need to start planning for a successful 2012.