

University of Minnesota Field Day Set Sept. 16 at TROE Center at the St. Paul Campus

The University of Minnesota Turf and Grounds Field Day is set for September 16 at TROE Center on the St. Paul Campus. Turfgrass scientists at the University of Minnesota are committed to developing environmentally sound and responsible turfgrass cultural systems. At

recent field days, we have demonstrated research ranging from low input sustainable turfgrass trials to conversion of existing turf to no-mow fescues; and from new technologies to conserve irrigation water to phosphorus runoff from homelawns.

Field Day is your opportunity to see the latest research, ask questions and interact with your colleagues from across the state. We continue to break attendance records each and every year and we intend to do the same in 2010. Our attendance from 2006 to 2009 increased from 90 to over 300. This increase occurred at a time when turf programs across the country are experiencing a significant decline in attendance at Field Day with some even cancelling their events. Let's build upon past successes and make 2010 the best year yet.

Some of the many great research topics presented this year will include:



- Drought tolerant turfgrass screening using our new automated rain-out shelter
 - Sub lethal roundup rates and overseeding protocols to establish new cultivars in existing stands
 - NTEP: fine fescues, Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, creeping bentgrass greens and fairway height
 - Putting green speed using alternative species
 - Emerging insects in turf: Cottony Grass Scale
 - Low input turf for homelawns (be a part of the research and help us rate these plots)
 - Fungicide trials
 - Late fall N fertilizer trials
 - Pesticide and fertilizer runoff
 - Perennial ryegrass rust
 - Prairie junegrass breeding
- In addition to the turfgrass portion of Field Day, we will offer a separate track

for more grounds related research and demonstration. In the past, we have discussed issues related to emerald ash borer, design principles for low maintenance landscapes, stem root girdling, and American elm selections. For those of you interested in grounds-related research, we will offer a full range of current topics that you can take to the field.

The University of Minnesota, like so many other "communities" in Minnesota, has a significant ash (green and white) population that has been identified as harboring the emerald ash borer. This session on managing invasive pests in the urban forest will focus on inventorying and assessing the resource, assembling an arsenal of control tactics, and moving forward with a recovery plan that lessens the dependency on any one tree species.

As you can see, we have an excellent slate of new research projects and we look forward to sharing this applied research with you at the 2010 University of Minnesota Turf and Grounds Field Day.

(Editor's Note: Please contact Brian Horgan, bphorgan@umn.edu, if you have any questions about Field Day.)

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