



TURFnews

The Kansas Turfgrass Foundation Newsletter

July, 2015

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Kansas Turf & Ornamentals Field Day August 6

Mark your calendars to attend the 2015 Kansas Turf & Ornamentals Field Day on Thursday, August 6 at the K-State Research and Extension Center in Olathe.

8:00 a.m. Registration (coffee, tea, donuts) and visit exhibitors
8:45 Welcome

9:00 **Tour Highlights:**

- Turf and Landscape Disease Update—*Megan Kennelly*
- Using Small Unmanned Aircraft (Drones) for Golf Course Management—*Dale Bremer and Deon van der Merwe*
- Weed Management Strategies: Are They Working for You? - *Jared Hoyle*
- Zoysia/Tall Fescue Mixtures—Will They Work? - *Jack Fry*
- Managing Turf Under Stress—*Evan Alderman and Ross Braum*
- Reducing Deer Damage to Trees and Other Landscape Plants—*Charlie Barden*
- Turf and Weed ID—*Steve Keeley*
- What's Going On in the Bug World? - *Ray Cloyd*

11:30 Lunch

12:30 Equipment demonstrations

Recertification credit hours for commercial pesticide applicators:

3B - 1 hour 3A- 1 hr AND .35 GCSAA education points.

Exhibitors

Please contact Christy at (785) 532- 6173 if you are interested in exhibiting at the field day.

Cost: \$30.00 (includes lunch)

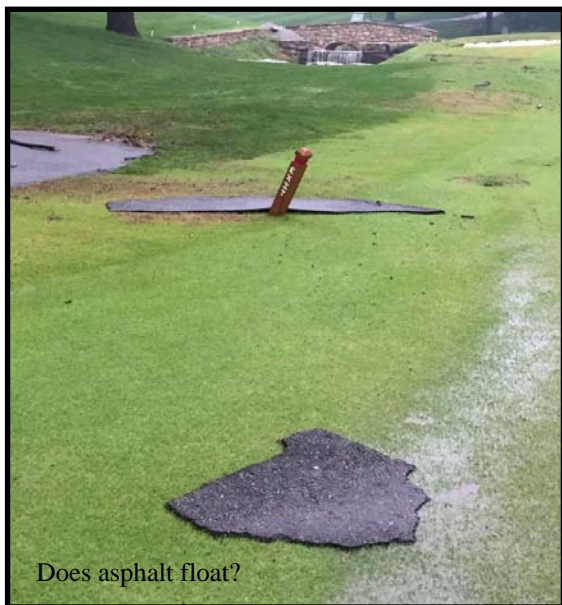
To register, download a copy of the [brochure](#), or register online at <https://2015Fieldday.eventbrite.com>



President's Message



What a run of weather we have had so far this year! Just as I sat down to write this message, the tornado sirens started blaring, forcing my family and I to the basement. Oh well. I figured I would finish it in the morning. Bad idea. Overnight our course got slammed with 4 to 5 inches of rain in an hour and our meandering back nine creek became a rushing river, leaving a mess in its wake (did I mention it's the week of the member guest tournament?) The good news is the tornado didn't materialize and the house is still standing!



Does asphalt float?

I'm probably missing somewhere in the state that hasn't enjoyed this ride, but it sure seems like every day somewhere in Kansas someone is dealing with substantial precipitation in one form or another. I know we all had to deal with some level of disruption this year. I just hope the weather hasn't had too much of a negative impact on your business. For me, as much as I would like to complain, I know it could be worse (think California). In fact, in our area it is hard to imagine that just one year ago at this time 99% of the state of Kansas was listed in some level of drought from abnormally dry to extremely dry. Today, just 9% is abnormally dry. What a difference a year makes!

Speaking of the difference time can make, it is time for the Kansas Turf and Ornamentals Field Day on August 6. This year the field day will be held at the Olathe Extension Center just west of Kansas City. Dr. Hoyle, Mark Willmore and the rest of the K-State staff have been hard at work preparing for this event. A few weeks ago, Dr. Hoyle invited me out to the Center to take a look and I must say things are really looking up for now and into the future.

We hope to see you on August 6! Come see for yourself the progress that has been made and talk to the staff about their plans for the future in Olathe. (*Jeff White, CGCS*)

Too Much Soil = Root Strain

Remember when it was raining every other day? Soils were saturated. There were standing puddles. When the puddles disappeared, the water was still there lurking in the soil profile, clogging up pore spaces, and damaging root systems by depriving them of oxygen.

Now that it's getting hot and dry, guess what? Those plants that had their root systems compromised during the wet times are the first to crash and burn. And, though those were the wettest areas before, now they are the sites that may need the most babying.

Take this site in my own backyard. We've done all we can to improve the grading and slope. The only way to improve drainage in the turf would be to send water towards the house, and I'd rather have declining turf than a wet basement! The spots that are brown and thinning now are the same spots that were puddles back in May and early June. (At one point during a heavy downpour my son thought we should try fishing in the backyard).

So, we will baby it along with a little extra water during the dry periods and do some aerification and overseeding this fall. (*Megan Kennelly*)



Check out the K-State Turfgrass Blog at:

www.blogs.k-state.edu/turf

Rocky Ford Update



It's almost the middle of July and things are hopping out here. There is a lot of re-search going on — drought studies, traffic studies, zoysia trials and disease research. We are also in the process of using a GPS guided mower to mow areas of the re-search center. It will be set up to mow daily. Guess it might be a good thing for an old guy. We shall see how it works. We hope to have it in operation soon.

We also have some new people working at Rocky Ford. You will meet them in Olathe. Don't forget the Turf & Ornamentals Field Day is Thursday, August 6.

Thanks again for all the help we receive from vendors — equipment and products. I know Mark is need of some things in Olathe to get that research center back in full swing.

See you in Olathe on August 6! Until then, have a great summer! *(Cliff Dipman)*

The KSU turf team spent one morning working together on a big task – putting the plastic up on the big rainout shelter at Rocky Ford. It was a beautiful, calm morning – perfect for hoisting a giant plastic sheet across the supports.

Ross Braun, PhD student, will be investigating the physiology and performance of Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, buffalograss, and zoysiagrass under drought stress and different management scenarios (mowing height and traffic).



The Glory of Real Grass and “Fundamentals First”— Midsummer Turf Musings from K-State

-Here's some good news: The new soccer field at K-State will be natural grass.... partially. The system is called Xtragrass and is described as “a natural grass turf reinforced with artificial fibres.” Word is, the natural part will be ‘Latitude 36’ bermudagrass. It probably will be overseeded with perennial ryegrass, don't you think?

-If you noticed the way they spelled “fibres” and guessed Xtragrass was not developed in the U.S., you guessed correctly. The company is headquartered in the Netherlands and the initial research was done in the Netherlands, France, and the UK.

-They are removing two of the natural grass football practice fields to build the new soccer stadium but I don't think the football team will miss them too much. They seem to spend the bulk of their practice time on the game field in Bill Snyder Family Stadium and they will still have one natural grass field left if they want to get out on the real stuff.

-Soccer and golf are two sports that don't work very well on synthetic turf. I hope the new soccer coach tells recruits they will get to play on a beautiful, new, mostly natural grass field (or should I say “partially natural”?).



A synthetic turf lawn. Bleh.

-Speaking of synthetic turf, I hope the honeymoon is about over. Memorial stadium on campus has a crumb rubber infilled synthetic turf (the type that has been so popular in recent years). I used to run on the track in the stadium, and then do some pushups and situps on the field. On a sunny summer day, the temperature on that field gave new meaning to the phrase, “hot as blazes.” Then, when I arose after my pushups and situps, I had thousands of little black pieces of rubber stuck all over my sweaty body.

-When I played football as a kid, I used to feel great pride in having my uniform covered with grass and dirt stains by the game's end. Kids who play football on synthetic turf don't experience that particular source of pride. The best they can hope for is a uniform covered with little black pieces of rubber. For the children's sake, this trend toward synthetic turf must be reversed.

-Sometimes things happen faster if they are done “for the children's sake.” That's fine by me.

-My wife and I were reminiscing about our many wonderful childhood memories that are associated with turfgrass (she is a turfie too): A bottle of ice-cold pop after mowing the lawn, and the smell of the freshly cut grass; fireflies; playing tag; dandelion bouquets, to name a few. And people want to replace real grass with.... *plastic grass*?! Yes, you can play more games on it. Still...



The real thing. Here is a lawn where memories can be made!

I have become more nostalgic now that I am in my 50's. Had you noticed?

-Baseball is another sport where it is very satisfying to have your uniform covered in dirt and grass stains. It shows you were diving for balls and sliding into bases—in other words, playing *all-out*. Lots of college teams have converted to full synthetic turf for everything in their baseball stadiums, even the infields. Their players' uniforms are always clean, even after a dive for a fly ball in center field or a slide into second base. It's not right.

-I am glad the Royals play on real dirt and real grass. And that real grass requires someone who knows how to manage it.... people like those to whom this newsletter is sent.

-Something reminded me, recently, of the importance of fundamentals in turfgrass management and why turfgrass professionals will always be needed. A lot of people just don't have the knowledge, desire, or time to grow good grass. Take my neighbor Landon, for example: (*continued*)

Midsummer Turf Musings from K-State (Continued)

-Landon is a young guy, newly married. He waits until his lawn is about 5 inches tall, and then mows it as low as his mower will go-- about an inch and a half. It is a nice riding mower, though. He thinks he has "grub worms," and has been applying a biological product in hopes of eliminating them. He says it will take three years to build the microorganism population up to a level where it will be effective. That may be true, but fundamentals first, Landon!

-For what it's worth, I have never seen evidence of grub damage in Landon's yard. There's not much there for grubs to eat.

-I gathered a bunch of K-State extension publications on lawn care, and was going to give them to him, but decided it was not my business to interfere. If Landon wanted help, he'd ask, right? He probably has bigger fish to fry.

-If you want to see a really nice lawn, pay a visit to Cliff and Christy Dipman the next time you are in Manhattan. Rocky Ford is looking good too, for a turfgrass "research" center (i.e., a place where we try to find ways to kill grass). Cliff definitely knows and practices the fundamentals. Maybe I should invite Landon, Cliff and Christy over for a backyard cookout.



-I was thinking about the title of this article.... "Midsummer Turf Musings." How many of us think of July as "midsummer"? Most of us, probably. Yet, July 15 is only about three weeks into official summer. I'll have to ponder that for a while. Have a great "rest of the summer" everyone!
(Steve Keeley)

Tom Warner Retires



Tom Warner, former department head of HFRR, retired on June 1 after a combined 33 years of service through professional instruction, advising and departmental administration. He received his B.S. degree in conservation biology from Indiana State University in 1971. He received his M.S. in Park Resources Management (1974) and Ph.D. in Resource Development (1976)

from Michigan State University. Tom started his career in 1977 in the Department of Forestry and served as Forestry Department Head from 1988 through 1991 and served as the Head of the combined Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources from 1991 through 2007. During his time as Head of HFRR the Olathe Horticulture Research Center and the K-State Gardens were launched. After stepping down as Department Head in 2008, he developed and launched the Wildlife and Outdoor Enterprise Management program.

Congratulations, Tom ,and best wishes in your retirement!

Equipment Dealers that Support K-State Turf for Use at Rocky Ford

Hustler Turf Equipment

Super Z Mower
1500 Triplex Tee & Fairway Mower
Walking Greens Mower

Kansas Golf & Turf

Electric Greens Mower

Professional Turf Products

Toro Triplex Greensmower

RMI Golf Carts

Utility Cart

Van Wall Equipment Co./John Deere

John Deere Triplex Tee Mower

If your company is interested in supporting K-State turfgrass research by providing equipment, contact Jared Hoyle at
(785) 410-8779

Olathe Research Center Update



Everything has been going pretty good at the K-State Research & Extension Center in Olathe. It has been exciting to get the area cleaned up, the equipment serviced and the shop somewhat organized. It has also been great working with Drs. Hoyle, Fry, Keeley and all the research staff from K-State.

As a retired golf course superintendent, it is hard to get used to what these guys might do to a perfectly good stand of grass (*seeding crabgrass*), when I spent every day trying to keep that stand of grass alive with no weeds and looking good! All kidding aside, I see how valuable their research is and how much it will help everyone in the turf industry.

I would like to thank Richard Shumate with Van Wall for the use of a tractor and 1500 aerifier this spring and also Mike Kellogg with Hustler Turf Equipment for the use of a 104 inch Hustler which makes a big difference in keeping everything mowed. This support helps tremendously in getting things done here. We have a big wish list for Olathe and hope we will be able to accomplish this over time.

The Turf & Ornamentals Field Day is here this year on Thursday, August 6. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone then! (*Mark Willmore*)



Thanks to Martin Lane, Midwest Laser Leveling, for donating time and equipment to prepare new turf research plots at the Rocky Ford Turf Research Center in Manhattan for Evan Alderman's winter traffic study.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 21

K-State Bedding Plant Field Day

For more information, go to: <http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/doc4321.ashx>

Saturday, July 25

K-State Research & Extension Center Horticulture Field Day

See what grows best in KC!

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

35230 West 135th St., Olathe

Tickets: \$5.00 each (purchase at gate)

* Annual Flowers

* Cool Classes

* "Walk and Talk" with K-State experts

* Vegetable Trials

Thursday, August 6

Kansas Turf & Ornamentals Field Day

For more information, go to: [Turf Field Day](#)

December 1, 2 & 3

Kansas Turf Conference

Topeka, KS

The International Year of Soils: Soils Support Recreation

Many summertime activities are made possible by soils.

At K-State's Rocky Ford Turfgrass Research Center, located north of Manhattan, even the occasional passerby will notice many small plots that showcase a variety of recreational fields. From athletic fields where players would take part in soccer, for example, to a putting green that meets United States Golf Association specifications, K-State Research and Extension turfgrass specialist Jared Hoyle studies all sorts of turfgrass systems.

Hoyle said recreational activities, including those using turfgrass, are an important part of our everyday lives. Whether a person enjoys playing sports on athletic fields or golf courses, walking in parks or boating on lakes, the health of those areas depends on the health of surrounding soils. This relationship fits the June theme for the 2015 International Year of Soils, "Soils Support Recreation."

"Soil serves as a repository for water and nutrients (for turfgrass) just like any other plant," Hoyle said. "In turfgrass systems, we are trying to grow the same turfgrass species in different types of soils. The soil type determines our management practices to achieve quality of turf and meet our expectations."



The turf, in return, also benefits the soil and environment, he said. A healthy turf can help filter potential pollutants from the environment and provides erosion control by stabilizing soils. It does this through its root systems that help hold soil in place.

The type of soil and soil quality determines how turfgrass is properly managed. Sand-capped soils, Hoyle said, help water move through easier compared to heavy clay soils that tend to compact.

"When compaction occurs, we do different management practices to try to relieve that compaction, like aerification," he said. "Our main goal is not only to help supply nutrients, airflow and water to the root system, but also to provide a safe playing surface for the athletes. As we all know, you are more inclined to get injured on a harder surface than you are a softer surface that can absorb energy if a player contacts the ground."

Hoyle said K-State offers homeowners and commercial land managers, such as golf course superintendents, the opportunity to test soil to improve turfgrass quality or help determine the type of turfgrass best suited for their soil type. To find out more, contact your local extension office.

Soil not only supports turfgrass for recreation. It also supports the parks, lakes and natural resources many people enjoy. Dan Devlin is an agronomy faculty member at Kansas State University and serves as director of the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment and the Kansas Water Resources Institute. He said soil conservation practices improve soil quality, and help reduce soil erosion and sedimentation in our lakes and streams.

Soil erosion into these water bodies can occur from upland areas or along riverbanks, and it adversely affects recreational water quality, Devlin said. When soils settle in these waters, they often bring nutrients. Nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are key ingredients for algal blooms to develop in the water. These may produce toxins that are harmful to human and animal health.

"If we can reduce soil and nutrients to surface waters, we can improve our recreational waters and reduce algae blooms," Devlin said.

He said many farmers in upland areas are doing their part to reduce erosion by building terraces and waterways, using strip-tillage or no-tillage cropping, and embracing new cover crop technologies. On the riverbanks, many landowners are using stabilizers such as trees to reduce erosion and the soil nutrients being lost from those sites.

To watch a video interview about "Soils Support Recreation" that features Hoyle and Devlin, log on to the [K-State Research and Extension YouTube page](#). The Soil Science Society of America has numerous resources for the public, teachers and children about soil and each monthly theme for the International Year of Soils.

Jim Heinze—Newest KTF Founders Society Member

Jim Heinze became the 20th KTF Founders Society Member.

The Kansas Turfgrass Foundation Founder's Society was established in 1990 to provide support for research & education in turfgrass science. Faculty at K-State conduct research to help solve problems associated with turfgrass culture in Kansas. Joining the Founder's Society is one more way your organization can help support the goals of KTF.

Any lawn care company, golf course, parks department, sports complex, association or individual that benefits from turf research should consider becoming a KTF Founder. For more information on becoming a Founder, go to [Kansas Turfgrass Foundation Founders Society](#)

KGCSA 31st Annual Scholarship & Research Tournament

The KGCSA raised over \$15,000 at their 31st Annual S&R Tournament held June 29 at Rolling Hills CC in Wichita. This event raises money for turf research and scholarships at K-State. A big *thank* you to all the sponsors and participating teams! This tournament would not be successful without their loyal support and commitment! Please support the companies that support us!

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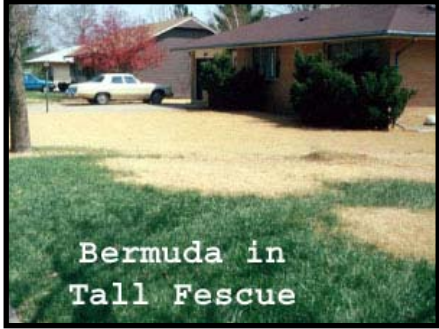
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Vermeer Great Plains
Westheffer
WinField

Special thanks to
Rolling Hills CC
for hosting this year's tournament!

Bermudagrass Control



Bermudagrass can make a nice lawn if you don't mind its invasiveness and short growing season. But many people dislike both these characteristics. Warm-season grasses, such as bermudagrass, zoysiagrass and buffalograss, green up later than cool-season grasses such as tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass. They also go dormant earlier in the fall, which can make a lawn unattractive. Bermuda that invades a cool-season lawn will be brown during much of the spring and fall while the tall fescue portion of the lawn is green. Bermuda is much more drought and heat resistant than cool-season grasses, so it will take over a cool-season lawn during the summer months if it is in full sun.

So, how do you control bermudagrass that has invaded a cool-season lawn? Research conducted in 1996 showed that glyphosate (Round-up, Kleen-up, Killzall, Kleeraway) is the best herbicide for the job. Glyphosate is a nonselective herbicide and will kill everything—including tall fescue or Kentucky bluegrass. Therefore, you will need to reseed treated areas. In our study, we applied a 2% solution of glyphosate on July 15 and again on August 15 on a bermudagrass plot that was more than 15 years old. More than one year later, we saw no regrowth. Glyphosate works best if bermuda is growing well. The better the bermudagrass is growing, the more chemical is taken up and pushed into the roots. Water and fertilize if needed to get it going.

Spray about the middle of June (or when the bermuda is growing well). Use glyphosate (2% solution). Wait two weeks and scalp the lawn (mow as low as possible and remove clippings.) This will prevent dead grass from covering any bermuda that starts to recover. Wait another two weeks and spray again with glyphosate if there is any green. Wait two more weeks and reseed. (*Ward Upham*)

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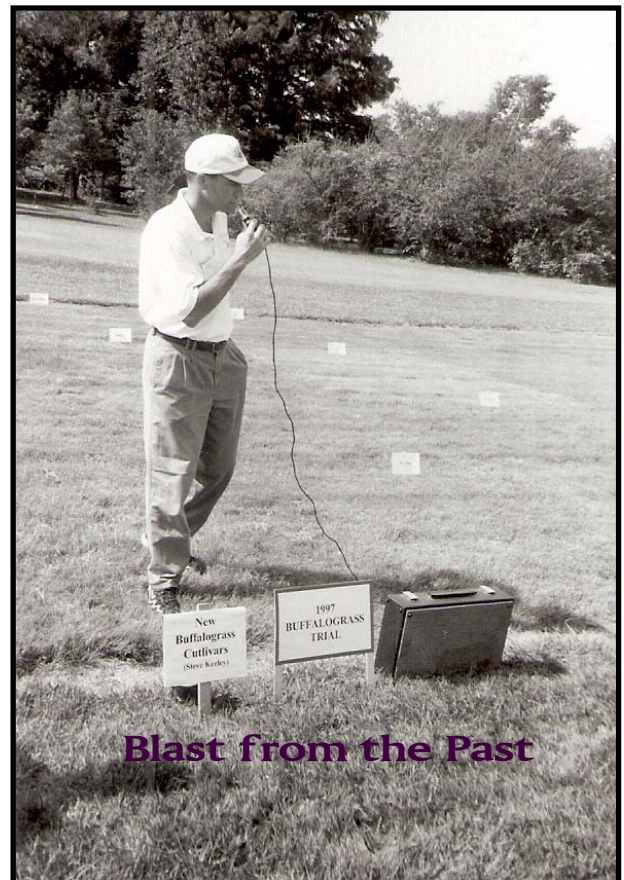
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kansas-Turfgrass-Foundation>

Jack Fry Travels Abroad

Jack Fry, Professor of Turfgrass Science, was the keynote speaker at the New Zealand Fine Turf Seminar in Wellington, New Zealand June 14-17, and the Australian Turfgrass Conference in the Hunter Valley June 21-26. In addition, he went to Singapore to speak at a gathering of the Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology on June 29 and to Hong Kong to speak to the Southern China Turfgrass Managers Association on June 30. In all, Dr. Fry gave fourteen presentations over eleven hours covering topics such as managing turf during environmental stress and the positive contributions of turf to the environment.



Jack with Chan Yuen Hung, golf course superintendent at Discovery Bay Golf Club in Hong Kong for 32 years.





Russell Cole, RMI Golf Cars, dropped off a Club Car cart for use this summer at the Rocky Ford Turfgrass Research Center. Thanks, Russell!



Turf students at K-State show how to build a mound by Dale Getz and Boyd Montgomery of The Toro Company.

KTF Founders Society Members

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A \$1,000 contribution (at once, or over time) is all that is required to become a KTF Founder. Our goal is to recruit a total of 100 Founders over the next several years. These funds are untouched with hope that one day accumulated interest will help to support turfgrass research.

For more information on how to become a KTF Founders Society member, contact Jack Fry, Horticulture Division, Throckmorton Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS (785) 532-1430 jfry@ksu.edu