



A Tough One To Top

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

Early reports from Field Day 2001 were all positive. Oscar Miles from The Merit Club stated, "Attendees were exposed to pertinent on-the-job problems that all turf managers face in their work weeks. Wisconsin's Field Day takes a back seat to none." Monroe Miller reported, "It was the best, most organized, and informational field day ever." The turf research team (that is becoming too large to mention them all here) put their whole heart into this year's show. Professors and staff worked from early mornings to well past dark for days before field day to make sure

the grounds looked perfect and the research was easy to interpret.

The researchers also toiled for months earlier to decide what projects would have the most current interest. They wanted to make sure everyone from the professions of sports fields, golf, sod production, lawn care, landscaping, and municipal to corporate grounds maintenance would have good information to take back to their work worlds. Many talks were specific to one field but others were general knowledge that could be used across professions. The University's Turf Team were not

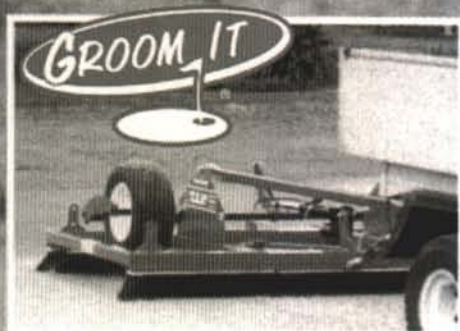
the only ones doing the educating either. Mark Grundman from Jacklin Seed put on a pregerminating seed clinic that was very educational and well attended, and also crossed professions. And the vendors in the trade show put on an equipment demonstration that was likewise informational.

What can be the most educational though is sharing information among peers. That was easily done this year because of the large attendance. Field Day is such a good venue to get together with old friends and make new friends to share war stories after a

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Rich Riggs and Cory Ganser from Rettler Corporation bring out the red for Field Day.



WTA president, Dan Barrett, set Field Day 2001 in motion.

hard summer. There were 406 attendees and 115 trade show sales representatives present this year. In addition there were numerous guests in attendance including the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Elton Aberle, and the Assistant Dean from the College's Research Division, Margaret Dentine. Those two are especially supportive and proud of our turfgrass profession in Wisconsin.

Speaking of supportive, we all have to thank the exhibitors in the trade show for their backing of turf research. Every year they sponsor a silent auction with all the proceeds going to sustain turf research that helps us grow healthier grass. They also pay a fee to exhibit that goes to the same cause. Sure they want to show you their latest products and make some sales, but they are all genuinely concerned in making Wisconsin's turf industry stronger. Show them your thanks by purchasing from the people you see at Field Day. Those exhibitors are listed here.

The trade show was excellent, the research presented was excellent, even the weather was excellent. It was another perfect day for the annual fly-over. You can really see how busy Field Day is from



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the air. I have the privilege of knowing a friend with a few small aircraft that obliges me in getting some aerial shots of field day each year. He says that next year he'll have an even more exciting aircraft to fly over. Stay tuned and make plans now for the second Tuesday in August 2002. This year's Field Day will be hard to top, but rest assured the UW Turf Team is up to the challenge.

Be sure to call these Summer Field Day exhibitors any time you need supplies, equipment, or advice on growing better turfgrass.✂



Wayne Otto shares conversation with some distinguished guests, Dean of UW-Madison CALS Dr. Elton Eberle, and Dr. Randy Kane from the Chicago District Golf Association.

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