76th Annual Kansas Turf & Landscape Conference

December 2 & 3, 2026 – Manhattan, KS

Wednesday, December 2				
7:30 a.m.	**Registration & Exhibitor Set-up**			
	General Session - Flint Hills *(A.J. Lindsey, Moderator)*			
8:15 - 8:30 a.m.	**Welcome, Orientation and Announcements** - *A.J. Lindsey*			
8:30 - 9:20 a.m.	**Field-Tested: 10 Tips and the Data to Prove It** - *Ross Braun, A.J. Lindsey (3B – 1 hr)*			
9:20 - 9:30 a.m.	**BREAK**			
	Basic Turf McDowell/Tuttle/Alcove	**Pest Management** Flint Hills , Moderator	**Nursery & Landscape** Kaw Nation/Big Basin , *Moderator*	**Advanced Turf** Konza Prairie BC , *Moderator*
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	**Turfgrasses for KS** - *Steve Keeley (3B – 0.5 hr)*	**Core Hour** – *Josh Gillespie*	**Trees and Turf: Unnatural Neighbors** - *John Ball (3A/3B – 1 hr)*	**Fighting the Freeze: Winterkill in Bermudagrass and Zoysiagrass** - *Tyler Carr*
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	**Soils** - *A.J. Lindsey*			
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	**Fertilization** - *A.J. Lindsey*	**The History of Pesticides (Insecticides)** - *Raymond Cloyd (3A/3B – 1 hr)*	**Dutch Elm Disease, Emerald Ash Borer, Pine Wilt Disease and Spotted Lanternfly: When Will It End!** - *John Ball (3A – 1 hr)*	**Plant Stress, Plant Diseases, and Fungicides** - *Megan Kennelly (3A – 1 hr)*
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	**Autonomous Mowing** Flint Hills , Moderator	**Nursery & Landscape** Kaw Nation/Big Basin , *Moderator*	**Advanced Turf** Konza Prairie BC , *Moderator*
1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	**Turfgrass Diseases** - *Megan Kennelly* (3B – 0.5 hr)	**Autonomous Mowing Impacts on Turfgrass Performance and Weed Management** - *Tyler Carr (3B – 1 hr)*	**Quantifying Ecosystem Services in Ornamental Landscapes** - *Kelly Kopp*	**Soil Amendments and Turfgrass Performance** - *A.J. Lindsey*
1:30 - 2:00 p.m.	**Turfgrass Insects** - *Raymond Cloyd* (3B – 0.5 hr)			
2:00 - 2:30 p.m.	**Irrigation** - *Ross Braun*	**Lessons Learned: Implementing Autonomous Mowers in Public Parks** - *Casey Smithson, Kelly Meis*	**Stinging Insects** - *Raymond Cloyd (3A/3B – 1 hr)*	**Water Conservation Strategies in Turfgrass Systems** - *Kelly Kopp*
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	**Turfgrass Weeds** - *Ross Braun* (3B – 0.5 hr)			
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	**Cultivation** - *Ross Braun*	**Autonomous Mowing Panel Discussion & Q&A** - *Tyler Carr, Casey Smithson, A.J. Lindsey*	**Annual Flower Trials: Discovering the Best, the Worst, and What's New** - *Matthew McKernan*	**More Than Green: How Landscapes Help Keep Communities Cool** - *Kelly Kopp*
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.	**TRADE SHOW** - Meet with vendors, network, and chat with speakers in an informal setting *(Refreshments available)*			

Thursday, December 3			
7:30 a.m.	**Registration**		
	General Session - Flint Hills (*A.J. Lindsey, Moderator*)		
7:45 - 8:00 a.m.	**Welcome, Announcements, Awards** - *Andy Klein, KTF President*		
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	**Managing Herbicide Resistance: Culture, Chemistry, and the Label** - *Quincy Law (3A/3B – 1 hr)*		
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	**Research and Extension Priorities for Kansas Turfgrass Systems** - *A.J. Lindsey*		
10:00 - 10:10 a.m.	**BREAK**		
	Advanced Turf Konza Prairie BC *, Moderator*	**Nursery & Landscape** Flint Hills *, Moderator*	**Math Workshop** McDowell/Tuttle/Alcove *, Moderator*
10:10 - 11:10 a.m.	**Major Golf Course Projects – Planning to Completion** - *Ron Reese*	**Mulch Type and Depth as Cultural Weed Management Tools in Landscape IPM Programs** - *Brenna Johnson* (3A – 1 hr)	**Calculated Care: Math for Turfgrass & Landscape Managers** - *Quincy Law (3A/3B – 2 hr)*
11:10 - 12:10 p.m.	**Turfgrass Research Updates** - *Usman, Ammar (Ross Braun)*	**Storm Damage and Flooding Impacts on Trees and Landscapes** - *Jason Griffin*	
12:10 - 1:30 p.m.	**Trade Show (Lunch served in Big Basin/Kaw Nation Room)**		
	Pest Workshop Konza Prairie BC *, Moderator*	**Nursery & Landscape** Flint Hills *, Moderator*	**Pest Management** McDowell/Tuttle/Alcove *, Moderator*
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	**Pest or Weed Management Workshop** - *Ross Braun, Matthew McKernan (could add Megan Kennelly and Raymond Cloyd) (3A/3B – 2 hr)*	**Naturalistic Landscape Design Style** - *Cheryl Boyer*	**A Recipe for Species Protection** - *Frannie Miller (3A/3B – 1 hr)*
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.		**Best Practices for Water Conservation in the Landscape –** Alex Stanton (3A -1 hr)	**Landscape and Turf Disease 2026 Update** - *Judy O'Mara (3A – 1 hr)*
3:30 pm	**Conference Adjourned**		
3:30 pm	**Commercial Pesticide Exam - Konza A room**		

SPEAKERS

John Ball, Agronomy, Horticulture & Plant Science, SDSU
Ross Braun, Horticulture, K-State
Tyler Carr, Horticulture & Crop Science, Ohio State
Raymond Cloyd, Entomology, K-State
Jason Griffin, Horticulture K-State
Steve Keeley, Horticulture, K-State
Megan Kennelly, Plant Pathology, K-State
Brenna Johnson, Horticulture, K-State
Kelly Kopp, Plants, Soils & Climate, Utah State
Quincy Law, Horticulture, Iowa State
Cheryl Boyer, Horticulture, K-State
A.J. Lindsey, Horticulture, K-State
Matthew McKernan, Horticulture, K-State
Kelly Meis, City of Manhattan Parks & Rec.
Frannie Miller, Pesticide Safety & IPM, K-State
Judy O'Mara, Plant Pathology, K-State
Muhammad Ammar Rafique, Horticulture, K-State
Ron Reese, MacDonald Golf Course
Casey Smithson, City of Manhattan Parks & Rec.
Alex Stanton, Horticulture, K-State
Muhammad Usman Tanveer, Horticulture, K-State
Josh Gillespie – Kansas Department of Agriculture

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

Wednesday, December 2

General Session - Flint Hills

Welcome, Orientation and Announcements - *A.J. Lindsey*

Field-Tested: 10 Tips and the Data to Prove It - *Ross Braun, A.J. Lindsey*
A practical, research-backed presentation delivering proven turf management and weed/pest control strategies supported by direct field trial data to maximize results.

Basic Turf - McDowell/Tuttle/Alcove

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

Pest Management - Flint Hills

Core Hour - *Josh Gillespie*
Regulatory information required for certified applicators. (Core Hour)

The History of Pesticides (Insecticides) - *Raymond Cloyd*
Raymond will discuss the history of pesticides (insecticides) based on chemical class starting with the use of arsenicals, and then chronologically discussing the introduction, use, and impact of the organochlorines, organophosphates, carbamates, pyrethroids, and neonicotinoids. Raymond will address the benefits and issues associated with each of the insecticide chemical classes.

Nursery & Landscape - Kaw Nation/Big Basin

Trees and Turf: Unnatural Neighbors - *John Ball*
Trees and grass rarely occupy a natural ecosystem, but they are common associates in build environments from golf courses to parks and the home landscape. This presentation will cover their different requirements and how to blend these systems. We will cover changes in light quantity, quality, duration with tree pruning and how this affects turfgrass performance. Underground conflicts will also be discussed including root pruning and herbicide use.

Dutch Elm Disease, Emerald Ash Borer, Pine Wilt Disease and Spotted Lanternfly: When Will It End! - *John Ball*
We continue to check off tree species as new pests and pathogens arrive. Ashes and exotic pines are all recent examples of trees that are no longer planted due to lethal threats. But not all tree species are at equal risk for future threats. This presentation will cover why American elm, green/white ash and Scotch/Austrian pines were always at risk of lethal threat and what other genera do not share the same risks. The presentation will also cover some of the best trees to plant in the urban environment.

Quantifying Ecosystem Services in Ornamental Landscapes - *Kelly Kopp*
This presentation will explore how ornamental landscapes can be understood and evaluated as green infrastructure that provides aesthetic, ecological, and social benefits. Life cycle assessments of different landscape designs that quantify water requirements, management inputs, economic costs, labor, energy use, carbon balance, and cooling benefits will be presented. The presentation will also highlight a long-term field research project comparing different landscape designs and plant materials and will discuss implications from the first three years of the study, emphasizing that landscape choices involve tradeoffs and should be matched to site function rather than treated as "one size fits all."

Stinging Insects - *Raymond Cloyd*
Raymond will discuss the types (social and solitary), biology, and behavior of stinging insects, including paper wasps, yellowjackets, and the baldfaced hornet. Raymond will then address the strategies that can be implemented to effectively manage stinging insects in commercial and home settings.

Annual Flower Trials: Discovering the Best, the Worst, and What's New - *Matthew McKernan*
Discover how this year's annual flowers performed at the John C. Pair Horticulture Research Station. The session will feature the top-performing 2026 trial cultivars, notable underperformers, and the newest annuals under evaluation that will be entering the marketplace in 2027.

Advanced Turf - Konza Prairie BC

Fighting the Freeze: Winterkill in Bermudagrass and Zoysiagrass - *Tyler Carr*
Winterkill in warm-season turfgrasses such as bermudagrass and zoysiagrass is economically disruptive. This presentation will cover the known and unknown causes of winterkill, strategies for preventing winterkill, and practices to accelerate recovery.

Plant Stress, Plant Diseases, and Fungicides - *Megan Kennelly*
In this talk we'll discuss the interplay of plant stressors and plant diseases along with some reminders about how fungicides fit in the puzzle.

Soil Amendments and Turfgrass Performance - *A.J. Lindsey*
This presentation will examine how soil amendments can influence turfgrass establishment, performance, and resilience. Topics will include impacts on soil physical, chemical, and biological properties, including water retention and nutrient dynamics, as well as effects on turfgrass quality. Current research findings and practical considerations for implementation in managed turf systems will also be discussed.

Water Conservation Strategies in Turfgrass Systems - *Kelly Kopp*
This presentation will review practical, science-based strategies for conserving water in turfgrass systems while maintaining turf function, quality, and long-term resilience. It will address key management decisions such as turfgrass species and cultivar selection, irrigation scheduling, soil moisture monitoring, mowing and fertility practices, and approaches for managing drought and summer stress. The talk will also emphasize the importance of matching turfgrass use and management intensity to site function, recognizing that not all turf areas require the same level of inputs. Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of how efficient irrigation technologies, best management practices, and thoughtful turfgrass design can reduce water use while preserving the environmental, recreational, and cooling benefits turfgrass systems provide.

More Than Green: How Landscapes Help Keep Communities Cool - *Kelly Kopp*
This presentation will examine how urban landscapes cool the atmosphere and moderate heat in communities facing drought, growth, and rising temperatures. Using examples from turfgrass systems, trees, ornamental landscapes, and ongoing landscape life-cycle research, the talk will explore how shade, evapotranspiration, soil moisture, and plant cover influence microclimates and human comfort. Cooling and climate-resilience benefits will be presented and participants will leave with a practical framework for designing and managing landscapes that conserve resources while helping keep communities cooler, healthier, and more livable.

Autonomous Mowing - Konza Prairie BC

Autonomous Mowing Impacts on Turfgrass Performance and Weed Management - *Tyler Carr*
Autonomous mowers frequently mow turfgrass without human intervention. This presentation introduces autonomous mowers, discusses how autonomous mowing affects turfgrass density and uniformity, and connects those factors to management of weeds in turfgrass systems.

Lessons Learned: Implementing Autonomous Mowers in Public Parks - *Casey Smithson, Kelly Meis*
This session shares practical lessons learned from implementing autonomous mowers across public parks and athletic fields in Manhattan, Kansas. Attendees will explore key considerations for evaluating equipment, preparing sites, training staff, establishing operational procedures, and communicating with park users. The presentation will highlight successes, challenges, and adjustments made throughout implementation, offering real-world guidance for agencies considering or expanding autonomous mowing technology.

Autonomous Mowing Panel Discussion & Q&A - *Tyler Carr, Casey Smithson, A.J. Lindsey*
Join the presenters for an open discussion and audience Q&A on autonomous mowing technologies, practical implementation, management considerations, and future opportunities in managed turf systems.

Thursday - December 4

General Session - Flint Hills

Welcome, Announcements, Awards - *Andy Klein, KTF President*

Managing Herbicide Resistance: Culture, Chemistry, and the Label - *Quincy Law*
Through the stories of 2,4-D-resistant buckhorn plantain and PPO-inhibitor-resistant kochia, this seminar examines what herbicide resistance is and what it looks like in the field and lab. We will explore cultural approaches to weed control and how paying attention to the small details in pesticide labels can lead to better weed management decisions.

Research and Extension Priorities for Kansas Turfgrass Systems - *A.J. Lindsey*
This presentation will highlight current research and extension priorities for Kansas turfgrass systems and provide an overview of planned and emerging projects at Kansas State University. Topics will include water conservation, turfgrass adaptation and selection, technology and precision turf management, golf and sports turf performance, and other initiatives designed to address current and future industry needs.

Advanced Turf - Konza Prairie BC

Major Golf Course Projects – Planning to Completion - *Ron Reese*
The presentation will draw from experiences of construction and grow in along with reconstruction and irrigation system installation projects.

Turfgrass Research Updates - *Usman, Ammar (Ross Braun)*
A comprehensive overview highlighting the latest scientific findings, trial results, and emerging best practices shaping modern turfgrass management.

Nursery & Landscape - Flint Hills

Mulch Type and Depth as Cultural Weed Management Tools in Landscape IPM Programs - *Brenna Johnson*
Evaluation of seven mulch materials and two application depths for weed suppression and soil microclimate management in Kansas landscape beds. Results will help landscape professionals use mulch as a cultural weed management tool that supports IPM and may reduce herbicide needs.

Storm Damage and Flooding Impacts on Trees and Landscapes - *Jason Griffin*
TBD

Naturalistic Landscape Design Style - Cheryl Boyer
Learn how Kansans perceive and implement a naturalistic landscape design style. Highlights include flexible approaches to blending native and modern plants and applying landscape design principles that work for any size garden. Gain inspiration and actionable ideas for overcoming the common challenges of creating resilient, beautiful, naturalistic landscapes.

Best Practices for Water Conservation – *Alex Stanton - TBD*

Math Workshop - McDowell/Tuttle/Alcove

Calculated Care: Math for Turfgrass & Landscape Managers - *Quincy Law*
This seminar will introduce two approaches to solving turfgrass and landscape math problems: ratios and unit conversions. Using real-world examples, actual products, and product labels, we will work through practical calculations involving dry fertilizers, liquid fertilizers, and pesticides. Examples will include determining how much product to add to a spray tank and calculating the cost of fertilizer per pound of nitrogen.

Pest Workshop - Konza Prairie BC

Pest Management Workshop - *Ross Braun, Matthew McKernan*
An interactive, hands-on workshop focused on accurate identification and practical, targeted control strategies for persistent weed and other turf pests.

Pest Management - McDowell/Tuttle/Alcove

A Recipe for Species Protection - *Frannie Miller*
This presentation will talk about the Endangered Species Act, Bulletins Live Two (BLT) and the framework for applicators need to know to comply. It will also address how to find what threatened and endangered species are in your location.

Landscape and Turf Disease 2026 Update - *Judy O'Mara*
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 2026.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

KTF KANSAS TURFGRASS FOUNDATION

KNLA KANSAS NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

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

KANSAS TURFGRASS FOUNDATION 2026

OR, call the hotel directly at (785) 532-9116 (please mention you are part of KS Turfgrass Assn. Group code: 92X).

Act Fast: The special room rate is available until November 3, 2026, or until the room block is sold out- whichever comes first.

To register online and pay by credit card go to https://2026ksturfandlandscapeconference.eventbrite.com/
OR fill out the registration form and send in by November 18.

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. 18, 2026. The amount refunded will be less a $25.00 processing fee. No refunds will be made after this date. Email your request to dsratlif@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 - 12 hrs 3B - 11 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 2 – 0.55 ed points
December 3 – 0.60 ed points

Int'l. Society of Arboriculture (ISA)

CEUs available for Certified Arborists.

Presentations qualifying for will be noted once ISA verifies. Please watch posted schedule.

Kansas Turf & Landscape Conference

December 2 & 3, 2026 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. 2 ($150 at conf.) *Includes trade show; no dues.* **$125.00 x** _____ _____

_____ _____

THURSDAY only-Dec. 3 ($150.00 at conference) **$125.00 x** _____ _____
Includes lunch, trade show; no dues.

_____ _____

2027 Kansas Turfgrass Foundation Membership Dues **$ 75.00 x** _____ _____

A 2027 Kansas Turfgrass Foundation Directory will be sent to each member

Name of individual(s) joining association: _____

2027 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 dsratlif@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 2 & 3, 2026 Manhattan, KS

Featured Speakers

Dr. John Ball, South Dakota State University

Dr. Kelly Kopp, Utah State University

Dr. Quincy Law, Iowa State University

Dr. Tyler Carr, Ohio State University