

2003 Turf and Grounds Field Day

By Brian Horgan
University of Minnesota

Boy have I been lucky. Somehow, whenever I host an event that takes place outside we manage to get great weather and July 24 was no different. Participants at field day this year had to choose between two separate tours, a turf tour or a grounds tour. Both were filled with useful information, current research projects, new undergraduate academic programs and lots of socializing amongst friends.

The grounds portion of the tour started in the homelawn demonstration area on campus. Within this area are 50 different turfgrass species, mixtures, and blends subjected to three different mowing heights (1.5 in, 2.5 in, and 3.5 in) and three different fertilizer application rates (0, 1, 3 lbs N/m/yr). The tour then moved to the potted landscape tree and shrub nursery where Dr. Gilman introduced new cultivars of woody plant species and fertilizer programs for potted plant production. The final stop was the landscape design studio where Brad Pedersen discussed basic design principles and showcased the newly renovated design studio.

The turf portion of the tour took place at the TROE Center and included eight stops.

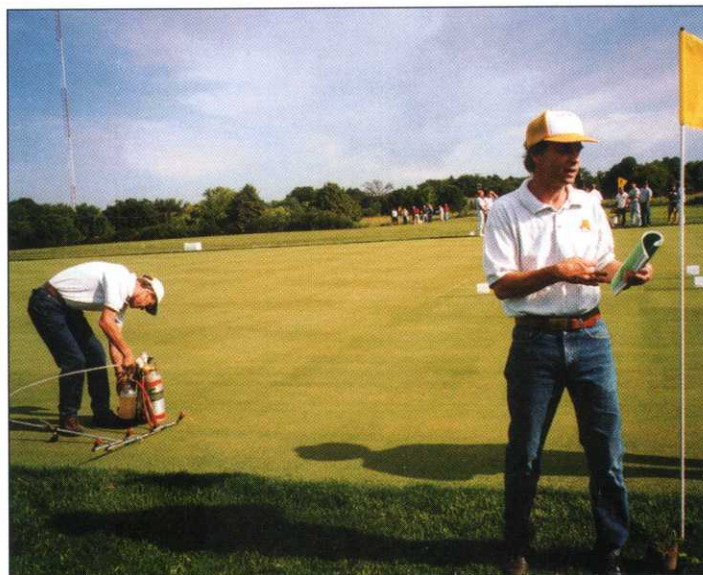
They were:

- 1) Effect of clipping management on nutrient runoff from Kentucky bluegrass - *Dr. Brian Horgan*
- 2) Soil sterilization with Basamid - *Troy Carson*
- 3) Effect of irrigation rates on nutrient leaching from a newly seeded USGA bentgrass putting green - *Dr. Martin Burger*
- 4) Foliar iron applications for summer color with and without various surfactants - *Dr. Carl Rosen and Peter Bierman*
- 5) Soil moisture sensors used to define water conservation practices for turf - *Jon Sass*
- 6) Pesticide runoff from creeping bentgrass fairways - *Dr. Pam Rice*
- 7) Developing new Kentucky bluegrass varieties - *Dr. Nancy Ehlke*
- 8) New and old pesticides for turf insects - *Dr. Vera Krischik*

In addition to learning about current research projects taking place at the University of Minnesota, participants were able to see the progress made on the development of the TROE Center which now includes: a USGA putting green (22,000 ft²), native soil putting green (22,000 ft²), bentgrass fairway runoff facility (12,000 ft²), Kentucky bluegrass runoff facility (10,000 ft²), perennial ryegrass breeding area, native plants and no-mow grasses, and 25 maple trees planted that will be used for shade research.

Our goal for next year is to add 2 acres of irrigated Kentucky bluegrass, a creeping bentgrass fairway (30,000 ft²), a colonial bentgrass/fine fescue fairway (15,000 ft²), plant a new variety of perennial ryegrass that has spreading characteristics not typical of the bunch type grass, plant the NTEP creeping bentgrass putting green trial, plant the NTEP creeping bentgrass fairway trial, and plant the NTEP fine fescue trial.

This year's field day started a new era for the University of Minnesota Turf Science Program where research projects that affect your day-to-day turf management were presented and discussed by a team of researchers. In addition, an afternoon



Carl Rosen spoke about foliar iron formulations and turf quality. Peter Bierman, left was preparing to apply an application of iron to the turf.

Phosphorus Fertilizer Training Program made this a day-long educational event for some participants.

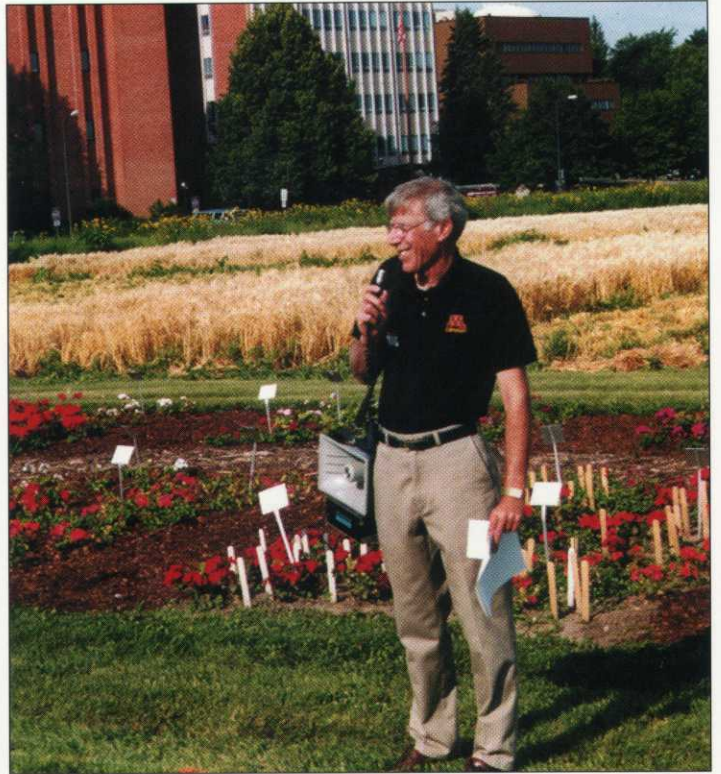
I hope you will take advantage of next year's Turf and Grounds Field Day. If you are interested in reading more detailed reports from the research projects presented at field day, please visit www.turf.umn.edu and click on research.



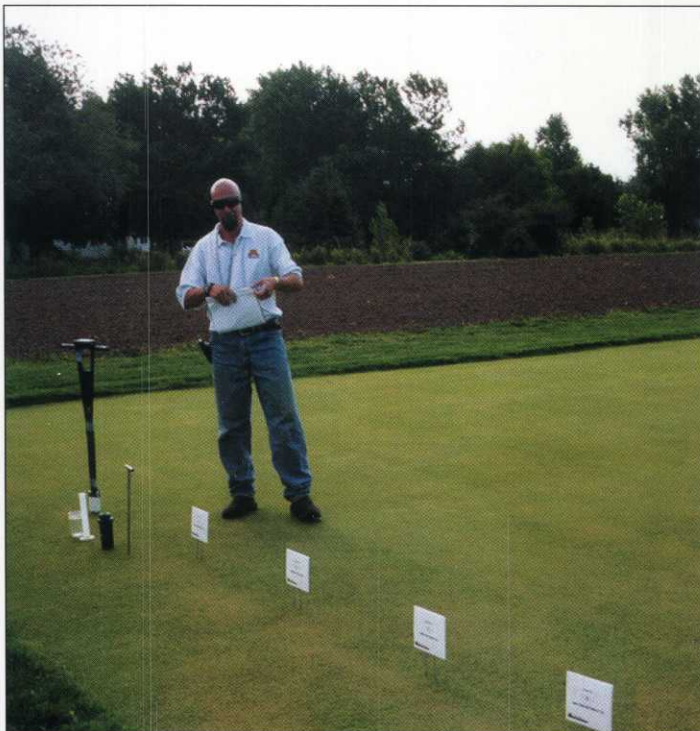
A gathering of 100+ people attended the Turf and Grounds Field Day at the University of Minnesota

Pictured at the right is MTGF Executive Director Larry Vetter welcoming attendees to the University of Minnesota's Turf and Grounds Field Day on July 24.

The University of Minnesota's Nancy Ehlke, pictured below, spoke about the development of New Kentucky bluegrass varieties.



The U of M's Troy Carson, above, gave a demonstration on Soil Fumigation with Basamid.



Pictured at the left is Jon Sass who enlightened attendees of the use of soil moisture sensors for water conservation.