

U of M Turfgrass Group Announces New Vision for Programs and Goals

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The turfgrass working group at the University of Minnesota is happy to announce that we have a new vision for our program and associated goals:

The University of Minnesota will be recognized for its leadership in environmentally sound and responsible turfgrass cultural systems.

1. Develop a world class research facility.
2. Provide the opportunity and an atmosphere for high quality turfgrass education.
3. Support and promote the dissemination of research based turf information throughout the state and region.
4. Create a rural and urban interface.
5. Develop the capacity to provide mediation and response services for environmental landscape and turfgrass issues.

The turfgrass working group felt it was time to evaluate our turfgrass program and develop criteria under which we would operate for the coming years. Since its inception, feedback from industry has been overwhelmingly supportive and we are generating new excitement for turfgrass research and extension.

The future holds many possibilities for our turfgrass program at the University of Minnesota. Currently, we are working with upper administration to acquire additional land that will be used for research and demonstration. We have also been diligently working on grant applications to garner support for research that will directly benefit industry.

Listed below are summaries of grant proposals for submission this fall/winter.

Quantifying Phosphorus Runoff From Lawns

Grant submitted to: Minnesota Pollution Control

Agency.

Objectives: Determine the extent of phosphorus runoff following fertilization of lawns, evaluate the effects of clipping removal on phosphorus runoff, quantify the effects of increasing soil/fertilizer phosphorus levels on phosphorus concentrations in clippings, and identify best management practices to minimize the potential movement of phosphorus from lawns.

Turfgrass Runoff Facility on the St. Paul Campus

Grant submitted to: Rapid Agriculture Response Fund, Minnesota Agriculture Experiment Station.

Objectives: Design and construct turfgrass runoff plots, install an irrigation system to simulate rainfall, and install automated runoff collection containers and tipping bucket gauges.

Investigation of the Quality of Guttation Fluids And Their Effect on the Disease Susceptibility Of Creeping Bentgrass

Grant submitted to: O.J. Noer Foundation

Objectives: The goal of this project is to examine the differences in guttation fluid composition among creeping bentgrass varieties expressing different levels of dollar spot susceptibility. Additional objectives will be to assess the effect of nitrogen levels on guttation fluid composition. The results of this project will provide insight into the role of guttation fluids in disease development and may provide for an additional screening tool for breeding disease resistance.

Practical Application of Molecular Tools To Diagnose Turfgrass Diseases

Grant Submitted to: University of Minnesota Graduate School.

Objectives: To apply previously developed molecular tools with latest technological equipment to provide rapid and accurate disease diagnosis.

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