

WTA 2021  
Golf Outing Fundraiser  
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# WISCONSIN turfgrass news

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SUMMER 2021

## A Successful In-Person Summer Field Day 2021

By Bruce Schweiger, Superintendent, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison

After a year with no in person turf education, WTA Summer Field Day came back to the O.J. Noer Facility! It was beginning to feel like we were not going to be granted permission to host Field Day but on July 20th there were professors, researchers, attendees and vendors on the Noer Facility property. I want to applaud the WTA Board for not giving up on the day and hanging in there while we waited for the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences to approve the 2021 Summer Field Day plan. While it included a few modifications from past Field Days, the most important part was fulfilled; supplying education for people live and in person at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Educational Facility. This is what Summer Field Day is all about.

If you missed the day, things were a little different. The vendor area was moved closer to the building. Keeping the trade show close to the daily announcements, the food, creating a space to meet and greet friends and customers created a positive feeling. Morning coffee and donuts were served by Gaylord Catering staff instead of helping yourself. A few people liked being served and a few others felt it curbed their donut intake, since the guy handing out the donuts was possibly counting the number of donuts they ate! Gone was the tent, tables and chairs for lunch. Hopefully they will return next year. There were chairs positioned around the property, but most people headed for the shade. It was a hot day. Our standard lunch buffet was not part of the approval, so the Gaylord staff served the food in a bag that was had everything you needed for a



Field Day looked different but there was plenty of education and camaraderie for everyone.

delicious lunch. Although it was not as nice as the buffet, it met our needs. As the day ended, I told a few people I hope this is the last interruption from Covid-19 for future Summer Field Day's.

The key Summer Field Day element is not about tents, donuts, and lunch, it is about research, which the professors did not disappoint. Dr. Soldat was short staffed, but you would have never known. Dr. Koch, is fresh off the birth of his second son, did his customary great job. Dr. Koch might have been enjoying a few hours of newborn free time.

As the attendees moved around the property making stops at the various plots the discussion was lively and questions were plentiful. Everyone I talked to missed hearing from and visiting with Dr's. Soldat and Koch last year. They enjoyed Virtual Field Day and Happy Hour with the Docs,

but nothing replaces in-person discussion with the professors, researchers, friends and colleagues.



Dr. Soldat lets everyone know how the educational tours will be handled this year.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Slowly Getting Back To Normal

By Brad T. DeBels, PhD, Weed Man Lawn Care





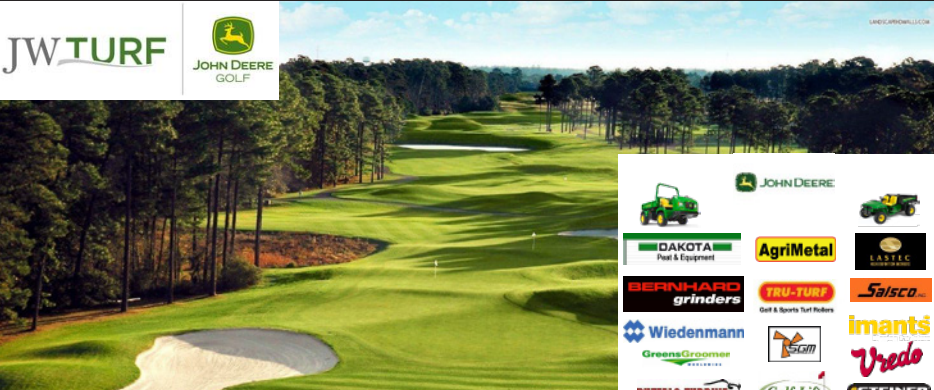
Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Field Day 2021, what an event! The atmosphere was palpable just a short time ago at the O.J. Noer as hundreds of turfgrass professionals were able to once again reconvene in person for a great day of education. I never imagined participating in a remote field day as we did in 2020, and while it had much success, all the attendees that I spoke to agreed it was fantastic being back live, in person. The event was filled with many highlights, including two cookies in my bag lunch.


The event does not happen without many dedicated supporters. Thank you to Bruce and Audra for handling the logistics of the event and once again doing an impeccable job. Thank you to all of our vendors for the financial support, as well as sharing new products and equipment with our attendees. Thank you to all of our speakers, including Dr. Doug Soldat and Dr. Paul Koch, for all of the great educational information. Thank you to Mike Peters, Director of Agricultural Research Stations, for your support and attending our event. Thank you to all of the WTA board and all of our members of the WTA for attending and your continued support. It takes a great group of professionals to pull off such an event and I am forever thankful for all of your support and dedication to the profession.

With one of our primary events now in the books for the year, I look forward to our next. On October 4th at Nakoma Golf Club in Madison, WI the WTA will be holding our annual golf outing fundraiser. Registration will be open soon and if you would like to make any donations for the outing please do so by contacting Bruce Schweiger @ bschweiger@wisc.edu.

As always, thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing all of you again this Fall! ■










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Year behind board member name, is the expiration of their current term. January is the month the term is up.

**Topics:**

- Efficacy of Organic Options for Crabgrass Control
- Glyphosate Equivalents Using Burn-Down Products
- Identification and Management of Necrotic Ring Spot and Summer Patch
- Planting Clover in Lawns
- Fine Fescues
- New Bentgrass Varieties for Fairways and Greens
- PGR's, Mowing Height and N Fertility
- Wetting Agent Evaluations
- Nitrogen Rates on the Microbiome
- Controlling Dollar Spot with Cultural Practices
- Smith-Kerns Dollar Spot Model Upper Limit

Attendance was down from years past, 168. That could be lingering effects of Covid-19, a busy summer, labor shortage or other factors. One thing that did not disappoint was the support from our vendors. We had more vendors this year than in 2018 or 2019. The WTA is fortunate to have such loyal vendor backing. We are hoping next year we can get our attendance numbers back in the upper 200's to make our vendors dedication to the WTA a better value.

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WTA president Brad DeBels welcomes everyone to Field Day 2021.



Director of UW-Madison Ag Research Stations Mike Peters thanks all attendees and vendors for their continued support.

From the Noer perspective I was concerned about Summer Field Day. I have not been able to find someone to hire for my last Noer position. The one person I have for the season accepted the job but had a vacation planned for Summer Field Day week, so he was gone. My remaining summer staffer works two jobs, which requires him to leave the Noer Facility at 11:30 each day. I was worried about setting up everything on Monday and getting everything taken down Tuesday. Dr.'s Koch and Soldat said they would get their staffs to help. Late Monday morning the rental company called with an issue and the table and chairs would be very late and would not arrive until mid-afternoon. This meant the student help would be gone. Within ten minutes of sending both staffs home the chairs arrived. I was in for a very long afternoon. Then Dr. Soldat and Kurt Hockemeyer came to my aid and we set-up all the table and chairs together. I had received commitments from the WTA Board to

help take-down. Tuesday after lunch Kurt sent his two staff members to help me. A little later Plant Pathology's downtown staff also pitched in to help. By the time the tours were completed around 3:00 all the table and chairs were stacked waiting for pick-up. A huge THANK YOU to Dr. Soldat and the entire Plant Pathology staff!

Audra and I have gone through the registrations and are already making plans to make sure some of those regulars we count on are well informed for next year. With our wrap-up we will be identifying the numbers from each area of turfgrass management to help the WTA marketing committee focus their efforts next year.

If you missed the day, you missed alot! Thank you to those that attended, and we look forward to seeing many of you at Nakoma Golf Club in Madison on Monday October 4th for the WTA Fall Golf Classic. ■



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# WSTMA Summer Field Day Wrap Up

By Mike Krupke, Insight FS

The Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association (WSTMA) Summer Field Day was Wednesday, July 28th, 2021 at Wausau West High School. It turned out to be a great day of Sports Field education.

The festivities actually began Tuesday evening at our networking event at the Hilton Garden Inn. Free food, free drinks, and a lot of turf talk and some non turf talk, led to a great opportunity for people to get to know each other. I can confidently say, some new contacts were made, turf management ideas were shared, old friends talked smart and some Texas hold'em was played by using after dinner mints as poker chips. There was even a little business done. This tradition will definitely continue!

*On to the day...*

To begin with, we want to thank Rex Zemke and his staff at Wausau Schools as well as Eric Brown, who is in charge of the fields at Wausau West High School. Their hard work putting things together to host our event and make things go smoothly for us was very much appreciated.

Also, a big thanks goes out to Robert Stephens and his staff at the Wausau and Marathon County Parks Department. The work they put into the fields that were on the afternoon tour; Peoples Sports Complex and Athletic Park, which is home to the Wisconsin Woodchucks Baseball team, was spectacular.

Most importantly, thanks to our Vendors for supporting the WSTMA and our members!!! Reinders, Midwest Athletic Fields, Insight FS, Advanced Turf, Traqology, DHD Turf and Tree, Site One, JW Turf, Beacon, Kafka, Hunter, Waupaca Sand & Solutions and Horst Distributing all shared their products and services. Our other partners who couldn't make it due to other responsibilities reached out and sent best wishes to us all for a great day.

Our presenters for the day gave us exactly the relevant, thought provoking turf management information we knew that they would.

Tim Gagnon's presentation "Field Compaction Testing/Aeration Options for Relieving Compaction" gave us a look at how to judge when and how to aerate fields using data from compaction testing equipment, weather, field usage and more. We all know the importance of aeration to our fields. This gave attendees a little more knowledge to be successful with this process. Also included in the presentation was demonstrations of three different types of aerators and the unique results and how to use them to your advantage.

Next up, Dr. Doug Soldat, University of Wisconsin – Madison, spoke on "Plant Growth Regulators and Their Use on Sports Turf." The WSTMA funded a trial at the Noer Facility and Dr. Soldat recreated a much smaller version of this trial at Wausau West High School. Very interesting results. I heard many attendees speak to how the PGR results they saw would be a great addition to their sports turf management program. Thank you Dr. Soldat for your research on sports turf. This is extremely valuable research. You can find results of this trial from the Noer Facility on our website in video form and hard copy.

Josh Viet next presented "Frazee Mowing as a Turf Management Option." He spoke of Frazee mowing as a way to manage thatch, annual bluegrass, seed introduction and much more. Four different passes with the Frazee mower, a week apart, were done on the property and the results were analyzed. While Frazee mowing may be in its infancy in the Midwest, the ability to manage the aforementioned

issues will certainly become more widespread in coming years. Great introduction to it at Field Day.

Last of the morning presentations was "Mound Resurfacing Workshop" by Brad Essary of Profile/Turface. Brad gave upbeat instructions on the process of resurfacing a pitcher's mound with the emphasis on setup and making sure field measurements are in sync before even opening a bag of clay. This wasn't about using bricks and excavating but starting at the proper point and resurfacing with clay. He focused on the organizations that do this (schools, parks & rec, youth organizations, college and professionals) and making sure they were successful using each of their unique management capabilities.

During the morning, Advanced Turf, Traqology and Reinders all did equipment demonstrations. There was a big focus and lots of interest on robotic field painting demonstrations. I'm confident this is the wave of the future in our industry.

After lunch, there was a tour of the Wausau and Marathon County sports complexes. Athletic Park, which is home to the Wisconsin Woodchucks baseball team and Peoples Sports Complex. Robert Stephens, operations manager showed the ins and outs of managing these facilities by him and his staff. Great examples of sports turf management at its finest!

We were thrilled at how the day turned out and want to send out a huge THANK YOU to our attendees. We hope you went away with some useful information to apply to your Sports Field maintenance programs. All in all, lots of great education, new ideas, good conversation, food, and fun. Who in our industry doesn't like looking at equipment??

The Board is currently planning our Winter Education Conference so look for more info coming soon!

May your roots be healthy. ■

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# Turfgrass Educational Options in Minnesota and Wisconsin

By Eric Watkins, Ph.D., Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota and Doug Soldat, Ph.D., Soil Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Twenty years ago, undergraduate turfgrass science programs were booming; these programs were producing well-trained students for golf course management careers at a pace that made filling open assistant superintendent positions easy. In the ensuing years, the number of high school students matriculating into four-year programs in preparation for turfgrass management careers has plummeted. There are one or two examples of universities bucking this trend, but these cases are few and far between.

As golf courses struggle to fill positions, there is an increasing demand for employees with turfgrass management training. Although four-year programs have diminished in size, they continue to provide excellent preparation for students interested in working as greenkeepers or in the turfgrass industry.

There are several avenues a prospective student, whatever their age, could take that lead to a rewarding, productive career in golf course turf management. As professors at large research universities, we hope that students will rediscover the value of a four-year degree; however, we also know that for many, a traditional path to a career in the turf industry may not be the best fit. In this article, we will do our best to offer a look at each of the primary educational paths open to prospective turfgrass managers in the Upper Midwest.

A research-based **graduate degree** at either the Masters or Ph.D. level provides knowledge and skills useful for research. While very few golf course superintendents hold these degrees, they can be excellent ways to develop skills useful for evaluating and developing

new approaches to turfgrass management. These programs take at least two years of full-time effort and require a thesis or dissertation on an original research project in addition to advanced coursework. Most students entering these programs are provided funding which covers tuition, along with a modest salary and fringe benefits. A Masters or Ph.D. degree opens up opportunities not typically available to those with four-year degrees including teaching and Extension positions, research and development or technical positions with chemical manufacturers distributors.

A **professional graduate degree**, such as the Masters of Professional Studies in Horticulture at the University of Minnesota, requires 30 credits of graduate level coursework. This coursework can be completed either quickly (one to two years) or gradually over time (three or more years). These types of programs are most useful for those with undergraduate degrees outside of agriculture who want to develop knowledge and skills useful for the green industry. The University of Wisconsin does not offer a professional graduate degree.

In Minnesota and Wisconsin, there are three universities that offer **undergraduate bachelors of science degrees (B.S. degrees)** in turfgrass management: University of Wisconsin-Madison (*Soil Science or Horticulture major*); University of Minnesota-Crookston (*Golf and Turf Management major*); and University of Minnesota-Twin Cities (*Plant Science major*). Tuition for an undergraduate degree at these institutions will cost between \$10-15k per year. These





*Continued on page 6*

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programs require ~120 credits, and often take four years to complete, although if a student changes majors the time to graduation can be longer. There are many benefits of a BS degree, including the ability to enter a graduate degree program, and the BS degree also opens up many opportunities beyond turfgrass should the student decide to pursue a position in another field. Disadvantages of this option are the relatively high cost, and the degree is difficult to obtain while working full time.

A two-year **associate degree** in turfgrass management will provide coursework specific to an entry level position in the turf industry. In addition, successful completion of this type of program can lead to entry into a four-year degree program; oftentimes, completion of an undergraduate B.S. will take two years beyond the associate degree. There are very few options in this category in our region, but Southwest Technical College in Fennimore, WI offers such a degree. There are many examples of highly successful turfgrass managers that possess only an associate degree; however, advancing to upper-level management (General Manager, Director of Golf Operations) is possible with this degree, the more well-rounded coursework (writing, communications, etc.) required by a B.S. degree may makes advancing to that level easier.

Prospective turfgrass managers can also enroll in **turfgrass short courses**. These short courses, usually provide 8 to 16-week full time sessions each year, with the typical students attending two years, have been an important part of turfgrass management education for decades. The most prominent program in this category is at Rutgers; however, other options exist throughout the country. These short courses provide very focused turfgrass management education in a

short amount of time, usually during the fall and winter when northern golf courses and turfgrass operations are in the off-season. Courses are typically taught by university professors and other experts from the industry. For those coming from the Upper Midwest, travel costs and housing will create additional financial burden beyond tuition, which is generally in the range of \$11,000-12,000 for the two-year option. Upon completion, students earn a certificate, not a degree. A limitation of the short courses is that the training received will not be as useful outside of the turfgrass industry, so a career change would likely necessitate additional education. The University of Wisconsin-Madison offers such a short course which runs from late October/early November through mid-March. The tuition of the program costs between \$5-7k depending on if you live in Wisconsin or Minnesota. Students may choose between a one-year or two-year certificate. More information about this program can be found at [www.fisc.cals.wisc.edu](http://www.fisc.cals.wisc.edu)

For those not yet ready to commit to one of these options, enrollment in **non-credit online turf management courses** is a good option. These courses, which do not provide college credit, will help students explore turfgrass management without needing to make a longer-term commitment. In our region, both the Great Lakes School of Turfgrass Management and Greenkeeper University have been popular choices in this category.


**Summary**

If you are interested in learning more about these options, especially those available in Minnesota and Wisconsin, please reach out to either one of us. Talking to friends and co-workers in the turfgrass industry can also be a very helpful way to gather information about these programs. ■

Educational Option	Time Commitment	Approx. Tuition	Limitations	Benefits	Usefulness in other fields	Flexibility	Examples
Professional graduate degree	2 - 4 years	\$25k	Expensive Large time commitment	Graduate degree that can be done part time while working	High	High	University of Minnesota Masters of Professional Studies in Horticulture
Research-based graduate degree	2-7 years	Often no cost to student	Large time commitment	Opens up many opportunities in research and sales	High	Low	University of Minnesota University of Wisconsin
Bachelor of Science degree	4 years	\$45-60k	Expensive Large time commitment	Standard option High flexibility	High	Low	University of Minnesota University of Wisconsin
Associates degree	2 years	\$10k	May limit upper mobility	Option to move on to a B.S. program if desired	Medium	Medium	Southwest Technical College
Short courses	1-2 years	\$10-15k	Certificate not useful outside of turf mgmt	Inexpensive path to formal education in turf mgmt	Low	Medium	University of Wisconsin Rutgers Penn State
Non-credit, online options	N/A	\$600 per course	Education not useful outside of turf mgmt	Inexpensive path to informal education in turf mgmt	Low	High	GreenKeeper University Great Lakes School of Turfgrass Science



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# 2021 Summer Pathology Trials

By Kurt Hockemeyer, TDL Manager, Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin Madison

The summer of 2021 has been up and down. What I mean by that is we have seen some very large swings in disease pressure that we just don't normally see. The heat and humidity ramped up very quickly in late May, and then subsided by early June. More heat and humidity showed up again in mid-June, only to dissipate again until late June. Since that time disease pressure (at least according to the Smith-Kerns dollar spot prediction model) has been consistent. But every couple of weeks we get a few nights that get very cool (low 60s and 50s) that seem to be enough to shut down dollar spot activity on our research trials. We have had a few flushes of dollar spot activity here at the OJ Noer, but only on fairways (Figure 1). The dollar spot trials on greens have had very little dollar spot for some reason. This is something that we have seen before, a difference in dollar spot pressure between the two mowing heights. I don't think anyone has any good ideas why this might be happening, but we can always speculate. Maybe the combination of all the different cultural and maintenance practices is enough to see the variation every year.

In addition to dollar spot research, we also have summer patch, brown patch, and Pythium foliar blight research trials. The Pythium trial this year was a resounding success. We have a pretty good protocol set up for inducing this disease on a regular basis. A plot is chosen and sprayed out with glyphosate. Once ready, it is tilled and smoothed. The plot is then seeded with VNS perennial ryegrass and heavily fertilized. Once seeded, the irrigation program is turned up to 11 to keep things very wet. The plot is kept heavily fertilized as well. Once old enough, weeds are controlled with an herbicide. It's amazing how good the plot can look at this point. Equally amazing is how quickly this plot grows. It was so hot and humid in one point in June that we had some Pythium show up on the plot before we were technically ready. Once the plot is looking good, we will make one or two applications of Pythium specific fungicides. Then about a week before field day, we double cover the plot with Evergreen tarps to help trap the heat and humidity. We also do a blanket spray of Emerald and Pedigree to control dollar spot and brown patch (neither of these fungicides has activity



Figure 1. Dollar spot pressure has been high but only on our fairway trials. Very little dollar spot on greens this year at the OJ Noer. Some fungicide apps still looking very good!



Figure 2. Pythium foliar blight pressure was very high on our research study in 2021. Pythium specific fungicides still performed very well, even 15 days after application.

against the Pythium organism). Sometimes it takes a week or two, keeping the plot covered, before disease shows up. This year took a couple of weeks but eventually we reached good levels of disease pressure (Figure 2).

We have several off-site studies this year. One looking at anthracnose on annual bluegrass fairways, one for rust on Kentucky bluegrass, and one for Bipolaris on bentgrass. The anthracnose has been lacking this year and rust is just now starting to move into the plots. The Bipolaris has

been moderate. The studies should give us some interesting data. Be on the lookout for these reports on our website, [tdl.wisc.edu](http://tdl.wisc.edu), in September.

Brown patch is a hot/humid disease and therefore something we don't see a ton of in Wisconsin. We just don't get the extended periods of heat and humidity that more southern locations typically get. A few periods of extended heat and humidity (as well as double covering with Evergreen tarps), has led to some brown patch development on our brown patch study this

Continued on page 8

year. In some years we will also inoculate the plots with the brown patch fungus. This year was all-natural infection. It still only showed up on colonial bentgrass which is notoriously susceptible to brown patch, and I still had to pump up the nitrogen, but it was still a very natural infection.

There might be a few more stretches of heat and humidity as we continue through the end of August, but I think the worst is behind us. Pretty soon I will wrap up all our summer trials and publish all the data, and then I will turn my attention to snow mold trials. This is probably my favorite time of year because snow mold is our bread and butter disease. I always look forward to contributing to advancing research knowledge on these cold-loving fungi. As always, if you have any questions on the studies that we do, feel free to reach out to myself (hockemeyer@wisc.edu) or Dr. Koch (plkoch@wisc.edu). Good luck out there! ■



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**Wisconsin Turfgrass Association**  
**2021 Golf Outing Fundraiser**



Benefitting the  
**Wisconsin Turfgrass Association**  
**Funded Research**



**Nakoma Golf Club – Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Where: Nakoma Golf Club**                      **When: Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
4145 Country Club Road                      10:00 to 11:30 Registration  
Madison, WI 53711                              10:30 -11:30 Lunch in Clubhouse  
(608) 238-3141                                  11:30 4-Person Scramble Shotgun Start  
After Golf, Hors d' Oeuvres, Event Prizes, Cash Bar

**THERE IS NO ATM ON SITE**

**Cost: \$150 per person**

**What: Golf, Cart, Lunch, Door Prizes and Golf Awards**

**DIRECTIONS: Off Hwy12/18 West (Beltline) take exit 258a (Seminole Hwy) turn right, in 0.4 miles turn right onto Manitou Way, in 0.2 mile turn right on Country Club Rd to Nakoma Golf Club.**

**History:**

In 1925, a full 18 holes of golf, designed by Thomas Bendelow, opened for play with appropriate Native American names given to each of the holes. The club continued to grow through the rest of the 1920s and early 1930s, with more than 300 members actively enjoying the club. With this early success Nakoma was able to build a completely permanent clubhouse facility.

The course operated publicly in 1939 and 1940. Beginning in 1941, George Vitense operated the course. Vitense was approached by a group of investors in 1942, and Nakoma Golf Club, as it exists today, was formally reborn a private club in May of 1944.

**Questions: (608) 845-6536 or [audra.anderson@wisc.edu](mailto:audra.anderson@wisc.edu)**

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**ENTRY FORM – WTA Golf Outing Fundraiser**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of People Attending \_\_\_\_ x \$150 per person = \_\_\_\_\_

**You May Also Sponsor A Golf Hole**

Optional Tee Sign Golf Hole Sponsorship x \$125 = \_\_\_\_\_

Name To Be Printed on Tee Sign --- \_\_\_\_\_

- Make check payable to **WTA** and return to **2502 S Pleasant View Rd / Verona / WI / 53593**
- Register and pay online at [www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org](http://www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org)
- Refer questions about the outing to Audra at 608-845-6536, or [audra.anderson@wisc.edu](mailto:audra.anderson@wisc.edu)
- Registration deadline is Monday, September 27, 2021
- You may register by yourself or as a foursome



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# Rust On The Move

By Paul Koch, Ph.D., Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin - Madison

As the summer winds down and our gaze turns towards the shorter days and cooler nights of fall, rust is one turfgrass disease that starts to become more prominent (Figure 1). While rust rarely inflicts significant harm on the turfgrass plant, it can stain shoes, stain clothes, stain pets...and in severe cases lead to significant stunting of turfgrass (especially as juvenile plants being grown for sod production). Because of these potentially serious issues, it's important to know the causes of rust and some of the most effective control strategies.

## The Disease

Rusts of cool-season turfgrasses are caused by many species of *Puccinia* and *Uromyces* fungi. The primary types of rust in Wisconsin are stem rust (*Puccinia graminis*) and crown rust (*Puccinia coronata*). Both stem rust and crown rust can cause disease on a number of important turfgrass species, most notably Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass but lesser disease can occur on other species like tall fescue. While stem rust traditionally has a more reddish or 'rust' color to the spores and crown rust traditionally has a more yellow tint, these are not consistent or effective identification methods for determining rust species. Stem and crown rust both need living hosts to survive, meaning they can't survive the winter on turfgrass here in Wisconsin and need to blow up from warmer climates each year...one reason we don't typically see rust on Wisconsin turf until later in the summer. The stains from rust infection are actually tens of thousands of tiny rust 'spores' that can be transported by wind for hundreds of miles before landing and causing a new infection (Figure 2).

Rust is most common and severe on 'slow-growing' turf, which can be slow growing for a number of reasons. These reasons include under-fertilization or drought, compacted soil or high traffic, and/or highly susceptible varieties. For example, 'Midnight' varieties of Kentucky bluegrass have been found to be highly susceptible to rust and should be blended with other varieties to limit overall rust susceptibility of the stand.

## Rust Management Strategies

If rust is a disease of slow-growing turf, than the simplest way to manage rust is to speed up that growth. Applying a shot of fertilizer and or increasing irrigation is a common and oftentimes effective way to



Figure 1: While out on a family walk in the neighborhood earlier this summer I came across this wonderful crown rust infection on ryegrass. This was recently planted on compacted soil where a dead tree had been removed earlier. Street medians are often prime rust targets because of the difficult growing conditions.

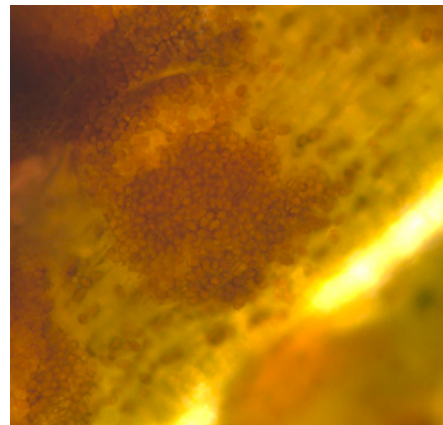


Figure 2: Each rust pustule contains thousands of rust spores. So a single rust infected turf plant has tens of thousands of rust spores, meaning just a few feet of rust infected plants will have millions of rust spores to spread and cause new infections...not to mention stain your shoes.

'grow out' of the rust infection. However, this only works if deficient nitrogen or drought is the reason that the turf is slowly growing. If traffic is high or the soil is compacted, than you can fertilize and irrigate all you want but it still won't help it grow...and won't help reduce rust. If other cultural factors are limiting growth, then longer-term practices such as aerification or traffic management strategies are needed to provide improved growing conditions and suppress rust development.

Host resistance plays a large role in rust management. Perennial ryegrass is notorious for its susceptibility to rust, as are 'Midnight' types of Kentucky bluegrass. Other families of Kentucky bluegrass such as the 'America' types and older, more common bluegrass types tend to be more resistant to rust. In addition, tall fescue and fine fescues are more resistant to rust than perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass so planting a mix of, for example, tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass, is an excellent way to suppress overall rust development in the stand.

Fungicides are also an effective way to manage rust, though they are rarely

needed since rust rarely leads to death or significant injury of the plant. However, in high value areas or during sod production, fungicide applications to control rust may be warranted. I recall a story from a few years ago of a panicked woman calling us about a severe rust infection on her lawn that was about to host her daughter's wedding. After seeing the lawn I certainly understood her concern...her daughter's wedding dress wouldn't have been white for long! Fortunately, many different fungicide chemistries can provide effective control of rust. The demethylation inhibitor (DMI) class of fungicides tends to be the most effective class, which include products such as propiconazole, triadimefon, and many others. The strobilurin fungicide class includes products like azoxystrobin and pyraclostrobin and also provides strong rust suppression. ■

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 4th, 2021 **WTA Golf Outing** .....**Nakoma Golf Club**

To see if a Summer/Fall turf event is still scheduled, please contact them directly.

Phone numbers for some of the common organizations are listed below. Stay safe and healthy!

WTA Members -- If you have an important date that you would like to share with other members, Call 608-845-6536 or email [audra.anderson@wisc.edu](mailto:audra.anderson@wisc.edu) to include it in the next calendar.

## Contact Telephone Numbers

GCSAA	Golf Course Superintendents Association of America .....	800-472-7878
iLandscape	the Illinois + Wisconsin Landscape Show .....	630-472-2851
NGLGCSA	Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Assoc.....	906-424-4176
Northern	Northern Green .....	651-633-4987
PAT	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	608-262-7588
STMA	Sports Turf Managers Association .....	800-323-3875
TPI	Turf Producers International .....	800-405-8873
WDATCP	Pesticide Certification & Licensing.....	608-224-4548
Wee One	Wee One Foundation Golf Outing .....	630-457-7276
WGCSA	Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association .....	920-643-4888
WGIF	Wisconsin Green Industry Federation .....	414-529-4705
WPT	WPT Garden Expo .....	608-262-5256
WSPA	Wisconsin Sod Producers Association .....	262-895-6820
WSTMA	Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association .....	920-723-0936
<b>WTA</b>	<b>Wisconsin Turfgrass Association .....</b>	<b>608-845-6536</b>

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