

NTEP NEWSLINE

A publication of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program

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DEATH OF ALVERN K. GARDNER

Recently, the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program lost a colleague and dear friend, Mr. Alvern K. Gardner. As owner of Gardner Turfgrass in Westminster, Colorado, Al was very active in the turfgrass industry including sod production at several locations in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas, use of new technologies such as washed sod and Netlon[®], and development of new turfgrasses (i.e. Texas bluegrass x Kentucky bluegrass hybrids). However, many may not know that Al was a significant contributor to NTEP. As the Turfgrass Producers International representative, Al served on the NTEP Policy Committee from February 1992 - June 1998, including five and one-half years as chairman. His leadership on such issues as on-site testing and elimination of federal government funding for NTEP will long be remembered by this organization. We will remember Al as a person always willing to lend a hand and support in any way possible, all the while smiling. He will be sorely missed. Our sympathies and prayers go out to Al's wife Frances, sons Stan and Rick and the rest of the Gardner family.

PLANS FINALIZED FOR 1999 PERENNIAL RYEGRASS TRIAL

Plans have been finalized for the upcoming 1999 National Perennial Ryegrass Test that will be assembled and mailed to cooperators in late August. This test will be grown and evaluated at thirty *official* test sites (university locations) across the United States and Canada over the next four years. Ninety to one hundred varieties and experimental selections are expected to be entered.

The sites will be maintained using one of the following management regimes:

SCHEDULE A High Maintenance/Fairway (Eleven test locations)

Mowing height: 1/2" - 3/4"
Nitrogen: 1/2 - 3/4 lb. per 1000 ft²
per growing month
Irrigation: to prevent stress or dormancy
Disease control: only if severe stand loss is possible
Weed/insect control: to prevent loss of stand

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1998 PROGRESS REPORTS AVAILABLE!

Progress reports containing data collected in 1998 have been mailed and are also available on the NTEP web site, <http://www.ntep.org>. The hard copy reports (booklet format) have been mailed for Kentucky bluegrass (high and low input), perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, buffalograss, st. augustinegrass, and on-site bentgrass/bermuda tests.

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NTEP POLICY COMMITTEE MEETS IN POST FALLS, IDAHO

The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program Policy Committee held its most recent meeting June 8-9, 1999 at the headquarters of Jacklin Seed Company in Post Falls, ID. The Policy Committee meets twice annually - once in conjunction with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) conference and show (winter) and once in summer. The summer meeting is hosted by either an NTEP university cooperator at their location or a seed company representative on the committee. Since the committee met in Oregon in 1995, it felt the time was right to meet in another seed production area. Dr. Doug Brede, Policy Committee member and research director at Jacklin Seed, was the host for the meeting and handled all the local arrangements. Meeting facilities and accommodations were excellent; many thanks to Dr. Brede for his efforts!



Mark Sellman, Jacklin Seed Company plant breeder, explains his bentgrass breeding project to NTEP Policy Committee members

Many items were discussed during the meeting - the following is a brief description of some of the committees' activities.

USDA funding update - the U.S. House of Representatives has restored NTEP funding in their USDA appropriation bill, while the Senate will be addressing the issue soon (*the Senate recently included NTEP funding in their version of the USDA appropriations bill* - Ed.)

New On-Site Overseeding Trial - the committee discussed and approved recommended locations, and evaluation guidelines (*see article, page four*)

Turfgrass Evaluation Workshop - discussed the need for regional workshops in conjunction with the regional turfgrass committees. \$20,000 was budgeted to develop turf evaluation training materials.

On-Site Bentgrass and Bermudagrass Trials -

the ball roll measurement requirements have been changed. Cooperators are now asked to collect ball roll three times per year, not monthly as previously required. The timing of those measurements is when green speeds are high, medium and low. A meeting of cooperators and superintendents to discuss the on-site trials will be held at the



Seed production research at Jacklin Seed Company field facilities

2000 GCSAA Conference and Show in New Orleans.

New USDA Turfgrass Scientist Position - the committee has approved a job description for a full-time USDA turfgrass scientist position. Input from other turfgrass associations will be sought and then the turfgrass industry will be asked to contact their Congressional representatives in support.

Administrative - the committee reappointed Dr. Tony Koski as Chair, Dr. Tom Fermanian, Vice Chair and Dr. Jeff Nus as Secretary for the upcoming year. The next meeting date is February 17-18, 2000 in New Orleans, LA.

The committee was also given a tour of Jacklin's warehouse/seed cleaning facilities and their variety development efforts. NTEP extends its gratitude to Jacklin Seed Company for their hospitality and use of their excellent facilities. It made for a productive and enjoyable meeting!

1999 NATIONAL PERENNIAL RYEGRASS TEST

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SCHEDULE B Medium Maintenance/ Athletic Field (Ten test locations)

Mowing height: 1" - 2"

Nitrogen: 1/2 - 1 lb. per 1000 ft²
per growing month

Irrigation: no irrigation or to
prevent dormancy

Disease control: only if severe
stand loss is possible

Weed/insect control: to prevent
loss of stand

SCHEDULE C Home Lawn (Nine test locations)

Mowing height: 1.5" - 2.5"

Nitrogen: 1/3 - 1/2 lb. per 1000 ft²
per growing month

Irrigation: no irrigation or to
prevent dormancy

Disease control: no fungicides

Insect control: no insecticides

Weed control: as needed basis

Official test locations will be distributed as shown below (see box). Management regimes are assigned based on the needs in each geographic area and the resources available at each location. In addition, seven *ancillary* test locations have been selected to address specific problems identified by the advisory committee for this trial.

Ancillary Tests

Location	Purpose
Colorado (high elev.)	Winter-hardiness evaluation
Illinois	Gray leafspot eval.
Maryland	Gray leafspot eval.
New Jersey	Gray leafspot eval.
Missouri	Traffic evaluations
New York	Traffic evaluations
Washington	Traffic evaluations

As the parameters of the ancillary tests evolve, they will be reported in *Newsline*. Please watch this publication for further developments.

NEW NTEP WEBSITE ADDRESS!

Visit the new NTEP World Wide Web location at <http://www.ntep.org>. The latest data (1998) from our various tests is present plus our new on-site bentgrass and bermudagrass tests. We will be redesigning the site in the future making it easier to navigate and incorporating new features. Examples of planned future enhancements include credit card ordering, membership purchasing/renewals and improved variety and company listings.

Other suggested enhancements include development of a turfgrass variety database, customized report generation and linking of variety names to company web sites. We welcome your comments!

NEW NTEP Web Site Address

<http://www.ntep.org>

1999 National Perennial Ryegrass Test - Official Test Locations

Schedule A	Schedule B	Schedule C
Ft. Collins, CO	Vancouver, BC	Carbondale, IL
Manhattan, KS	Santa Clara, CA	W. Lafayette, IN
Lexington, KY	Urbana, IL	Ames, IA
Beltsville, MD	Orono, ME	Columbia, MO
Bozeman, MT	E. Lansing, MI	Columbus, OH
Lincoln, NE	St. Paul, MN	Guelph, Ontario
Ithaca, NY	New Brunswick, NJ	Quebec City, Quebec
Brookings, SD	Truro, Nova Scotia	Pullman, WA
Logan, UT	University Park, PA	Madison, WI
Blacksburg, VA	Kingston, RI	
Puyallup, WA		

NTEP owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Steve Westerholt, University of Nebraska. Steve, through hard work and expertise, created the excellent web site we now enjoy. In addition, Steve served as webmaster for over two years - adding to and updating the site as well as making many improvements. Thanks, Steve for all your efforts!!

NTEP WELCOMES NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Recently, two industry researchers, **Dr. Dennis Martin** and **Dr. Craig Edminster**, were named to the NTEP Policy Committee. Dr. Martin, a turfgrass extension specialist at Oklahoma State University, was chosen by the Southern Region Information Exchange Group (IEG-25) to represent their members on the NTEP committee. Dr. Martin, who will serve a four-year term, replaces outgoing representative Dr. David Chalmers, Virginia Tech University. IEG-25 members are turfgrass researchers from the southern U.S.

Dr. Edminster was recently selected to represent the American Seed Trade Association - Lawn Seed Division on the NTEP committee. Dr. Edminster, also serving a four-year term, is Research Director for Cebeco International Seeds, Inc. in Halsey, Oregon. He replaces Dr. Doug Brede, Jacklin Seed Company, who recently completed a four-year stint serving NTEP.

Special thanks to **Dr. Chalmers** and **Dr. Brede** for their service to NTEP over the last four years. Both have been instrumental in developing such programs as customized data analysis, on-site fairway overseeding and improved advertising guidelines. Also, both have represented their respective members admirably. Thanks again to Drs. Brede and Chalmers for their efforts.

CURRENT NTEP POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Association Representatives:

*American Seed Trade Association
(Lawn Seed Division)*
Dr. Craig Edminster
Cebeco International Seeds

*Golf Course Superintendents
Association of America*
Dr. Jeffrey Nus

Turfgrass Breeders Association
Mr. Don Floyd, Pickseed West, Inc.

Turfgrass Producers International
Mr. Ike Thomas, Thomas Bros. Grass

*United States Golf Association
Green Section*
Dr. Michael Kenna

Regional Representatives:

Northeast
Dr. Peter Landschoot
Penn State University

Southern
Dr. Dennis Martin
Oklahoma State University

North Central
Dr. Thomas Fermanian
University of Illinois

Western
Dr. Anthony Koski
Colorado State University

Ex-Officio Members

NTEP Executive Director
Mr. Kevin Morris

NTEP Special Projects Coordinator
Dr. Robert Shearman
University of Nebraska

ON-SITE FAIRWAY OVERSEEDING TRIAL UPDATE

Planning continues and details are being finalized for the upcoming On-Site Fairway Overseeding Trial. This trial, consisting mainly of commercially available varieties, blends and mixtures used in overseeding, will be established at ten locations across the southern U.S. in fall 1999 and fall 2000. Golf courses in ten geographical areas (see *Newsline*, April - June 1999) have been selected and will be announced in the next *Newsline* issue.

Overseeding rates vary greatly region to region, therefore the following rates will be used:

Perennial and Intermediate Rye:
300, 450 or 600 lbs./Ac.

Poa trivialis 100 or 200 lbs./Ac.

Mixtures
(80/20, 85/15, 90/10 P. Rye/P. triv.)
250 or 400 lbs./Ac.

NOTE: Seeding rates of all other mixtures will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Standard entries are included in NTEP trials for comparison purposes. The following older and newer varieties were chosen as standards for this trial:

Perennial Ryegrass
Charger (older), Top Hat (newer)
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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NTEP: PART TWO “STRUCTURE”

Initially, NTEP was a program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Turfgrass Council, a non-profit turfgrass association in Maryland. The Maryland Turfgrass Council provided the formal, legal structure necessary for NTEP to accept entry fees, pay employees, file tax forms, etc. In 1991, the National Turfgrass Federation, Inc., a nonprofit research corporation, was formed to handle the legal and administrative needs of NTEP.

The National Turfgrass Federation, Inc. (NTF) is governed by uniquely written by-laws. The by-laws assign governing power of the NTF to the Policy Committee of NTEP. The NTEP Policy Committee determines policy and procedures for NTEP and the members of the Policy Committee are the sole members of NTF. In this way, the Policy Committee acts, in many respects, as a board of directors for NTF. This unusual arrangement allows the NTEP Policy Committee to maintain control of the finances, resources and direction of NTF as well as NTEP. Currently, the following groups or organizations have one representative on the NTEP Policy Committee:

Regional Research Committees

Northeastern Region (NE-169)
 Southern Region (IEG-25)
 North Central Region (NCR-192)
 Western Region (WRCC-11)

Industry Membership Assoc.

American Seed Trade Association - Lawn Seed Division (ASTA)
 Golf Course Superintendents Assoc. of America (GCSAA)
 Turfgrass Breeders Assoc. (TBA)
 Turfgrass Producers Int'l (TPI)
 United States Golf Association (USGA)

The four regional turfgrass committees represent the four major geographical regions in the U.S. Individuals involved in these committees are mainly turfgrass scientists from state universities. Each regional committee selects their NTEP representative. Their representation on the Policy Committee gives a broad perspective on the problems and research needs across the U.S.

The industry membership associations appoint individuals to represent their segment of the turfgrass industry. ASTA members are companies that develop, produce, buy and sell seeds. GCSAA is a large membership organization serving the needs of the more than 14,000 golf course superintendents in the U.S. TBA represents the needs and concerns of the public and private turfgrass breeders in the U.S. TPI is an international association that provides information and resources to turfgrass sod producers. Finally, the USGA is involved in many aspects of golf including coordination of the U.S. Open and U.S. amateur tournaments, defining and admin-

istering the rules of golf and the handicap system in the U.S., determining what golf equipment (i.e., clubs, balls, etc.) is legal or illegal and extensive turfgrass research funding in the U.S.

The NTEP Executive Director and Special Projects Coordinator are non-voting members of the Policy Committee. The broad representation of private and public members gives the Policy Committee excellent perspective on the issues facing the turfgrass industry and how NTEP might address those issues.

NTF headquarters is located at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Beltsville, Maryland USA. BARC is the largest agricultural research center in the world encompassing 2,385 hectares (7,000 acres). NTF has a cooperative research agreement with USDA to conduct its business at BARC. USDA provides offices, a greenhouse, seed storage and equipment facilities in support of NTEP. NTEP does not receive any direct funding from USDA; it funds 95% of its operating expenses by charging entry fees for turfgrass evaluations.

(This is part two of a series of articles that was originally published as a chapter in Turfgrass Cultivars: Breeding and Utilization, by SoftScience, Inc. (Japanese only). The next issue of Newsline will focus on NTEP test procedures and methods)

POTPOURRI



Policy Committee Members on the floating green at Lake Coeur D'Alene Resort, Coeur D'Alene, ID. From left, Mr. Kevin Morris, Dr. Tony Koski, Dr. Dave Chalmers, Dr. Tom Fermanian, Dr. Doug Brede, Dr. Jeff Nus, Dr. Bob Shearman, Dr. Mike Kenna, Mr. Don Floyd and Dr. Pete Landschoot (*see story on page two*). Missing from the photo is Mr. Ike Thomas.

OVERSEEDING TRIAL UPDATE (*continued from page four*)

Poa trivialis

Sabre (older), Winterplay (newer)

The newer varieties were randomly selected from a group of varieties suggested by our advisory committee.

Other details of this test:

Plot Size:

5 ft. x 20 ft. in strips across the fairway. Plots will be laid out to avoid edges of fairway, shade, non-uniform traffic patterns, landing areas, etc.

Replications:

Three - all reps may be in one fairway or trial may be split among two or three fairways.

Test Area:

Trial will be seeded in the same location on the golf course in fall 1999 and 2000. The same plot randomization will be used therefore, entries will be established in the same 5' x 20' area in both years.

Seedbed Preparation:

Each superintendent will prepare the test area as they do the rest of their course for overseeding. Cooperators will be asked to record and report those preparations as well as other management info.

The next issue of *Newsline* will provide additional details and specific information on site locations!!

- *Correction:* The newly released, 1998 Progress Report (NTEP No. 99-10) for the 1994 National Perennial Ryegrass Test has the variety "ISI-MHB" listed with the name *Derby Supreme*. This is incorrect - the variety should be listed as *CIS MBH*, which is the variety name. We apologize to Cebeco International Seeds for any inconvenience this may have caused.
- *Cooperators:* The NTEP Policy Committee now requests positive ID of diseases and insects that cause significant damage to trials. Shortly, you will be receiving information related to disease ID. Any data submitted in the future that does not specify genus and species of the causal organism will not be published in NTEP reports.
- Additional copies of 1998 Progress Reports and the On-site Bentgrass and Bermuda reports are now available. Cost is \$2.00 each (includes shipping and handling).

NTEP NEWSLINE is issued on a quarterly basis. If you have concerns or suggestions, please contact:

Kevin Morris
Exec. Director
Nat'l. Turfgrass
Evaluation Program
377 Plant Science
Lincoln, NE 68583