

A New Format For The WTA Winter Expo

By Dr. Doug Soldat, Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin - Madison

The WTA Winter EXPO has a new look. In fact, the changes were so sweeping, we decided to change the name too. That name is WTA Turfgrass Research Day. The inaugural event will be held on Tuesday, January 15th, 2013 at the Pyle Center in Madison, WI. For those familiar with Madison, the Pyle Center is on Lake Mendota next to the UW Memorial Union.

With so many competing educational events (Reinders Show, Spring Valley Turf Fair, WGCSA Symposium, etc.), we felt the WTA EXPO no longer provided the unique experience it once did, so we made some changes to regain that uniqueness. First, you will be able to attend Turfgrass Research Day via webinar. While in-person attendance is still encouraged and available, many turf professionals are comfortable and may even prefer an online viewing option. The online option may also be preferred by folks that need to skip in the event of a storm.


Second, the format of the presentations will be different. The UW-Madison turfgrass team has several talented graduate students and staff that are heavily involved in the research. The WTA funds many of these students through the four Distinguished Graduate Fellowships in Turfgrass Research (the Berbee, Kurth, Kussow, and Newman Fellowships), and many of their projects are also funded by WGCSA. We wanted to give those team members a chance to present the results of the studies they work so hard on every year. The talks from the students and



Turfgrass Research Day will be held at the Pyle Center on Lake Mendota in Madison on January 15th, 2013.

staff will be short and to the point, while the professors have longer more traditional time slots and will cover topics more broadly. Bringing in outside speakers will remain an option for future years, but there is so much turfgrass work being done at UW-Madison that we wanted to share that work with the industry that supports us. Check out the schedule below to get a feel for the variety of presentations being made.

We are very excited about the new format and hope you are too. This is only the first year, and we have already discussed some other innovative and exciting ideas that will be implemented in future years.

Registration costs are very reasonable. WTA member price is \$25 and non-member is \$40 for the online webinar. The cost is \$40 to attend the live research day at the Pyle Center and that will include snacks, refreshments, and lunch. You may register and pay online at www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org, or print off a registration form from the website and mail in your fee. Contact Audra Anderson at 608-845-6536 or ajander2@wisc.edu if you have any questions. Hope you are able to partake in this inaugural Turfgrass Research Day. There will be so much to learn! 

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WISCONSIN SOILS REPORT

Turfgrass Research Day Schedule (January 15, 2013)

8:00: Coffee and donuts
8:30: Welcome/Introductions/Announcements/Scholarship Presentation
8:45: Radiometric sensing as a turfgrass evapotranspiration measurement tool (Brad DeBels, Soils Ph.D. Student)
9:00: Understanding the dynamics of carbon storage in turfgrass system (Sabrina Ruis, Soils Ph.D. Student)
9:15: Iron layering in sand-based putting greens (Glen Obear, Soils M.S. Student)
9:30: Algae and bicarbonate: is there a connection? (Glen Obear, Soils M.S. Student)
9:45: Trends in bentgrass fertility (Dr. Doug Soldat)
10:15: Coffee Break
10:30: Plant defenses against dollar spot (Renee Rioux, Plant Pathology Ph.D. Student)
10:45: Effect of snow cover on the duration of Microdochium patch control provided by chlorothalonil on golf course turfgrass (Dr. Paul Koch)
11:00: Effect of temperature and mowing on the persistence of iprodione and chlorothalonil on golf course turfgrass (Dr. Paul Koch)
11:15: Getting the most out of your fungicide program (Dr. Jim Kerns)
12:00: Lunch
1:00: Controlling black cutworm: some products work, other just don't... (PJ Liesch, Entomology Research Staff)
1:15: Which caterpillars are chewing on your turf, and what is chewing on them? (PJ Liesch, Entomology Research Staff)
1:30: Do fungicides provide control of white grubs? (Glen Obear, Soils M.S. Student)
1:45: Year in review, and a glimpse to the future (Dr. Chris Williamson, Entomology)
2:30: Coffee Break
2:45: Nitrous oxide emissions and nitrate leaching from synthetic and alternative turfgrass management programs (Mark Garrison, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies Ph.D. Student)
3:00: Do native plant mixtures reduce invasions along roadsides in Wisconsin? (Joslyn Mink, Agronomy Ph.D. Student)
3:15: Organic and Reduced Risk Turf Management (Dr. Doug Soldat, Soil Science)
4:00: Adjourn

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