

## Turfgrass Around The World

By **Bruce Schweiger**, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab Manager, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility

By the time you read this the summer will be on the downside. Most of the major summer events at your course and around the world will be over. The two biggest events will have ended one on July 13th and the other on July 29th. The second biggest is The World Cup which was won by Germany over Argentina in 120 minutes of pure futbol. This year the USA seemed to catch World Cup Fever with many more people talking about the happenings. World Class futbol should be near and dear all turf manager's hearts. Unlike baseball and American football, world-class soccer is NEVER played on artificial turf. FIFA (the governing bodies of Futbol, sort of like the R&A and USGA) mandates that futbol shall only be played on natural turf. Natural turf has

more give when players collide, slide, trip, fall, dive or are taken down. Natural turf is not perfectly level like artificial turf, so the ball may not always bounce perfectly. This adds to the skill levels of the players the excitement of the fans.

Futbol, for those that do not understand it, can be like watching paint dry, but for purist this years games were excellent. The semi final game between Germany and host Brazil was an Americans dream with a score of 7-1. As we all know scoring in futbol is not that easy and the games are usually very low scoring. For those of you that are not huge futbol fans try to think of it as a baseball game where both pitchers pitch a 1 or 2 hitter or a football game the ends after a great defensive battle 3-0. So what does this have to do with

the TDL, well not much except I had two German Turfgrass professionals spend three weeks in Brazil watching the games and making tours of the stadiums. Brazil may have been the host but the pictures I receive from my friends could have come from almost anywhere in Wisconsin the last few weeks.

In years past I was fortunate enough to make a few visits to Germany and make friends in the Turfgrass industry. On one trip I had a meeting with Christoph Seiler, the Field Manager for the FC Colonge Soccer Club in the first division of the Bundesliga (Germany's top league). My counterpart Sabina Braitmeier had asked me to accompany her to RheinEnergieStadion to assist in their field maintenance.

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On another trip to Germany I had the opportunity to spend an afternoon at Leverkusen Golf Club as the guest Ulf Dieckmann, the golf course superintendent.

At this time I had been making visits like this almost my entire career but I was a little apprehensive as to what would happen. The day was exactly like any other day. If I had not known better I would have thought I was in Wisconsin touring the course with one of you. Disease control was the major topic and we had a very enjoyable time trying to understand what product he was using and what those products were called in the back home. Finally we reverted to chemical names, the discussion was much simpler. The very interesting thing was the lack of chemicals they had to choose from and the restriction they had on their use and timing. This was for me a glimpse of what could come into our world and has come New England states and Canada. Our tour also looked at wear areas, methods to overseed, driving range tee management, aeration (which Germans also despise) and fertility. In Leverkusen their winters are much different than in Wisconsin, their temperatures will hover between 30F and 45F. A heavy snow may be 2-3 inches and melts in days. On this trip for us it was overcast and misting almost everyday. They will battle with active Microdochium Patch for up to three to four months. Many of the best treatments for Microdochium Patch are not available in Germany so they have some interesting ways to obtain some control. This was eye opening especially when we toured the course you could look off in the not too distant landscape and see a Bayer sign from the manufacturing facility.

These visits drove home the realization that turfgrass no matter where we grow it is really all the same. The issues we deal with here are much the same as the issues dealt with all around the world. The TDL has been receiving some worldwide notice. With the conferences attended by Drs. Kerns and Koch and a few friends I have made around the world we are being noticed. Periodically we receive emails with pictures and even microscope pictures asking for our assistance.

Ok back to the TDL. Well the year started out very slow with most of the samples coming from outside Wisconsin, but things have picked up. Last month the telephones and social media was a blaze with dollar spot. It seemed to come all at once and with a vengeance. The month of June brought rain and wet conditions. I had many samples and calls about various leaf spot issues and on the lawn care side we saw ascochyta appear all around the state almost overnight. With all the rains wet wilt was seen on many courses with not much we could do. We needed dry weather and all we received was more rain. Late June until now the rains have faded some and the heat and humidity comes and goes and the root pathogens are starting to be seen. Take-all-patch and summer patch are starting to show up in samples at the lab.

Dr. Koch has been sending out the word that we are doing a research project on Sum-



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mer Patch and Take-all-patch. He and an intern are attempting to isolate the fungus and start work on a quick detection method that could possibly become a detection kit. This project requires many replications and we are asking you to send us any possible sample so we can put them in their experiment (thank you to those that have already responded). Dr. Koch has so kindly offered my services at TDL Diagnostician to examine every sample and provide you with a diagnosis, before they enter the project.



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In an effort to make this a more attractive offer Dr. Koch is offering my services free of charge, yes free! If you have a suspected sample just go to our web page, [tdl.wisc.edu](http://tdl.wisc.edu) and fill out the form under commercial sample submission and send the sample to me and I will diagnose it and send you a report.

As long as we are asking for your samples please remember the rust project from last year is being conducted again this year. We need rust samples from your course, your yard, your neighbors yard, the park down the street, anywhere you can find rust please send it to us. Again go to our website, [tdl.wisc.edu](http://tdl.wisc.edu) and look on the right side for Rust Project, click on it, print off the form, fill it out and enclose it with your rust samples that you send to us. If every member sent us three samples that would be outstanding and get us well on our way to our goal of over five hun-


dred samples.

Now before I started rambling back to the number one event in the Turfgrass world, The WTA Summer Field Day at the OJ Noer Research Facility. By the time you read this the event will have passes, but I want to thank all that attended! My prediction is that it will be another huge success. Every year I have always looked forward to this event to see old friend (many of them are now really old), make many new friends, find out what is going on around the state and get a glimpse of where the newest and greatest research is leading the industry. If you missed it that is too bad but the good news is there is another one next year. Put it on your calendar now, it is always the last Tuesday in July.

If you did miss WTA Summer Field Day, then hopefully you can make the WTA Fall Golf Outing, being held this year at

University Ridge Golf Course on October 7th.

Keep your chins up the Wee One Outing is just around the corner and that marks the end of the summer golf season.

Congratulations to Michael Boettcher at Miller Park for a very successful hosting of a futbol match on July 16th. The first match ever at Miller Park between Swansea City of the English Premier League and Chivas of the Mexican league was played the night of July 16th. These are two top clubs in soccer and played a great match and the field looked good and held up excellent. As we waited for the stands to clear the grounds crew was out marking and filling divots immediately. From the number of flags they use to mark the divots there were not too many. As the world watched Miller Park presented another great impression of the level of turfgrass management to the world. 



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