

WTA 2022
Summer Field Day
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WISCONSIN turfgrass news

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SPRING 2022

Thank You for 2021!

By Bruce Schweiger, Superintendent, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research & Education Facility

As the 2022 season gets off to a slow start, I thought it was a good day for me to give thanks. I would like to thank the WTA Board of Directors for their continued support of the Noer Facility and the research projects being conducted here. In 2022 we mark 30 years since the O.J. Noer Facility was dedicated at the Summer Field Day. I was here that day and it seems only like yesterday until I see the picture of Monroe Miller.

On behalf of the WTA Board, I would like to thank all the vendors and attendees for their attendance at the Summer Field Day and the Fall Golf Classic. These two events generate much needed funds for the WTA. While Summer Field Day was influenced with a few Covid-19 guideline, most attendees agreed it was not the event it has been in the past but under the circumstances still very successful. The Fall Golf Outing was a resounding success. All the attendees and the hard work of the Nakoma Country Club staff was a nice shot in the arm for the WTA.

The Noer Facility continues to have a very great working relationship with Phil and Lee at University Ridge Golf Course. Sure, when they host the Senior PGA AmFam Championship this relationship is much more intertwined, but we have fun with it and make it through. During the year they are always there to help with loaning me equipment, helping with irrigation and many other day to day issues that become easier with their assistance.

Most of you do not know Janet Hedtcke who manages the West Madison Ag Research Station, which is three miles north of the Noer. I do not have enough paper to list all the things she and her staff do for the Noer. A big THANK YOU will have to do.

Every year Reinders and John Jensen volunteer to lend the Noer Facility equipment. With Covid and the supply issues everyone was having I was nervous about what they would be willing to do in 2021. They stepped to the plate and again sent us a riding greens mower, heavy duty Workman and helped of a mid duty Workman with a cab. In June when Dr. Soldat needed a walking greens mower that could mow below 0.1", Reinders quickly found a Flex 21 that fit the bill. Unfortunately, I had a few other pieces of equipment breakdown and Reinders was there to get the repairs done in a very timely

fashion. Reinders dedication to the Turf Program at UW-Madison has a long history and I can't wait to see what we can do together in 2022.

Gabe Lopez of Irrigation Protection Services, Inc (IPS) was always at my disposal whenever I needed help. Without Gabe this year the drought might have taken a real toll on the Noer. Thank you, Gabe, for being there when I needed you most.

J.W. Turf, now Revels Turf & Tractor, like Reinders was crunched due to inventory, but they delivered a John Deere 9009a for us to use on the general grounds. The 9009a again did a great job and the stripes are amazing. Thank you for your support and I look forward to working with you in 2022.

Many of you may not realize it but the WSTMA has set-up a fund to support the Noer Facility. This allows the Noer Facility to have equipment that it might never be able to purchase. With a very small budget every dollar is appreciated. This group of dedicated turfgrass professional have stepped to the plate for the Noer Facility and the UW Turf Program. Thank you to the WSTMA Board and all of its membership.

There is someone that has had my back for over thirty years and he still is there to make my life better. That would be David Louttit or "The Tallone" as I call him, from The Anderson's. Dave and I worked together for years in a past life where we spilt an existing territory and Dave got the easy side! For all these years we have made our work and private lives fun. When I came to the Noer Facility, Dave began supplying the Noer Facility with all the granular fertilizer for the bentgrass surfaces and at times more. Dave and The Anderson's have never wavered. Before Covid the Noer Facility had many visitors and they always complimented on how great the bentgrass looked. Thank you Dave and the Anderson's. I look forward to discussing next years need with TALLONE!

The Noer Facility does not live on just granular fertilizers, we make urea applications and use urea on many of the trials. Tony Grapsas and Jay-Mar have been donating all the liquid urea we need each season. The liquid product is easy to use when you are mixing for a 160 square feet research plot or a three-acre spray. The

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Stewardship

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



Stewardship. In the general sense, is the act of supervising or taking care of something. For those of you reading this, you likely gravitate towards environmental stewardship. The green industry is rich with individuals practicing sustainability and conservation. It is something we all take great pride in. Do you think the general public understands the great lengths the green industry goes to protect and be true stewards of the environment? Unfortunately, I believe that answer is no.

Over the winter I spent a significant amount of time lobbying and meeting with legislatures across many states in which my company operates. All culminating with Legislative Days, traditionally in Washington, D.C., but this year held remotely from my home office. The event was heavily supported by the National Association of Landscape Professionals. Legislative Days provides the opportunity to discuss our role in the green industry as lawn care operators and begin the process of relationship building. These legislatures are making decisions on how or if you apply pesticides, hire and staff

your organization. The array of support, or lack thereof, can be vast. These conversations are proactive, but equally important as the acute meetings when legislative bills arise that can potentially limit our tools or ability to manage our properties.

Considering the importance of these relationships the overall attendance by green industry members is relatively poor. Why is that? Out of your comfort zone? Not enough time in your schedule? Not your responsibility? Regrettably I probably fell into some of those categories many years ago. But for the last handful of years, I have spent countless hours defending our industry across the country. Some conversations can be more frustrating than others, but in the end all extremely rewarding.

I cannot overstate the importance of your commitment to promoting our industry. You already do it with your greens committee, membership or clients. It is time contact your state and local legislatures or professional organizations and ask how you can become more involved. You are all stewards; I ask that each of you think about how you can expand upon your environmental stewardship into the political stewardship realm. ■

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

researchers and the Noer Facility thank Tony and Jay-Mar for their continued support.

Beth Duschack from Corteva was and is always there to assist with products for various purposes around the Noer Facility. Her support of the Noer Facility has helped us smooth off many rough edges here over the years.

Retired Kerry Anderson of NuFarm has been the Noer Facility supplier of herbicides for years. This year the entire property needed to be sprayed for weeds and Kerry arranged for all the

products. Thank you Kerry! I hope Scott Verdun will continue to show that great NuFarm support.

As you can see the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility is shown huge support by industry leaders. Without them many of the things that are accomplished here may not happen. The staff and UW-Madison cannot thank you enough for all the support you give us!

Now only if someone could find a good used fairway mower to replace the Pre-2000 Toro 5200-D. ■

The UW Soil Testing Laboratory is Back in Madison and Open for Business

By Doug Soldat, Ph.D., Soil Science, University of Wisconsin - Madison

The University of Wisconsin Soil Testing Laboratory has a new home. In 2021, the Marshfield-based lab began a transition to a new location in Madison and is now operated within the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene on University Avenue. The new location is a pitching wedge away from the Blackhawk Country Club maintenance facility, in fact the back windows of the lab look out over Blackhawk's 7th fairway.

Moving is nothing new to the UW Soils Lab. The lab started in the late 1950s and originally was housed in the basement of King Hall on UW-Madison's campus. In the 1960s, the lab became one of the first in the nation to use computer generated soil testing reports. As it grew, it created pressure on the many other important research labs in the Soils building, and it was clear that the lab needed to find a new home. Sometime in the late 1960s the laboratory was moved to a location on Park Street. At some point the lab was again moved (reasons and dates of the move are unknown to me), this time to a series of trailers on Rosa Road off Mineral Point Avenue on Madison's west side. In 2004, the lab moved to a state-of-the-art building just down the road on the West Madison Agricultural Research Station property. Then, in 2015, budgetary constraints forced CALS to consolidate the Madison-based UW Soil and Plant Analysis Lab with the UW Soil and Forage Analysis Lab in Marshfield. Why another change so soon? In short, the Marshfield building required very expensive upgrades in air handling order to maintain compliance with



The new UW Soil Testing Lab on University Avenue in Madison looks out over Blackhawk Country Club.



A lab worker weighs samples while Director Andrew Stammer (center) leads a tour of the new facility.

state and federal guidelines. The renovation costs were so high that the Department of Soil Science and the College of Agricultural and Life Science are not able to fund the renovations required to keep the building operational. The lab itself operates in the

black, but not by enough to cover the costs of the improvements. Until recently, it appeared that the only option would be to close the lab all together. Much credit should be given to Professor and Soil Science Chair Alfred Hartemink for being unwilling to let the historic lab close under his leadership, so he searched tirelessly for a creative solution. We are also very grateful that Jamie Shauer, the director of the State Laboratory of Hygiene welcomed the idea of integration with open arms. Everyone is excited about the new collaboration, and I am hopeful that after a long journey involving many different locations the UW Soil Testing Lab has found a permanent and secure home within the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

The lab is located at **4702 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53705** and it is fully open for business. You can drop off samples in person, or mail them in with a sample submission for that you can download from www.uwlab.soils.wisc.edu. ■

WTA Sumer Field Day 2022

By Bruce Schweiger, Superintendent, O.J. Noer Facility

There are big changes coming to the WTA Summer Field Day! This year the date has been moved to Tuesday August 2nd. Traditionally, Summer Field Day has been held in late July but Dr. Koch has not had very good Dollar Spot infestations. Typically a week or two later the Dollar Spot was spectacular, right as heavy Dollar Spot pressure at the O.J. Noer Facility makes everyone ecstatic.

The vendor display area will once again be back onto the station and return to the design we enjoyed in 2017-2019. The lunch tent is back and along with the always delicious lunch buffet. I guess I could have written, WTA Summer Field Day is Tuesday August 2nd and Covid meeting restrictions have been lifted.

There is big news, the 2022 WTA Summer Filed Day marks the 30th Anniversary of the WTA handing over the O.J. Noer Educational Facility to the UW. That is right the Noer turns 30 years old this summer. There have been tens of thousands of turfgrass research studies conducted at the Noer, countless visitors, events, problems solved, and guidance provided by the turfgrass team. When you sit back and think of all that has happened at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Educational Facility it is mind boggling. Dr. Koch, Dr. Soldat, the WTA and the O.J. Noer Turfgrass facility elevates the UW-Madison turfgrass program as one of the best in the country maybe even the world.

For many of you the details of how the O.J. Noer Turfgrass and Educational Facility was established might be limited so here is a very brief history:

In the early 1980's turfgrass managers were having some new turfgrass issues. The new issues were occurring in all parts of the turfgrass industry in Wisconsin. Dr. Gayle Worf, Plant Pathology, was traveling around the state doing ALL his investigational research at various locations. Many of these research trails required bi-weekly applications. Dr. Worf would check out a truck from the UW - Madison, load all his equipment and drive somewhere in the state, make his applications, take his data, return to campus, unload his equipment and then return the truck. He spent most of his day driving and loading and unloading his truck. A few of the turfgrass managers thought this was a waste of Dr. Worf's time and energy. These dedicated turfgrass managers decided to form the non-profit organization; Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, to fund research at the UW. Their first project was to buy a truck and obtain a credit card for fuel and repairs, which they gave to the turf team. Now every turfgrass professor had a truck and a way to keep it fueled up so they could use at any time.

Around that same time the University Ridge Golf Course was being built. The WTA Board made a request of the UW for a turfgrass research station, which was not well received. The Rennebohm Family had donated the land for University Ridge Golf Course and a small farm area on the eastern edge was not slated for development as part of the course. With some help and direction from Dean Leo Walsh, this small farm was identified as a potential site for the turfgrass facility. The WTA, with the help of the UW Foundation, then began fundraising for the facility. Once fund raising was completed, they began construction. One huge perk was when the UW agreed to briefly deed the land to the WTA, so all the work done could be completed without the state bid process. This sped up the process and saved countless dollars. There are far too many people to mention, but I will mention a few specifically:

Lee Bruce of the Bruce Company donated his services and did all the land clearing, shaping and most of the seeding. Randy Smith, then superintendent at Nakoma Country Club, built the putting greens. Monroe Miller, superintendent Blackhawk Country Club and Tom Harrison, superintendent Maple Bluff Country Club, had the connections to get a building constructed. After a long process and real dedication by many in the turfgrass industry, the facility was sold back to the UW at a ribbon cutting event at the first WTA Summer Field Day at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Educational Facility for \$1.00. What a huge accomplishment and 30 years later we are still here a going strong.

Your membership in the WTA and attendance at WTA functions continues to support those original goals the founders set for the WTA, to fund turfgrass research at the UW-Madison. Those dollars are very important to the UW-Madison, to Dr. Soldat and Dr. Koch. Participation and membership in the WTA are not expensive but the impact it makes of the turfgrass industry worldwide has been and will continue to be huge!

We all hope to see you at the WTA Summer Field Day 30th anniversary celebration on Tuesday, August 2nd! Come and be part of the next 30 years of turf at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Educational Facility and the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association. A better buy in turfgrass cannot be found anywhere. ■

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Introducing The New UW-Madison Turfgrass Apprenticeship Program

By, Paul Koch, Ph.D. and Doug Soldat, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin - Madison

The UW-Madison Turfgrass Apprenticeship Program (TAP) is a 2-step program that consists of a 12-week, in-person educational bootcamp and a field-based apprenticeship at a golf course, athletic complex, or other turf facility. The program provides participants with the hands-on, real-world experience needed to succeed in the turfgrass industry. Successful completion of both the bootcamp and the apprenticeship is required to earn the Turfgrass Apprenticeship Program Certificate.

Step 1: Educational Bootcamp

The educational bootcamp is a 12-week, in-person program run by UW-Madison professors Doug Soldat and Paul Koch that offers an applied turfgrass education in a compressed period without compromising the quality of the course content. The majority of classes will take place on the UW-Madison campus, though regular 'shop talk' visits will be made to local turfgrass facilities to gain hands-on education on a range of topics from practicing turfgrass professionals.

The bootcamp will take place over two 6-week terms during the late fall and winter that allows for working students to complete seasonal tasks in the field prior to starting class in the fall, and to complete classes in the winter prior to the start of the following

growing season. The fall term starts the first week of November and ends in mid-December, and the winter term starts the second full week of January and ends in mid-February. Each week will have class on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM until 3 PM CST with a 1-hour break for lunch. This compressed schedule allows those that don't want to commute daily to book housing for only 2 nights per week. Regular attendance and completion of quizzes, projects, and exams will be expected of each student. There will be no class during the week of Thanksgiving in the fall term and during the GCSAA Conference in the winter term.

Tuition for the 2022-2023 bootcamp will be \$3500 for the entire 12-week program. This cost is the same for in-state and out-of-state students. Payment of tuition will be due by the end of the second week of classes in the fall term, and full refunds will be offered to any student that withdraws by the end of the second week of class. Contact Dr. Paul Koch or Dr. Doug Soldat for questions about program costs and payments.

Housing is not provided by UW-Madison during the bootcamp, but we will work to provide a number of affordable hotel options in the Madison area and coordinate hotel stays among the students so that most or all students who wish to stay in Madison can stay in the same

The 2022-2023 UW-Madison Turfgrass Apprenticeship Program is as follows:

Term	Class	Time (CST)	Primary Instructor	Start Date	End Date
Fall	Introduction to Turfgrass Management	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Paul Koch	November 1 st , 2022	December 15 th , 2022
Fall	Introduction to Turfgrass Soils	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Doug Soldat	November 1 st , 2022	December 15 th , 2022
Fall	Turfgrass Irrigation and Drainage	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Doug Soldat	November 1 st , 2022	December 15 th , 2022
Spring	Nutrient Management	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Doug Soldat	January 10 th , 2023	February 16 th , 2023
Spring	Integrated Pest Management	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Paul Koch	January 10 th , 2023	February 16 th , 2023

Continued on page 6

hotel. We anticipate that hotel costs for two nights per week during the 12-week program will be less than \$2000, and those costs will decrease considerably for those students interested in a roommate.

There will be significant scholarship money available to support student tuition and housing costs from a variety of turfgrass associations, including the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association, Wisconsin Sod Producers Association, among other sources. More information on scholarships and how to apply for them will be provided in the first week of class during the fall term, and all scholarships will be awarded at the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium in Kohler, WI in January. Please contact Dr. Paul Koch or Dr. Doug Soldat for more information on TAP scholarships.

Step 2: Field-based Apprenticeship

Students in the TAP will also be required to complete a field-based apprenticeship at a golf course, athletic complex, or other turf management facility of their choosing. A list of tasks to complete

during the apprenticeship will be developed in cooperation with associations in the turfgrass industry and will be ready in time for the 2023 field season. The student's field supervisor (superintendent, grounds manager, etc.) will sign off on each assigned task once they have deemed the apprentice proficient at the task. Students who complete the assigned tasks will be ready to assume a position as an assistant superintendent in the golf course industry or an equivalent position in the sports turf, lawn care, or sod industry. More details will be available on the apprenticeship in the fall and winter of 2022-2023.


How to enroll in the TAP

To enroll in the UW – Madison TAP please email Dr. Paul Koch plkoch@wisc.edu or Dr. Doug Soldat djsoldat@wisc.edu and indicate that you would like to enroll in the program. You will be added to the class list and receive regular email updates as the fall term approaches, including information on how to pay tuition for the program and guidance on housing and parking. Deadline for enrollment in the fall term is October 15th. ■



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UW Snow Mold Field Day Recap

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

The University of Wisconsin Snow Mold Field Day was held on April 21st at Marquette Country Club in Marquette, MI. Approximately 15 people attended in-person from around the country, and another 20 people attended via Zoom from around the United States, Canada, and Europe.

This year there were 110 treatments tested and they included a range of old standards, new rates or combinations of existing products, and experimental products not yet on the market (Figure 1). All the treatments were applied last fall on October 28th in 1.5 gallons of water per 1000 sq ft. The plot was covered in snow from mid-November through mid-April.

Snow mold pressure on the trial was extremely high, with non-treated controls nearly completely wiped out (Figure 2). Nearly all of the snow mold present on the trial was pink snow mold (*Microdochium nivale*), which was a little surprising given the length of snow cover over the winter. However, several melts occurred in December, and while they didn't lead to the plot losing snow cover, they may have decreased the snow depth to a point that it didn't adequately insulate the turf. This brief period of poor insulation may have been enough to stunt the slow growing *Typhula* fungi that cause gray and speckled snow mold, but the faster growing *Microdochium* was able to recover and cause rampant disease.

Many treatments provided excellent control despite the heavy disease pressure. The most effective treatments included a mixture of 3 or 4 active ingredients from multiple chemical classes. Since pink snow mold was the primary disease present, treatments that contained fungicides with excellent efficacy against pink snow mold like PCNB, iprodione, and fludioxonil performed extremely well. Treatments that didn't contain these active ingredients or had only one or two active ingredients in them performed poorly. I encourage you to view the full report with pictures of each treatment online at the following website: <https://tdl.wisc.edu/results/>.

These trials can't be done without the support of a lot of people. First off, huge thanks to Marquette CC Superintendent Craig Moore for hosting such a great trial. Second, thanks to Kurt Hockemeyer for leading the organization and application of the treatments. Lastly, thanks to the following companies for

providing supporting funding for the snow mold evaluation: Adama, AMVAC, BASF, Bayer, Belchim, FMC, Harrells, Nufarm, PBI Gordon, PrimeSource, Quali-Pro, and Syngenta.


Please don't hesitate to call (608-576-2673) or email (plkoch@wisc.edu) if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding this research. ■



Figure 1. A total of 110 treatments were tested against snow mold in Marquette, MI this past winter.



Figure 2. Some products provided extremely effective control of snow mold. Others did not.



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Wisconsin Turfgrass Association

Summer Field Day, Tuesday, August 2, 2022
O.J. Noer Facility 30th Anniversary Celebration

O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility
2502 S Pleasant View Rd / Verona / WI / 53593



Learn from vendors during the trade show as they demonstrate equipment that can make your daily work more efficient and successful.



The O.J. Noer Facility is waiting for you to see all the research it provides for you.



The road construction is complete! The new sign and entrance to the O.J. Noer Facility.



Aerial photo during Am Fam Senior Golf Championship.

Registration information and additional details are on the back of this flyer. You may go to www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org to register and pay online.

Field Day Schedule

- 8:00am – 3pm Trade Show Open
- 8:00am Attendee Registration and 30th Anniversary Celebration
- 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome Session & Honored Guests
- 9:30 – 11:00 Lawn Care & General Turf Tours
- 11:00 – 1:30 Trade Show Only time
- 12:00 – 1:15 Lunch
- 1:30 – 3:00 Golf Turf Tours

Lawn Care & General Turf 9:30 – 11:00

- Summer seeding strategies
- Lawn disease review
- Species germination demo
- Wetting agents for general turf
- Fine Fescue cultivar evaluation
- Clover and Kentucky Bluegrass mixes

Golf Turf 1:30 – 3:00

- Bentgrass evaluations (greens and fairways)
- Winter kill recovery, timing, cultivars
- Nitrogen apps on dollar spot and soil microbiome
- Plant-based fungicides for disease control
- Testing putting greens for organic matter
- Topdressing influence on firmness



O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility Directions
 2502 S Pleasant View Rd / Verona / WI / 53593
 608-845-6536

From Madison Beltline US-12 & 18
 Take Mineral Point Road exit
 Go West on Mineral Point Road 0.7 mile
 to Pleasant View Road roundabout
 Exit roundabout going South on Pleasant View Rd
 Continue 2.5 miles to O.J. Noer Facility
**If using Google Maps, you must use the name
 OJ Noer Turfgrass.**

Registration Includes

- *Morning coffee
- *30th Anniversary Program
- *Lunch will be served. Sponsored in part by Corteva / Beth Duschack
- *Morning and afternoon turf education
- *Become a first time WTA member & get free admission to Field Day
- *Contact Audra for details or questions at audra.anderson@wisc.edu

Registration Form

Register online at www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org or mail check and registration form by July 26th to
WTA - O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility / 2502 S Pleasant View Rd/ Verona / WI / 53593
Add \$5 per person after July 26th postmark.

Name of all Registrants _____

Company _____ email _____

Mailing address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____ phone _____

WTA member -----	\$40	=	_____
Additional employees from same WTA member organization - - - -	-\$25 each x # emps	=	_____
Not a WTA member - - - - -	\$45	=	_____
Additional employees from same Non-WTA member organization - -	-\$35 each x # emps	=	_____
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GRAND TOTAL			= _____

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Is Spring Here Yet?

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

I've lived in Madison for nearly 6.5 years. I grew up in northeast Indiana, and from what I can tell, the weather there is not that different than here in southern Wisconsin. Most of the time when I check in with my family in Indiana the weather there is usually only a few degrees warmer, they get some of the same storm systems we do, and occasionally Wisconsin is warmer than Indiana. I definitely let my siblings know when that is the case.

When I consider all the seasons that Wisconsin has to offer, I love all 4. Summer is about warmth and growth, spending time on the lake and having a cold drink. Fall is about winding down and enjoying the last remnants of warmth, football and brisk mornings. Many people may not like winter, but I personally believe that you must embrace it to stay sane. Embracing winter is something that the upper Midwest taught me well. To me embracing winter means not hating the cold and snow, getting outside and doing something. I personally love ice fishing, sledding, and hiking. I love the snow (except when I have to drive in it). And if you are too cold, then buy warmer clothes! Then spring is about renewed vigor and a new year of growth. The only "season" that I don't like is the one we are currently in. This in between "season" where all the snow has melted but the weather refuses to warm up. Here in Wisconsin, it feels like this pseudo-season lasts a long time. But the good news is that it won't last forever.

Each spring I keep track of how warm the season is by calculating growing degree days (GDDs). I start in March because the formula I use does not accumulate any warmth until March anyways. March 2022 was very average with only 4 GDDs accumulated for the month. April on average accumulates almost 60 GDDs, but so far, we are halfway through April and have only had 1 GDD so far! April has been very cold this year. But this trend can turn around quickly. The GDDs can come fast and furious.

With this cold April has come the inability for Dr. Koch and me to drive north to our snow mold studies because it is taking quite a long time for the plots to melt off. And even when they have melted off, stray snowstorms dump more snow before we can visit and rate. At this point we have only rated studies in Madison and Wausau, WI. And even the Wausau site was only rated after postponing the trip



Figure 1. Disease pressure in a nontreated plot from Wausau, WI. The damage in the plots was caused by *Microdochium nivale*.



Figure 2. Marquette snow mold plots after snowmelt in mid-April. Damage likely caused by one of the *Typhula* snow molds.

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Figure 3. The inoculated and covered pink snow mold study in Madison. Severe disease is prevalent when you can keep the ground insulated.

there about 3 times. Disease pressure in Madison was very low, which is not surprising considering the depth of snow this past winter. We expected quite high snow mold pressure in Wausau but got mixed results. One side of the study had decent disease pressure (Figure 1) but the majority of the plots had zero disease pressure. Odd indeed but such is the nature of research!


Marquette as always came through with some spectacular snow mold pressure. Figure 2 shows how severe the damage was over the plots. Paul and I will head north to Marquette next week to rate and host the snow mold field day. Should be another year of excellent data.

The pink snow mold study conducted here at the Noer was another success. Despite having very little snowfall here in Madison, our inoculation and insulation techniques were able to create a more hospitable environment for snow mold infection. Figure 3 shows the pink snow mold plot shortly after uncovering in mid-March. For all these snow mold studies, keep an eye out for the reports coming soon on the TDL website (tdl.wisc.edu).


One request that I would like to end this article with is that we need samples of your snow mold! If you have any snow mold damage on your turf, please contact Dr. Koch or me for instructions on how to get your snow mold damaged turf so that I can isolate the fungus from it. We are hoping to get at least 20 isolates each of *Microdochium nivale*, *Typhula incarnata*, and *Typhula ishikariensis* from all over the country (and the world too). So if you or someone you know has some snow mold damage please contact us and we can let you know how best to send the sample.

Hopefully spring arrives soon because it is quite brisk out there today. I wish everyone the best of luck this upcoming growing season and I hope all goes well. ■


ALWAYS IN SEASON



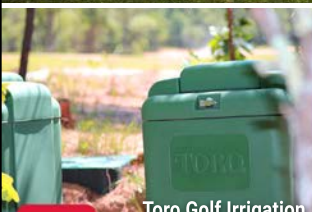
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A Look Back on the First (and Last) Turfgrass Certificate Cohort at UW-Madison

By Doug Soldat, Ph.D. and Paul Koch, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin - Madison

Let's get the 1% bad news out of the way so we can focus on the 99% good news. In March 2022 the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at UW-Madison announced it was ending the Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC) residential program after a 136-year run. While the College has committed to continuing providing educational opportunities under the FISC name, students will no longer earn credits toward certificates and will not be provided housing. While we were surprised and enormously disappointed by the decision, we have developed a new and improved program (currently outside of FISC), to build on the momentum we created over the last year. To learn more about the details that program, check out the article in this newsletter article about the Turfgrass Apprenticeship Program.

Now on to the good news: The first year of the new certificate in Turfgrass Management in the Farm and Industry Short Course was a great success. After a delayed start because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the first five FISC Turfgrass Management students came to campus on November 1, 2021, and graduated on March 12th, 2022. We want to give a big THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS to these five students: **Emmitt Lyons (Whistling Straights)**, **Dylan Rogers (Links at Northfork)**, **Alex Strege (Whistling Straights)**, **Riley Thomspson (Blackwolf Run)**, and **Tristian Wood (Sand Valley)**. Some of these students had college course work or degrees in other fields of study, and some had no secondary education before enrolling in the Turfgrass Certificate program. They all shared a love for the turfgrass industry, and each had jobs at golf courses, with several years of work experience. Each was also eager to gain a formal education in turfgrass management so they could advance their careers and achieve their goals. Some of the students had immediate success in this area and earned promotions during the program!

Several of the students earned scholarships from the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, the Wisconsin Sod Producers Association, and other scholarships through the FISC program. They were able to travel to San Diego in February to attend the Golf Industry Show, where they participated in educational seminars, and competed in the Turf Bowl.



Graduation Day for Alex Strege (left), Riley Thompson (left center), Emmitt Lyons (right center), and Tristian Wood (right). Dylan Rogers (not pictured) had to miss the ceremony.



Dr. Paul Koch discussing creeping bentgrass anatomy at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility with the students in the turfgrass certificate program.

They took courses about introductory turfgrass management, integrated pest management, soil science, irrigation and drainage, turfgrass nutrient management, agribusiness, and small

engines and tractors, among others. They also got some hands-on experience in the field at the OJ Noer Facility (at least while the weather cooperated!), and at local turfgrass

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establishments in the Madison area. We want to send a special THANK YOU to the industry partners who participated in these “Shop Talk” field trips in the introductory turfgrass management course:

- **Neil Radatz** (Hawk Landing GC, Pioneer Point GC) who discussed construction, grow-in, turfgrass selection, and cultivation.
- **Phil Davidson** (University Ridge GC) who demonstrated sprayer setup and calibration, and discussed building a pest management program.
- **Chad Grimm** and **Dave Noltner** (Blackhawk CC) who discussed mechanical maintenance of mowers, engines, and utility vehicles, and demonstrated irrigation components and irrigation software.
- **Josh LePine** (Maple Bluff CC) who discussed staff hiring and retention along with budgeting.

While we are sad that the certificate program has ended, we are confident that the successes of the first year and the lessons we learned will make the new Turfgrass Apprenticeship Program even better. We are thankful for the students who took a chance on the FISC Turfgrass Certificate at UW-Madison, and to our friends in the industry who helped to provide a well-rounded, top-notch education. We are excited to continue provide a similar educational opportunity with the new Turfgrass Apprenticeship Program beginning in November of 2022! Contact either of us at djsoldat@wisc.edu or plkoch@wisc.edu for more information. ■



Golf course superintendent Neil Radatz (left) discussing putting green grow-in at Pioneer Pointe with the certificate students.



Equipment manager Dave Noltner demonstrates the fundamentals of reel grinding during a class field trip to Blackhawk Country Club. Superintendent Chad Grimm (far right) discussed irrigation software and component maintenance later that day.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2nd	WTA – Field Day.....	O.J. Noer Facility
October 10th	WTA – Golf Outing.....	Oneida Golf & CC

To make sure a Winter/Spring turf event is still scheduled, please contact them directly.
Phone numbers for some of the common organizations are listed below.

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 to include it in the next calendar.

Contact Telephone Numbers

GCSAA	Golf Course Superintendents Association.....	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
TDL	Turf Diagnostic Lab	608-845-2535
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
WPT	WPT Garden Expo.....	608-262-5256
WSPA	Wisconsin Sod Producers Association	262-895-6820
WSTMA	Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association	920-723-0936
WTA	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	608-845-6536



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