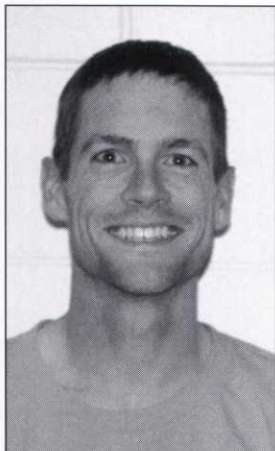


Andrew Hollman Joins Staff At the University of Minnesota

*Turfgrass Scientist
University of Minnesota*

I grew up in Greenfield, Wisconsin, a southwest suburb of Milwaukee. From a young age on, I had plenty of experiences with horticulture, which subconsciously

shaped by career desires. Every spring and throughout the summer I would help my dad plant and take care of the garden in the back yard. I also helped my maternal grandparents with their garden. On a quarter acre of land they were able to grow apples,



Andrew B. Hollman

pears, cherries, peaches, plums, pecans, walnuts, raspberries, strawberries, rhubarb and a plethora of flowers. My paternal grandparents lived in Florida, and on an equally small lot grew grapefruits, oranges, tangerines, lemons, papayas and this coarse prickly grass that was painful to walk on barefoot. It wasn't until college, that I realized my grandparents prickly grass was St. Augustine grass.

I went to college at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. My major was Molecular Biology and I had plans to go on to medical school. During the summers though, I continued to work in horticulture. As I approached the summer after my junior year, I realized that I needed some experiences on my resume that would benefit a medical school application. When looking for jobs though, nothing interested me, so I applied for a job at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility. The job was filled, but I was offered a job as an undergraduate research assistant. At this time I realized that I enjoyed working with plants a lot better than working with people, so I added horticulture as a major. The study I would conduct for the next three summers was looking at the man-

agement requirements of 'A-4' and 'G-2' creeping bentgrass in comparison to 'Penncross' and 'DW-184', a new perennial Poa annua. During this time I was asked to pursue a Master's degree by Dr. John Stier at University of Wisconsin-Madison. So after I finished my B.S. in Horticulture and Molecular biology in 2001, I started my graduate program at Madison.

For my Master's research I had two main projects. One project examined the freezing tolerance of newer cultivars of tall fescue and the effect that age, freezing temperature and freeze duration had on survival and quality. The second project investigated the use of Randomly Amplified Polymorphic DNA (RAPD) markers to evaluate the genetic diversity of velvet bentgrass and differentiate bentgrass species. All during my graduate career at Madison, my career goal was to stay involved in turf research. Since I really enjoyed working with plants and conducting the experiments, I imagined that a position as a turfgrass technician or scientist was what I would look for. When I started looking for a job there were four such positions available around the country. After interviewing for the Minnesota job though, I knew that I didn't want to go anywhere else. Dr. Brian Horgan, Dr. Eric Watkins and I got along well and their enthusiasm for turfgrass research really showed through. Luckily they offered me the job. Although friends and family may question my decision to move to a state that is colder and has a longer winter than Wisconsin, at least I can walk on the grass barefoot.

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