

U of M Turf and Grounds Field Day Set July 28

You could win a weekend night for two at the Minneapolis Hyatt Regency.

By **LARRY VETTER**
MTGF Executive Director

The University of Minnesota Turf and Grounds Field Day will be held on July 28, 2005 at the TROE Center and the Display & Trial Gardens on the St. Paul campus. This year both turf and grounds tracks are being offered so that all Green Industry professionals have an opportunity to view the latest research, education and outreach activities in progress by various University of Minnesota faculty and staff.

The following are tentative examples of the turf research projects which will be showcased during the morning field day on the TROE Center site:

+ Pesticide runoff from bentgrass fairways: Come see the new rainfall simulator and hear from Dr. Pam Rice about how to mitigate pesticide runoff through common cultural practices used on golf courses.

+ Use of colonial bentgrasses and fine fescues on golf course fairways: This research project is funded by the GCSAA and is a collaborative effort with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Horgan's goal is to evaluate alternative turf species for low maintenance golf course fairways. Fertility, wear and golf ball lie are all factors being evaluated.

+ Nitrogen leaching and gas emissions from fertilizers applied to a USGA putting green as effected by irrigation inputs: This is a United States Department of Agriculture funded project. The research objective is to identify the environmental benefits of implementing water conservation strategies on USGA putting greens.

+ National Turfgrass Evaluation Program: Over 100 different varieties of fine fescue and creeping bentgrass (greens and fairway height of cut).

+ Perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass breeding nurseries and NTEP Trials: Dr. Nancy Ehlke and Dr. Eric Watkins continue to work at developing new varieties of Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass. They have some excellent prospects that they will show.

+ Using remote sensors to help conserve irrigation water: This is an exciting research project that will change how you irrigate.

+ Fertilizer runoff from Kentucky bluegrass: Last year you were able to see and hear the initial research data collected during the initial year of research on this important topic. As the fertilizer use debate continues, this research will help identify the potential effects of fertilizers applied to turf and the impact of these fertilizers on surface water bodies.

+ No-mow grasses and alternative plant species: Do you have any areas on your property that you don't want to mow, or would like to implement a reduced maintenance schedule? Come meet Dr. Mary Meyer and see her research on these new plant materials.

In addition to the turf activities listed above, come see the newly designed and constructed Display and Trial Gardens that have been completely redone this year. There will be a number of educational opportunities related to design and grounds maintenance that Brad Pedersen has put together. Roger Meissner will host a tour of the new Plant Growth Facility and Greenhouses. Julie Weisenhorn will give a tour of the new Landscape Design CAD Lab. Either formal or informal tours of the newly designed gardens on campus with specifics about new herbaceous plants will

be conducted by U of M faculty. There will also be a walking tour around campus with Gary Johnson as well as a tour of the nursery where Jeff Gillman is doing some very interesting work with stem girdling roots and DED resistance screening. Those of you who have not been on campus for a while may not even recognize some of these facilities. A great deal of investment has been made within the past year along with a lot of planning and hard work done by many individuals.

Watch for the mailing that will include registration materials as well as the schedule for the morning's activities. These materials will be mailed well in advance of the event. However, please reserve this date on your calendar so that we have a great turnout on July 28, 2005.

Complimentary refreshments will be available during registration and lunch at the conclusion of the tours is also included in the registration fee. There is a wealth of new information to gain and new things to see on the St. Paul campus. Plan to take advantage of this tremendous learning and networking opportunity. Faculty and staff have been very active since last year's event and they always put a great deal of work into making this day meaningful for all attendees.

A special drawing will be held during lunch for a free weekend night stay for two at the Minneapolis Hyatt Regency hotel. You must be present to win.



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