

USGA/GCSAA Turf Research

Gerald L. Faubel, CGCS  
Director GCSAA

Turf research will continue to be of prime importance to the golf course superintendent. At the present time the Turf Research Committee is funding turf research at 18 different universities. Between 1983 and 1986, \$1,279,600 will have been placed in support of turfgrass research by the Committee. The goal is the development of minimal maintenance and water conserving turfgrasses for golf within the next 10 years.

Projects supported to date include the following:

Plant Stress Mechanisms. Texas A&M - College Station, Dr. James Beard.

Turfgrass Research Information File. Michigan State University, Dr. R. Chapin.

Zoysiagrass Breeding. Texas A&M - Dallas, Dr. M. Engelke.

Native Grasses Collection and Breeding. University of Nebraska, Dr. T. Riordan. Colorado State University, Dr. J. Butler and Dr. R. Cuany.

Poa annua Collection and Breeding. University of Minnesota, Dr. Don White.

Bluegrass/Ryegrass Breeding. Rutgers University, Dr. R. Funk.

Bentgrass Heat Tolerance and Selection. Texas A&M Dallas. Dr. M. Engelke.

Bermudagrass Collection and Breeding. University of Georgia, Dr. G. Burton (Vegetative). New Mexico State University, Dr. A. Baltensperger (Seed). Oklahoma State University, Dr. Brede and Dr. Taliferro (Seed).

Bentgrass Collection and Breeding. Pennsylvania State University, Dr. J. Duich. Mississippi State University, Dr. J. Krans (Tissue Culture). New Zealand DSIR, Dr. W. Rumball.

Soil Compaction Studies. Michigan State University, Dr. Paul Rieke. University of Georgia, Dr. R. Carrow.

Osmotic Adjustment In Kentucky Bluegrass. Washington State University,  
Dr. J. Nus.

Poa annua Management. Michigan State University. Dr. B. Branham.

Ohio State University, Dr. K. Danneberger.

Water. Texas A&M - El Paso, Dr. G. Horst(Salt Tolerance) University of Rhode Island, Dr. R. Skogley.

Rooting. University of Nebraska, Dr. R. Shearman.

Pathology. Cornell University, Dr. R. Smiley (Patch Diseases). Michigan State University, Dr. J. Vargas. North Carolina State University, Dr. L. Lucas (Spring Dead Spot).

Turf research such as this is vital to the future of our industry. Golf Course Superintendents Associations should be justly proud of the great job they do in raising money for the turf researchs at the local universities. A few leading groups have begun to do even more. The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association consisting of nine GCSAA affiliate chapters, recently donated \$5,000 for GCSAA turf research. The California Golf Course Superintendents Association, consisting of six GCSAA affiliate chapters, recently donated \$3,000. Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association has donated \$500 for Turf Research and Scholarship. It is through leading turf groups such as the Florida, California, and Michigan and Boarder Cities GCSAs that progress can be made. We must all continue to work toward developing new and better grasses and maintenance practices if we are to remain a viable industry. GCSAA and the USGA are taking the needed steps to help ensure our future. Your future in turf and your abilities will only be realized if the research can be completed.

If you have the proper grasses - appropriately tolerant of stress from insects, disease, heat and drought, according to your golf course operation's specific requirements - then you will be able to carry out your job in a successful manner. You will be able to provide golfers with the superior playing surface they desire.

The people within the industry must have a better understanding of what happens when the plant is placed under stress. New plant material needs to be developed which has a greater tolerance to the stresses it is being grown under.

Bentgrass, for example, is being grown in some southern regions where it may not be adapted to the climatic conditions. All the modern management techniques can be used to keep it alive, but if it receives too much stress it may fail. It is not the plant's fault it does not do well under environmental stress - it is our fault for placing it there. It is an indication better plant material is needed.

GCSAA and all of its affiliate chapters are being asked to support the turf research effort of the USGA/GCSAA Turf Research Committee. We are the leaders within our own industry. We are the professionals who have recognized the need for advancement and change if our industry is to continue and grow.

Your support is needed now. Florida, California and Michigan and Border Cities placed the challenge before you. Please continue to make our efforts on your behalf successful.