

# HIGHLIGHTS

## NTEP Policy Committee Meeting February 2 and 3, 2008 Orlando, Florida

### Committee Members Present –

Dr. Jeff Nus (representing USGA)  
Dr. Mike Richardson (representing SERA-IEG-25, southern region universities)  
Dr. Steve Johnson (representing Turfgrass Breeders Association)  
Mr. Duane Klundt (representing OSTA, PSA and allied associations)  
Mr. Warren Bell (representing TPI)  
Dr. Bernd Leinauer (representing WERA-11, western region universities)  
Dr. Scott Ebdon (representing northeastern region universities)  
Dr. Clark Throssell (representing GCSAA)  
Dr. Brian Horgan (representing NCR-192, north central universities)  
Mr. Steve Tubbs (representing ATSA, Lawn Seed Division)

NTEP staff present - Mr. Kevin Morris, Dr. Jeff Krans.

Guests – Dr. Doug Karcher, Dr. Tom Fermanian.

### Automated Data Collection Results

Dr. Doug Karcher (University of Arkansas) and Dr. Tom Fermanian (University of Illinois) made presentations on automated data collection from NTEP trials. In the discussion following the presentations, the following points were made:

- NTEP data based on green vs. brown color comparison such as establishment and spring green-up can be evaluated using a digital camera to collect images of plots and software to analyze the images.
- Images of the plots have great value to the seed industry.
- Karcher and Fermanian suggested that NTEP consider several sites that would collect data using both visual observations by human raters and digital collection of data to help determine if progress in digital data collection is being made and gain experience with the digital process.

NTEP asked Karcher and Fermanian to provide a summary of their experiences with digital collection of NTEP data and ask for their recommendations on how digital image analysis can be used to improve NTEP data. The Policy Committee members will then seek input from the groups they represent on digital collection of data for NTEP trials. This research is an effort to improve data collection and accuracy of NTEP data.

## **Turfgrass Evaluation Protocols**

Based on Dr. Jeff Krans' survey published recently online (*Applied Turfgrass Science* journal), NTEP is concerned that its turfgrass evaluation protocols are not well defined. Jeff Krans has recommended that NTEP take the lead and move forward promptly to write and publish a document on its protocols (visual field assessment – VFA).

The committee directed Morris and Krans to develop an outline, followed by a draft of a visual field assessment protocol document. Policy Committee members will review the draft and offer input. The draft document will be presented to C-5 members for their comments at the CSSA meeting in October.

### **2008 NTEP Trials**

*2008 Buffalograss* - There are not enough potential entries to warrant a buffalograss trial.

*2008 Bentgrass Putting Green* – The committee agreed upon eleven standard trial locations, with half mowing at lower .110” or lower and the other half mowing at .110’-.125”. The committee also approved six ancillary trial locations. Two of those locations will be on golf courses where practice putting or chipping (traffic) incur (Pinehurst, NC and Chicago, IL areas). The other ancillary trials will be testing traffic, saline irrigation, low maintenance and snow mold.

*2008 Bentgrass Fairway/Tee* – The committee selected thirteen standard trial locations and four ancillary trial locations. The ancillary locations will test drought tolerance, saline irrigation, shade and low maintenance.

*2008 Fineleaf Fescue* – The committee selected twelve standard trial locations and five ancillary trials locations (recycled irrigation water, two traffic locations, two shade locations).

### **Single Trait Specific Testing**

*Drought Tolerance, short-term trial* – NTEP will sponsor short-term, single trait trials that will evaluate more than one species, mixtures and blends. The first trait to be tested will be drought tolerance. This new trial is scheduled for establishment in fall 2009. An advisory committee is to be put together to develop the parameters for this trial.

*Traffic Tolerance trial* - The committee agreed to proceed with plans for a traffic tolerance trial, to be established in fall 2009. The Sports Turf Managers Association has agreed to partner with NTEP on this trial. An advisory committee is being put together to further develop the parameters and details for this trial.

### **On-site Bentgrass Fairway Trial**

The committee is proceeding with this trial for establishment in fall 2010. The plan is to evaluate this trial on 10-12 golf courses nationwide, under traffic situations for five years. Hopefully, this trial will be co-sponsored by USGA and GCSAA.

### **Customer Listening Sessions**

NTEP will work with C-5 (turfgrass science division) chair John Stier to hold an NTEP Listening Session at the American Society of Agronomy meeting in October, 2008. NTEP will also investigate the possibility of holding an NTEP Listening Session at the TPI Summer Meeting in Calgary in July 2008.

### **Site Visits**

Jeff Krans and Kevin Morris conducted sixteen site visits (review of NTEP trials) in 2007. This is an effort to upgrade NTEP evaluations, work with evaluators in their research, and identify good sites and trials.

### **Next Policy Committee Meeting Date and Location**

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held in Portland/Willamette Valley beginning from noon to 5:00 pm on Monday, June 2, 8:00 am to noon on Tuesday, June 3.