K-STATE Research and Extension

KANSAS TURFGRASS FOUNDATION

75th Annual Kansas Turf & Landscape Conference

December 3 & 4, 2025 Manhattan, KS

KNLA KANSAS NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, December 3

7:30 a.m.	**Registration & Exhibitor Set-up**			
	General Session - Flint Hills *(Ross Braun, Moderator)*			
8:15 - 8:30 a.m.	**Welcome, Orientation and Announcements** - *Ross Braun*			
8:30 - 9:20 a.m.	**What Do You Know About H_2O? Water and Pesticide Interactions** - *Evan Alderman* (3A/3B - 1 hr) (ISA)			
9:20 - 9:30 a.m.	**BREAK**			
	Basic Turf McDowell/Tuttle/Alcove	**Irrigation Workshop** Kaw Nation/Big Basin *Derek Taussig, Moderator*	**Disease, Insects & Weeds** Flint Hills *Drew Wilson, Moderator*	**Advanced Turf** Konza Prairie BC *Jonathan Bennett, Moderator*
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	**Turfgrasses for KS** - *Steve Keeley*	**Irrigation Design Focused on Water Conservation** - *Steve Winslow* (ISA)	**Core Hour: Laws, Safety & Enviromental Concerns** - *Josh Gillespie* (ISA)	**Shaping New Paths: Opportunities in Golf Club Management & Innovative Ideas for Non-Traditional Golf Amenities** - *Rick Maier*
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	**Soils** - *Alex Stanton* (ISA)			
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	**Turfgrass Diseases** - *Megan Kennelly* (3B - .5 hr)	**2-Wire and Remote Management** - *James Williams*	**Pesticide Storage and Security: 3 Keys to Success** - *Evan Alderman* (3A/3B - 1 hr) (ISA)	**Plant Control in Ponds** - *Joe Gerken* (ISA)
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.	**Mowing Basics** - *Alex Stanton*			
11:30 - 1:00 p.m.	**LUNCH (On Your Own)**			
	Basic Turf McDowell/Tuttle/Alcove	**Nursery & Landscape** Kaw Nation/Big Basin *Derek Taussig, Moderator*	**Disease, Insects & Weeds** Flint Hills *Drew Wilson, Moderator*	**Advanced Turf** Konza Prairie BC *Jonathan Bennett, Moderator*
1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	**Turfgrass Insects** - *Raymond Cloyd* (3B - .5 hr)	**Machinery Safety in Landscaping and Nursery Field Production** - *Mitch Ricketts* (ISA)	**Preemergence Herbicides** - *Ross Braun* (3A/3B - 1 hr) (ISA)	**Twenty Years of Research: Alternatives to Control Silvery Thread Moss** - *Derek Settle* (3B - 1 hr)
1:30 - 2:00 p.m.	**Fertilization** - *Alan Zuk*			
2:00 - 2:30 p.m.	**Turfgrass Weeds** - *Ross Braun* (3B - .5 hr)	**Don't Get "Ticked Off" by Ticks** - *Raymond Cloyd*	**Advanced Weed ID and Management** - *Evan Alderman* (3B - 1 hr)	**Management Costs Affect Golfer Perceptions of Fairway Quality and Playability** - *Cole Thompson*
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	**Cultivation** - *Ross Braun*			
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	**Irrigation** - *Alex Stanton* (ISA)	**Nursery & Landscape Disease Update** - *Judy O'Mara* (3A - .5 hr) (ISA)	**Cutworm Control on Bentgrass Greens** - *Alan Zuk* (3B - .5 hr)	**Managing Herbicide Applications on Drought-Stressed Turf** - *Mingying Xiang* (3B - .5 hr) (ISA)
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.	**TRADE SHOW** - Meet with vendors, network, and chat with speakers in an informal setting (*Refreshments available*)			

Thursday, December 4	
7:30 a.m.	**Registration**
General Session - Flint Hills (*Ross Braun, Moderator*)	
7:45 - 8:00 a.m.	**Welcome, Announcements, Awards -** *Ryan Varns, KTF President*
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	**Overview of the Long-term Scope and Impacts of the USGA's Investment in Turfgrass Research** - *Cole Thompson*
9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	**Fate of Herbicides After Application** - *Dani McFadden* (3B - .5 hr) (ISA)
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	**Management and Pest Control of Native Grasses and Flowers in Low Maintenance Areas** - *Derek Settle* (3A/3B - .5 hr)
10:00 - 10:10 a.m.	**BREAK**

	Advanced Turf Konza Prairie BC *Matt Miller, Moderator*	**Nursery & Landscape** Flint Hills *Cheryl Boyer, Moderator*	**Sports Turf** McDowell/Tuttle/Alcove *Andy Klein, Moderator*
10:10 - 11:10 a.m.	**Student Internship Overview by K-State Students -** *Ross Braun*	**Rose Insect and Disease Control** - *Alan Zuk* (3A - 1 hr)	**Winter Injury Assessment and Recovery Strategies** - *Mingying Xiang*
11:10 - 12:10 p.m.	**Increasing Sand Incorporation During Aeration with Less Disruption** - *Cole Thompson*	**What are Plant Galls and Are They Harmful to Plants?** - *Raymond Cloyd* (3A - 1 hr)	**Enhancing Post-Harvest Health in Turfgrass Sod** - *Mingying Xiang*
12:10 - 1:30 p.m.	**Trade Show (Lunch served in Big Basin/Kaw Nation Room)**		
	Advanced Turf Konza Prairie BC *Matt Miller, Moderator*	**Nursery & Landscape** Flint Hills *Cheryl Boyer, Moderator*	**Dealing with Pests** McDowell/Tuttle/Alcove *Andy Klein, Moderator*
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	**Improving Tenacity Recommendations for Tall Fescue & Kentucky Bluegrass** - *Derek Settle* (3B - 1 hr)	**Know Your Foes: Identifying and Managing Landscape Weeds** - *Jason Griffin* (3A - 1 hr)	**Factors that Impact the Effectiveness of Pesticides when Managing Insect and Mite Pests** - *Raymond Cloyd* (3A/3B - 1 hr)
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	**Plant Growth Regulators** - *Ross Braun* (3B - 1 hr)	**Designing and Installing Drought-Tolerant Landscapes -** *Alex Stanton*	**Landscape and Turf Disease Problems from 2025** - *Megan Kennelly* (3A/3B - 1 hr) (ISA)
3:30 pm	**Conference Adjourned**		
3:30 pm	**Commercial Pesticide Exam - Konza A room**		

SPEAKERS

Evan Alderman, Iowa State Univ., Ames
Ross Braun, Horticulture, K-State
Raymond Cloyd, Entomology, K-State
Joe Gerken, Wildlife Management, K-State
Josh Gillespie, Kansas Dept. of Agriculture, Manhattan, KS
Jason Griffin, Horticulture K-State
Steve Keeley, Horticulture, K-State
Megan Kennelly, Plant Pathology, K-State
Rick Maier, Squire Creek GC, Choudrant, LA
Dani McFadden, PBI-Gordon, Shawnee
Judy O'Mara, Plant Pathology, K-State
Mitch Ricketts, Ag Safety & Health, K-State
Derek Settle, Chicago District Golf Assn.
Alex Stanton, Horticulture, K-State
Cole Thompson, USGA, Pinehurst, NC
James Williams, Rain Bird Corp., Edmond, OK
Steve Winslow, Industrial Sales, Olathe, KS
Mingying Xiang, Oklahoma State Univ., Stillwater
Alan Zuk, North Dakota State Univ., Fargo

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

Wednesday, December 3

General Session - Flint Hills

Welcome, Orientation and Announcements - *Ross Braun*

What Do You Know About H_20? Water and Pesticide Interactions - *Evan Alderman*
Water plays a role in pesticide applications, but how significantly does it affect their effectiveness? We will explore the importance of monitoring water quality to enhance pesticide performance. (3A/3B - 1 hr) (ISA)

Basic Turf - McDowell/Tuttle

A series of presentations that cover the basic knowledge needed to manage turf in the Midwest. A great starting point for new employees.

Irrigation Workshop - Kaw Nation/Big Basin

Irrigation Design Focused on Water Conservation - *Steve Winslow*
* The Growing World Water Crisis and need for water conservation.
* The importance of quality irrigation design to provide efficient and uniform distribution of irrigation water to minimize waste. A good irrigation system design can also help to lower maintenance and operational costs. (ISA)

2-Wire and Remote Management - *James Williams*
An overview of 2-Wire platforms (ESP-LXIVM & ESP-2WIRE). We will discuss the features of each platform and how they will save time on installation, troubleshooting, and provide efficient irrigation. We will also touch on the new 2.0 App and its new features and capabilities.

Nursery & Landscape - Flint Hills

Machinery Safety in Landscaping and Nursery Field Production - *Mitch Ricketts*
Machines help us work faster and more efficiently, but to avoid serious injuries we must learn to recognize and control common hazards. In this interactive session, we will consider practical methods for preventing serious injuries involving tractors, mowers, skid-steer loaders, and other equipment. (ISA)

Don't Get "Ticked Off" by Ticks - *Raymond Cloyd*
Learn about the biology, ecology, feeding behavior of ticks, and the diseases they transmit and find ways on how to avoid tick bites.

Nursery & Landscape Disease Update - *Judy O'Mara*
This session will take a look at introduction and movement of emerging diseases within nursery and landscape settings.
(3A - 0.5 hr) (ISA)

Diseases, Insects & Weeds - Flint Hills

Core Hour: Laws, Safety & Environmental Concerns - *Josh Gillespie*
Regulatory information required for certified applicators. (ISA)

Pesticide Storage and Security: 3 Keys to Success - *Evan Alderman*
Improper food storage shortens its freshness - but does the same apply to pesticides? Learn some tips and best practices for proper pesticide storage to maintain effectiveness and also learn ways to keep products safe and secure. (3A/3B - 1 hr) (ISA)

Preemergence Herbicides - *Ross Braun*
A comprehensive overview of preemergence herbicides for turf and landscapes that includes how they work, their residuals (length of activity), application strategies, and available product options. (3A/3B – 1 hr) (ISA)

Advanced Weed ID and Management - *Evan Alderman*
Proper identification, timing, and product selection are key to developing an effective weed control program. In this session, we will cover how to identify problematic weeds, determine the best application timing, and choose the most effective active ingredients. (3B - 1 hr) (ISA)

Cutworm Control on Bentgrass Greens - *Alan Zuk*
Chemical and nonchemical control strategies to reduce damage caused by cutworms on creeping bentgrass greens. (3B - .5 hr)

Advanced Turf - Konza Prairie BC

Shaping New Paths: Opportunities in Golf Club Management and Innovative Ideas for Non-Traditional Golf Amenities - *Rick Maier*
This presentation will explore the career transition from golf course superintendent to general manager, a path that is often overlooked but offers exciting opportunities for growth and leadership within golf and country clubs. We'll discuss how clubs are continuously seeking fresh, innovative amenities to enhance their offerings. Several alternative golf amenities will be presented that could provide a new, engaging experience for members and help clubs stay ahead in a competitive and ever changing environment.

Plant Growth in Ponds - *Joe Gerken*
Many of the techniques for managing turf can lead to unwanted plant growth in nearby ponds. Join us as we discuss how to control these plants, examples of management techniques to minimize plant growth, and best practices to help your turf and aquatic ecosystems flourish. (ISA)

Twenty Years of Research: Alternatives to Control Silvery Thread Moss - *Derek Settle*
This presentation will focus on research efforts in both Kansas and Illinois which, across two decades of investigations, evaluated moss suppression using cultural practices and alternative products versus the herbicide QuickSilver (carfentrazone). (3B - 1 hr)

Management Costs Affect Golfer Perceptions of Fairway Quality and Playability - *Cole Thompson*
There is no question that the potential for exceptional fairway quality is greater with creeping bentgrass vs. Kentucky bluegrass or, especially, buffalograss. However, research indicates that golfer perceptions of "acceptable" quality and playability change when they know management costs.

Managing Herbicide Applications on Drought-Stressed Turf - *Mingying Xiang*
This presentation explores effective strategies for managing herbicide applications on drought-stressed turf. Attendees will gain insights into minimizing turf injury, optimizing herbicide efficacy and safety, selecting appropriate herbicides, and alternative practices when conditions are unsuitable for herbicide use. Practical recommendations will be provided to help turf managers navigate this challenging scenario. (3B - .5 hr) (ISA)

Thursday - December 4

General Session - Flint Hills

Welcome and Announcements - *Ryan Varns*

Overview of the Long-term Scope and Impacts of the USGA's Investment in Turfgrass Research - *Cole Thompson*
The USGA has invested nearly $55 million in turfgrass research, which has advanced, among other things, putting green construction, turfgrass breeding, landscape naturalization, and water, fertilizer, and pesticide management. The grasses and management practices developed through this funding have been broadly adopted and provide an estimated $2 billion annual benefit to the golf industry.

Fate of Herbicides After Application - *Dani McFadden*
This presentation will explore the key factors influencing herbicide performance after application, including common applicator errors, the importance of proper application timing, and how target weed characteristics impact efficacy. We will also discuss the role of soil properties, climatic conditions, and herbicide antagonism in application success or failure. By understanding these factors, applicators can improve weed control outcomes and minimize application failures. (3B - .5 hr) (ISA)

Management and Pest Control of Native Grasses and Flowers in Low Maintenance Areas - *Derek Settle*
This presentation focuses on how to convert and then manage an existing out-of-play area to native grasses and wildflowers to attract pollinators. Learn how to manage these areas with minimal inputs. Aggressive broadleaf weeds such as thistle and others can be problematic. (3A/3B - 1 hr)

Advanced Turf - Konza Prairie BC

Student Internships
Come and hear about 2025 internships completed by current K-State Turfgrass and Landscape students, what they learned, their goals, and expectations.

Increasing Sand Incorporation During Aeration with Less Disruption - *Cole Thompson*
The size of aeration tines and overall surface disruption affects how much sand can be incorporated into putting greens. It's logical to assume that larger tines and more passes with an aerator increase sand incorporation, but the point of diminishing returns may surprise you.

Improving Tenacity Recommendations for Tall Fescue & Kentucky Bluegrass - *Derek Settle*
This presentation will focus on Tenacity (mesotrione) herbicide for its ability to provide long-term control of creeping bentgrass in tee situations. This is an ongoing study which began in 2023 to remove a significant amount of creeping bentgrass contamination; inadvertently introduced following surface renovations to a golf course in 2020. Removal of creeping bentgrass from individual tees of 'HGT' Kentucky bluegrass, 'Sports Turf 2' Kentucky bluegrass and 'RTF' tall fescue will be discussed. (3B - 1 hr)

Plant Growth Regulators - *Ross Braun*
An overview of plant growth regulators for turfgrass systems that includes how they work, application strategies, and available product options for growth regulation or seedhead regulation. (3B - 1 hr)

Nursery & Landscape - Flint Hills

Rose Insect and Disease Control - *Alan Zuk*
Chemical and organic approaches to control insect and disease of roses. (3A - 1 hr)

What are Plant Galls and are They Harmful to Plants? - *Raymond Cloyd*
This presentation will discuss the biology, ecology, and damage associated with some of the major gall forming insects and mites of trees, shrubs, and other ornamental plants. We will discuss the insects and mites that create galls, and the management strategies that can be implemented to mitigate damage. (3A - 1 hr)

Know Your Foes: Identifying and Managing Landscape Weeds - *Jason Griffin*
This is an overview of common weeds in landscapes and some practical strategies for control. Designed for landscape professionals seeking efficient, sustainable solutions. (3A - 1 hr)

Designing and Installing Drought-Tolerant Landscapes - *Alex Stanton*
Learn how to design and install beautiful, drought-tolerant landscapes that save water and thrive in the variable environmental conditions in Kansas. This session covers smart plant choices, efficient irrigation, and sustainable landscaping tips.

Sports Turf - McDowell/Tuttle

Winter Injury Assessment and Recovery Strategies - *Mingying Xiang*
This session focuses on identifying and addressing winter injury in sports turf. Attendees will learn assessment techniques to diagnose damage caused by extreme winter weather and other winter-related factors, as well as practices to implement throughout the year to prevent winter injury. Practical recovery strategies will also be discussed to promote turf health and ensure optimal conditions for the upcoming season.

Enhancing Post-Harvest Health in Turfgrass Sod - *Mingying Xiang*
This session covers the factors that affect post-harvest turfgrass sod health and transplant success, along with best practices for maintaining and improving sod quality before and after harvest. A research update on the shelf life of zoysiagrass and bermudagrass sod will also be shared, providing practical strategies to optimize sod performance and longevity.

Dealing with Pests - McDowell/Tuttle

Factors that Impact the Effectiveness of Pesticides When Managing Insect and Mite Pests - *Raymond Cloyd*
This presentation will discuss the factors that can influence the effectiveness of pesticide (insecticide and miticide) applications, such as improper timing, volatilization, photodecomposition, chemical degradation, and microbial degradation. Learn the importance of understanding how factors associated with water quality including water hardness, water turbidity, and water pH, can negatively effect the ability of pesticides to manage insect and mite pest populations. (3A/3B - 1 hr)

Landscape and Turf Disease Problems from 2025 - *Megan Kennelly*
When it comes to plant health, every year in Kansas we see some of the usual suspects, as well as unusual problems. This session will cover some of the common hot topics, as well as unique plant disease and stress situations from 2025. (3A/3B - 1 hr) (ISA)

Conference Location

The Kansas Turf & Landscape Conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 410 S. 3rd St., Manhattan, KS.

Hotel

Hilton Garden Inn (410 S. 3rd St., Manhattan.).
Room rate: $115. Reservations can be made online by November 3 at
https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/mangigi-90f-bec2436a-676f-48ee-9d07-4b8d326d3b2c/
OR, call the hotel directly at (785) 532-9116 (please mention you are part of KS Turfgrass Assn. Group code: 90F).
Act Fast: The special room rate is available until November 3, 2025, or until the room block is sold out- whichever comes first.

Registration

To register online and pay by credit card go to
https://2025turfandlandscapeconference.eventbrite.com
OR fill out the registration form and send in by November 22.

Special Assistance

A conference participant who needs accommodations due to a disability or special dietary requirement, should indicate services needed on the registration form. Early notification is requested to ensure that accommodations can be provided in a timely manner.

Cancellation/Refund Policy

If cancellation is necessary, substitutions with another person from the same company is allowed. A written request for a refund must be received before Nov. 21, 2025. The amount refunded will be less a $25.00 processing fee. No refunds will be made after this date. Email your request to cdipman@ksu.edu

If inclement weather should prevent your attendance, no refunds are provided. Significant expenses occur on behalf of the KTF in its commitment to hold this conference.

Pesticide Recertification Credit Hours

The Kansas Turf & Landscape Conference has been approved for state pesticide applicator recertification credit:
1 Core Hour 3A - 7 hrs 3B - 7 hrs

Presentations qualifying for 3A or 3B credit are noted *after* the title. Pick up a form at the registration table to record pesticide recertification credits. A monitor must sign each form before you leave the session. At the end of the conference, return the form to the registration desk.

If your license expires this year, go to https://www.agriculture.ks.gov/pfrenew to pay the fees and renew before December 31.

GCSAA Education Points

December 3 - .55 ed points
December 4 - .55 ed points

Int'l. Society of Arboriculture (ISA)

CEUs available for Certified Arborists.
Presentations qualifying for ISA credit are noted after the title.

VENDOR INFORMATION

https://Exhibitor2025.eventbrite.com

Kansas Turf & Landscape Conference

December 3 & 4, 2025 Pre-Registration Form

Register online at: https://2025turfandlandscapeconference.eventbrite.com

FULL Registration (2 days) ($275.00 at conference) **$250.00 x _____ _____**
Includes 2-day conference, lunch on Thursday,
complementary KTF membership dues, and trade show.

_____

Additional persons from same firm ($140.00 at conference) **$115.00 x _____ _____**
No dues included.

_____ _____

_____ _____

WEDNESDAY only-Dec. 3 ($150 at conf.) *Includes trade show; no dues.* **$125.00 x _____ _____**

_____ _____

THURSDAY only-Dec. 4 ($150.00 at conference) **$125.00 x _____ _____**
Includes lunch, trade show; no dues.

_____ _____

2026 Kansas Turfgrass Foundation Membership Dues **$ 75.00 x _____ _____**

A 2026 Kansas Turfgrass Foundation Directory will be sent to each member

Name of individual(s) joining association: _____

2026 KNLA Membership Dues can be paid at http://ksnla.org/join-knla/

☐ **Yes, I need to take the Pesticide Exam on Dec. 4 at 3:30 p.m.**

Name(s): _____ _____

TOTAL: **$** _____

Dietary or special assistance needed: _____

Company/business name _____

Individual _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____ **Phone ( ) _____**

Email: _____

Payment:

☐ Check payable to Kansas Turfgrass Foundation enclosed ☐ Please invoice *(payable upon receipt)*

☐ Credit card No. _____ Exp. _____ 3-4 digit CID_____

Name on card (printed) _____

Please return registration form by November 21 to:

Conference Registration, 1712 Claflin Rd., Room TH2021, Manhattan, KS 66506-5507
Phone: (785) 532-6173 cdipman@ksu.edu

K·STATE
Research and Extension

Horticulture and Natural Resources
1712 Claflin, 2021 Throckmorton Plant Science Cntr.
Manhattan, KS 66506-5507

Kansas Turf & Landscape Conference December 3 & 4 Manhattan, KS

Featured Speakers

Evan Alderman, Iowa State University
Rick Maier, Squire Creek GC (LA)
Dr. Dani McFadden, PBI-Gordon
Dr. Derek Settle, Chicago District Golf Assn.
Dr. Cole Thompson, USGA (NC)
Dr. Mingying Xiang, Oklahoma State University
Dr. Alan Zuk, North Dakota State University