Kansas Turfgrass Field Day - August 4

Mark your calendar to attend the 2016 Kansas Turfgrass Field Day on Thursday, August 4 at the Rocky Ford Research Center in Manhattan. Come see research in progress: Variety trials: Bentgrass (fairway and putting green), Kentucky bluegrass, zoysia, and bermuda; effects of cart traffic during drought; buffalograss management and establishment; zoysia/tall fescue mixture and weed, disease and insect control.

Thank you to the HAGCSA and KGCSA for donating the installation of the new shop floor at the K-State Research & Extension Center in Olathe! We appreciate your support!
Message from the President

The smell of fresh cut turfgrass is here! This has to be one of the best times of the year if you love turfgrass. We have The Masters, the start of baseball season, and customers expecting you to make their lawns, golf courses and athletic fields look like golf courses and athletic fields they see on TV!

While this is possible, I would say it's not likely for everyone. It's not for a lack of knowledge or trying, but we have other constraints that hold us back. The combination of budgets, foot traffic, playing time demands and Mother Nature are more likely the culprits that make it difficult to maintain our turfgrass the way we would like to. This is why communicating and educating your customers and the general public about turfgrass is important.

Customer satisfaction is key to our success. Whether you manage turfgrass on a golf course, a lawn, on an athletic field, your customers' satisfaction is what ensures repeat business and referrals.

At Ryan Lawn & Tree, we are constantly asking our customers for their feedback and overall satisfaction. Ultimately, it is our job to make the customer happy. It is important to ask them and build that relationship. From a morale standpoint, receiving praise for a job well done can greatly improve your morale or the morale of your staff. Important note...Regardless of the feedback, stay positive! Don’t look at feedback as how you fell short, look at it as how you can do better. Ask what we/I can do better? Look at that as an opportunity to improve and grow. Sometimes the best customers in the long run, are customers who gave you some feedback on a problem or mistake. You have to have a starting point and be able to understand the customer’s expectations. Don’t promise the world. Under-promise and over-deliver. The majority of people I run into on a daily basis don't understand what it takes to grow and maintain turfgrass. Whether they have realistic expectations or not, be patient, explain the process, and set clear expectations. That information will help you communicate better with your customer and educate them on the issues, and make both of you happy.

When you find out their expectations, don't forget to ask about their budget. This will allow you to set realistic expectations and to set goals that are attainable. Success doesn't come easy. You will have to work for it. Be responsible, dependable and honest. If you do these things, people will remember you. And hopefully, they will associate those qualities with all the people that manage turfgrass. Most importantly, don’t forget, you are ALWAYS on stage. Somebody is always watching you—watching how you work, what you are doing, and how you act.

We are all under a lot of scrutiny from not only our clients, but from the public as well. You are not only representing yourself, but you represent all turfgrass managers. Be professional.

Take time to enjoy your work and what you've done this spring, because before you know it, the DOG DAYS of SUMMER will be upon us. (Rich Prendergast)

HAGCSA Donates to KSU Research

The Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents recently donated $5,000 to fund the following projects being done by Drs. Fry, Kennelly & Hoyle:

- Development of Large Patch Resistant and Cold Hardy Zoysiagrass Cultivars
- Glyphosate/colorant Combinations for Controlling Annual Weeds in dormant Zoysiagrass

A new green wall was recently added to HFRR's lobby area on the first floor in Throckmorton Plant Science Center. The wall of living plants has transformed the lobby environment and offers hands-on learning for students taking the HORT 377 Interior Plantscaping course. A beautiful new addition—swing by to check it out!
Controlling Wild Violets in Lawns

One of the most difficult weeds to control in lawns is the wild violet. Even combination products that contain 2,4-D, MCPP and Dicamba such as Trimec, Weed-Out and most formulations of Weed-B-Gon do not do a good job. Products with triclopyr give much better control, though more than one treatment will likely be needed. A couple of products that contain triclopyr on the homeowner side are Turflon Ester and Weed-B-Gon Chickweed, Clover & Oxalis. (Note: There are several formulations of Weed-B-Gon but only Weed-B-Gon Chickweed, Clover & Oxalis contains triclopyr.)

Both products listed above are labeled for tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass. Do not use products containing triclopyr on bermudagrass as severe injury will occur. Weed-B-Gon Chickweed Clover & Oxalis is labeled for buffalograss and zoysia (Turflon Ester is not) but lawns will likely show some temporary browning after application.

Spray only on calm days and when temperatures are below 90 degrees to avoid damage to nearby plants. (Ward Upham)
Buffalograss Divot Recovery as Affected by Nitrogen Source and Rate

With increasing drought conditions and decreasing water supplies, drought tolerant turfgrass species are being explored for use on golf courses. With over 1.2 million acres of irrigated turfgrass in the United States, water conservation has become an issue throughout the turfgrass industry. In recent years, the conversion from cool- to warm-season turfgrass species has become more acceptable in the transition zone. Golf courses in the Kansas City area converting tees and fairways from creeping bentgrass to zoysiagrass could reduce irrigation annually by 5,767,570 gal while reducing irrigation costs by up to $28,403. In Kansas, the Ogallala aquifer provides up to 80% of the water used, although years of pumping has led to a steady decline in water levels. The use of drought tolerant turfgrass species would help conserve water supplies.

Buffalograss is a native, drought tolerant, warm-season turfgrass species used for lawns, parks, athletic fields, roadsides, and golf courses in the Great Plains. Utilization of buffalograss on golf courses could lead to reduced water consumption while maintaining a reasonably dense playing surface.

Previous research has demonstrated that buffalograss can be maintained as an acceptable fairway turf with proper management practices. Buffalograss responds to nitrogen (N) fertility, and studies in Nebraska and Colorado have shown increased buffalograss quality, color, and growth with increasing N.

Golf course turf is frequently damaged by divots produced by players’ clubs when striking the ball. Although acceptable fairway buffalograss quality and playability can be achieved through proper fertility, divot recovery is of concern due to slow growth characteristics and minimal fertility requirements. Research is needed to evaluate buffalograss fertility management to maximize divot recovery. The objective of this study was to determine the influence of N source and rate on ‘Cody’ buffalograss fairway divot recovery.

Field studies were initiated in August of 2014 at the Rocky Ford Turfgrass Research Center (RF) in Manhattan, KS and July 2014 at Council Grove Country Club (CG) in Council Grove, Kansas. Mowing was conducted twice weekly at 0.625 in and 1.00 inch at RF and CG, respectively. After study initiation, irrigation was only applied to prevent drought stress and water in fertilizer treatments. To prevent drought stress, approximately 1.5 inch of supplemental irrigation was applied at each site over the experimental periods.

Treatments consisted of two N sources and four rates. Nitrogen sources were a quick release urea fertilizer (46-0-0) and a 120-day controlled release polymer-coated urea (PCU) (43-0-0). Nitrogen rates were 0, 1, 2, and 3 lb N/1,000 ft². Nitrogen from urea was applied in two equal applications; one at study initiation and the other four weeks after initiation (WAI). All N from PCU was applied at trial initiation. Prior to treatment application, divots were created using a custom built edger.
Buffalograss’ low water requirements and its ability to be maintained at fairway mowing heights make it very valuable in low input turfgrass management systems. From the data collected in this study, applying a quick release N fertilizer at 1 to 3 lb N/1,000 ft² will result in a shorter duration to reach 50% divot recovery compared to buffalograss receiving no N. Applying 1lb N/1,000 ft² of a quick release product was determined to be the optimal fertilization rate to reach 50% divot recovery (2.5 weeks). This study has shown that under limited irrigation situations and with minimal fertilization, buffalograss exhibits improved divot recovery and, thus, playability in low input turfgrass management systems. (Evan Alderman and Jared Hoyle)

A big thank you to Martin Lane, Midwest Laser Leveling, for leveling the new turf research plot at the Rocky Ford Turf Research Center in Manhattan!
I think Spring showed up about a month early! Like everyone else, it is very dry and windy out here! I’m not sure there is much of the state that hasn’t been burned.

I’m happy to announce our river pumps have been installed! We are experiencing a few problems, but they should be up and running soon.

The new research area we have acquired is in need of irrigation. Thanks to Hunter Irrigation, this project could be a reality very soon.

A lot of new research is taking place at Rocky Ford this year. I’m sure there will be updates at the Turfgrass Field Day on August 4.

Once again, thanks to everyone who donates products and equipment! I hope everyone has a great grass growing summer and a great year selling equipment and products!  

(Cliff Dipman)
Tom Andrews, 84, passed away peacefully at home in Salina on March 1, surrounded by his loving family.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Norma Jean; daughter, Julie (Jim) Jones, of Spring Hill; son, Marvin (Lynell), of Calhan, Colo.; son Gary (Sally) of Hillsboro; grandchildren, Autum (Tony) Benedict, of Olathe, Jaron (Joleen) Andrews of Lakewood, Colo., Carly (Bill) Kirkpatrick of Albuquerque, N.M., Gina (John) Bergin, of Maple Hill, and Lora Andrews, of Winfield; and great-grandchildren, Jake and Tyler Benedict, Virgil Andrews and Andy Bergin.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Eva and Ross Andrews; brothers, Ross, Bill and Bob; sisters, Fern, Myrtle and Ivagene; and grandsons, Brian Jones and Shea Andrews.

Tom was a proud American and a Korean War veteran, as well as a life member of the VFW. He was a golf course superintendent for 35 years and a life member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Kansas Golf Course Superintendent’s Association, serving as President in 1959 and the Kansas Turfgrass Foundation, serving as President in 1969. He served many years on the Southeast of Saline School Board and was a farmer.

Tom and Norma Jean enjoyed traveling the United States and only had five states they had not visited. They were avid dancers with the Jolly Mixers for 23 years and were still active with the Gypsum Go-Getters Senior Dinners.

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

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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
Blast from the Past

1986 KTF Board of Directors (L to R): Stan George, Larry Stouse, John Wright, Cliff Dipman, Gil Chappell, Mike Jordan, Mark Willmore, Dick Gray and Mike Freeland.

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

**Excel Sales/Hustler Turf Equipment**
Out-front Rotary Mower

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John Deere Triplex Tee Mower

If your company is interested in supporting K-State turfgrass research by providing equipment, contact Cliff Dipman at (785) 539-9133.
Spring into Greener Lawns

With winter’s wrath hopefully behind us, it is time to think about spring. Could it also be time to transform lawns from brown and sad to green and luscious? Of course! Proper fertilization, weed control and watering strategies are essential to make this happen.

Early spring is an important time of year to think about grass care, especially care for cool-season grasses. We have had a mild winter, and it seems like we are warming up quickly. Trees are blooming and when I see that, I start to think about what we can do to prepare our lawns for 2016. If we can get on top of things early, we will be on track for the rest of the year.

Taking care of weeds
Weed control is somewhat different for cool-season and warm-season lawns. Any of the winter annual weeds like chickweed or henbit that are lingering around can be treated with synthetic auxin herbicides such as 2,4-D. It is important that you do not treat warm-season lawns during the transition from dormant to green. This could delay plant growth. Don’t worry about the transitional phase with cool-season lawns. While fall is a more effective time to combat weeds compared to spring, it is best to attempt to exterminate broadleaf weeds before summer and prevent having to deal with them at a later date.

As it warms up, we look at not only broadleaf weeds but our summer annual weeds like crabgrass and goosegrass as well. Typically in the state of Kansas, our crabgrass inhibitor spray time ranges from April 1 through April 15. Another good time to use the crabgrass preventer is once the forsythias and redbuds begin to bloom.

Dandelions should be exterminated before summertime. The same herbicides used in the fall can be used in the spring. But it is important to use those on a day with temperatures above 50 degrees Fahrenheit, as plants need to be growing to absorb the chemicals.

Applying fertilizer
When thinking about weed control, it is also a good time to think about soil fertility. Warm-season grasses such as bermudagrass and buffalograss should be fertilized once they turn green. You can use either a quick or slow release method, and typically it is about a pound per 1,000 (square feet) for the first application. When using a slow release method, you may use more fertilizer to last the whole summer.

Many popular fertilizers also contain pre-emergent herbicides, so make sure to read the product labels. Weed control should be done around the beginning of April or before the warm-season grasses turn green, which means people should use a product solely for weed control or that contains little fertilizer. Then consider fertilizing the lawn once the warm-season grasses have turned green and started growing.

For cool-season grasses, the “weed and seed” approach can be used, because cool-season grasses start turning green earlier. However, don’t use too much fertilizer at one time.

During the spring, the soil is still cool while the ambient air temperature is warmer. When we fertilize in the spring, we get a lot of shoot growth, or vice versa in the fall when we fertilize we get a lot of good root growth. If you have too much N fertility in the spring with cool-season grasses, you get more top growth and not much root growth. This can be disastrous in the dry summertime, where the plant has grown above the soil, but hasn’t grown roots. With cool-season grasses, it is important to have a good, healthy root stand to survive summer droughts.

Watering strategies
During the spring when the grass starts to grow, give it some water, but let it stress some to prepare it for potential summer stress. Otherwise if we just continuously water the grass, it won’t grow deep roots for summertime.

An easy reference point is to give the grass about an inch of water per week, including rainfall, and don’t water daily. Consider not watering for one or two weeks, as this stress period could be beneficial later. Proper preparation will help the lawn survive better during a dry, hot summer.

(From interview of Jared Hoyle; Article by Cory Orrock, K-State Research & Extension)

Mark the Dates!

June 14, 2016
KGCSA Scholarship & Research Golf Tournament
Firekeeper GC
Mayetta

August 4, 2016
Turfgrass Field Day
Manhattan

December 6, 7 & 8, 2016
Kansas Turfgrass Conference, Topeka
GDD Tracker for Poa annua Seedhead Suppression

Golf course superintendents in KS typically have to manage annual bluegrass in putting greens and not so much “control” it because of the large populations of annual bluegrass that exist in the putting greens.

Annual bluegrass in a bentgrass putting green.

One of annual bluegrass management practices is the use of PGRs. This is combination with aerification, pre-emergent herbicides, fertility and proper irrigation management, just to mention a few, can lead to the success of reducing annual bluegrass populations and increasing bentgrass incidence.

Timing of the PGR applications in the spring can be one of the most difficult applications made. Too late can lead to a summer of playing catch-up. The use of Growing Degree Days (GDD) can really help predict PGR application timings. [http://www.gddtracker.net/](http://www.gddtracker.net/)

Just type in your location on the “Proxy/Primo Seedhead Timer (GDD 32)” page and it will give you the GDD in your area. Earlier applications have been effective than later applications, so try and get a Proxy/Primo application out after two mowings (full green-up) or 200-250 growing degree-days on the GDD 32 model. The Target Range is 200-500 but greater success has been seen when the initial application was made earlier. In 2014 & 2015 Manhattan, KS reached 200 GDD (base 32) around March 15, but in 2016 we reached 200 GDD on February 20.

Research conducted out of MSU suggests that tank mixes of Proxy/Primo for Poa annua Seedhead Suppression on bentgrass greens should be made at 5 + 0.125 fl oz per 1000ft². A repeat application can be made 21 days later. If golf course superintendents plan on applying Primo throughout the season then they can start their program 14-21 days after the tankmix treatment.

Information contained in this article can be found at [http://www.gddtracker.net/about](http://www.gddtracker.net/about); Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences, Michigan State University. (Jared Hoyle)

Check out the K-State Turfgrass Blog at: [https://blogs.k-state.edu/turf/](https://blogs.k-state.edu/turf/)

Braun Recipient of Graduate Student Teaching Award

Ross Braun, Ph.D. Graduate student in Turf at KSU (2nd from the left), was one of four recipients of the Richard Elmore Brown Outstanding College of Agriculture Graduate Student Teaching Award. The Richard Elmore Brown Agriculture Endowment for Graduate Student Teaching Awards in the College of Agriculture provides funding for these awards. A cash award is provided to each winner. Dr. Don Boggs recognized each winner at the Graduate Student Awards and Recognition Reception on April 5, 2016. Congratulations, Ross!