

Perfect Day / Perfect Summer

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

This has to be the most perfect summer for growing grass with moderate temperatures, adequate soil moisture, and low disease pressure for most areas of Wisconsin. The grass has stayed green all summer and golfers have been happy. It was also a great summer for the annual WTA Summer Field Day. Large crowds descended on the OJ Noer Facility for the big educational event put on by the UW-Madison turf professors, students, and staff on July 29th. There were 221 attendees, 35 more than last year, and 59 vendor representatives working 28 booths at this year's show.

It's hard to know why so many more showed up this year but I'm guessing attendees heard about the great education being offered and realized they couldn't afford to miss the event. They were not disappointed.

Education came in the form of six general presentations in the morning

followed by a trade show around lunch time. Six golf turf presentations and a sports turf meeting were featured in the afternoon.

In the morning general turf presentations, Dr. Doug Soldat presented information on how to select grass seed to get the best results for given expectations. He said you get what you pay for when buying from reputable seed dealers. But he warned that when buying seed on the internet, you may get terrible seed that is very expensive. He also talked about how to read a seed label, and how to choose the best variety for different uses.

Another presentation was by the newly hired UW Extension entomologist PJ Liesch. PJ talked about tree and shrub ornamental applications. Many attendees commented that it was nice to have education beyond turfgrass, because they all deal with more than turf in their daily activities.

Turf Diagnostic Lab manager Bruce Schweiger gave a great presentation on fertilizer spreader and speed calibrations. In addition to putting down the correct amount of nutrition, he talked about the economics of what misapplications cost. He also talked about several common mistakes applicators make that can be bad for the turfgrass and environment. One lawn care attendee mentioned that he will have his employees re-calibrate their ride-on units more often because of what they learned from Bruce.

Factors affecting weed control was another important subject that attendees enjoyed. Scott Gilbertson from Reinders and Jeff Schmidt from PBI Gordon presented good information about weed life cycle, application timing, product formulation, environmental factors, and application equipment that all affect weed control results.



Left: Bucky is always present for WTA Field Day

Below: Bruce Schweiger gave a clinic on how to get more accurate spreader applications




NOTES FROM THE NOER

Great information was also shared by Dr. Paul Koch and Dr. Chris Williamson on rust management for home lawns and Japanese beetle life cycle and control. All the morning sessions were top notch and that led up to another form of education by way of the ever popular trade show.

This year there were 28 companies represented that helped attendees with all their commercial questions. Exhibitors had information on seed, chemicals, equipment, nutrition, putting green materials, irrigation supplies, and more. Note the list of the Field Day Exhibitors, listed here, and show them your support for helping bring Summer Field Day and all its education to you every year.

Following lunch and the trade show came the afternoon golf turf research tour at Noer and an off site meeting for sports turf managers which was held at Oregon High School. The golf turf tour included education on:

- Winter Damage and Recovery in Chicago-land. Presented by Dr. Ed Nangle from the Chicago District Golf Association
- Reduced Risk Management of Dollar Spot. Presented by Dr. Paul Koch
- Water Volume and Nozzle Impact on Dollar Spot Development. Presented by Mr. Bruce Schweiger
- Dollar Spot Research Roundup. Presented by Dr. Paul Koch
- Potassium Requirements of Putting Greens. Presented by Dr. Doug Soldat
- Cooling Turf with Fans and Irrigation. Presented by Dr. Doug Soldat

Both the morning and afternoon education made it worth every penny to attend Field Day. Everyone we heard from said it was one of the best ever. All attendees left Field Day with numerous ideas to put into practice back on their own landscapes. I hope you were able to attend. And I hope the perfect weather continues through the fall. 



The Water Volume and Nozzle Impacts On Dollar Spot Plots Were Very Popular.

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- ♦ No lengthy bidding process
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2014 WTA SUMMER FIELD DAY EXHIBITORS

AGRIUM ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

AQUATROLS

ARTHUR CLESEN

BARNES POWER EQUIPMENT

BASF

BAYER

BURRIS EQUIPMENT

CONTREE SPRAYER & EQUIPMENT

DEER CREEK SEED

DHD TURF & TREE PRODUCTS

DOW AGROSCIENCES

FRONTIER F/S

GREENJACKET

HERITAGE SEED

HORST DISTRIBUTING

J W TURF

JOHN DEERE LANDSCAPES

PENDELTON TURF SUPPLY

PROGRO SOLUTIONS

PROTURF SOLUTIONS

PURPLE COW ORGANICS

REINDERS

SOIL SOLUTIONS

SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGIES

SPRING VALLEY

SYNGENTA

THE ANDERSONS

WAUPACA SAND & SOLUTIONS



Top: P.J. Liesch, the new State Extension Entomologist, sharing his knowledge on managing insect pests in ornamental trees and shrubs.

Center: Bruce Schweiger discusses research results.

Bottom: Representatives from Soil Solutions demonstrate their air injection machine to alleviate soil compaction.

