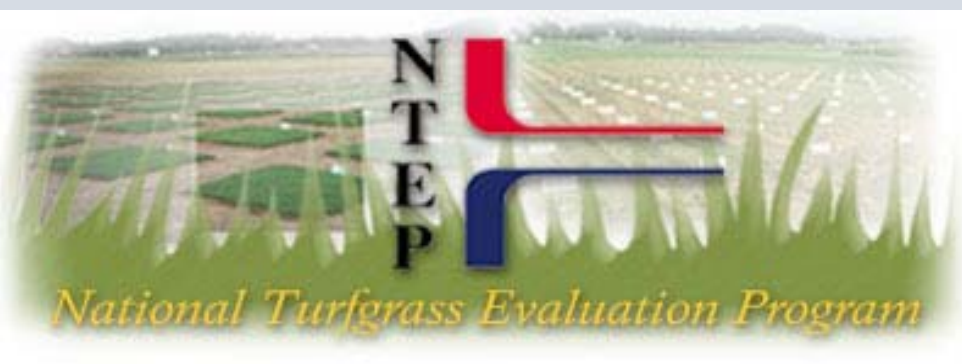


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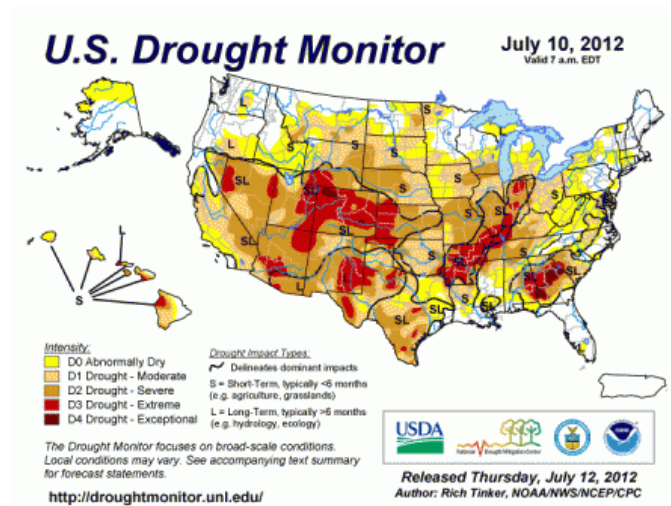
Dear Kevin,

We're smack dab in the middle of summer, which can be a blessing or a curse (depending on your perspective). Heat and drought is affecting much of the country right now, so you keep watching your turf as you may need some reseeding (with new varieties) come fall. Disease or insects could also be affecting your turf and we may have some data to help in that area as well. Just keep watching our web site and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us!

Have a great summer!

DROUGHT INCREASING!

May match record summer heat



A record heat wave this summer has helped the first six months of this year to be the warmest since the U.S. started keeping records. And now, due to a warm winter and generally dry spring, the record heat and lack of rain in many parts this summer has led to the worst drought in 12 years, nationwide.

If your turf is looking anything like ours here at the USDA in Beltsville, Maryland (see below picture), then you may have replanting to so this fall. Keep us in mind as you make those grass purchasing decisions - we are here with information on the latest and best grasses, at no charge!



2011 NTEP DATA AVAILABLE

Perennial ryegrass, bentgrass, fineleaf fescue on web site

NTEP now has 2011 data collected on [perennial ryegrass](#), [putting green](#) and [fairway bentgrass](#), as well as [fineleaf fescue](#) on our web site.

Whether you are dealing with [dollar spot on your bent greens](#), [brown patch on your ryegrass fairways](#), or some other malady, we have independent data on cultivars that can help you reseed, overseed or renovate to reduce future problems. Watch our [web site](#) and [Facebook page](#) for more information.



We are now analyzing and compiling results from our warm-season grass trials. Data from these trials and tall fescue (or oldest, and last trial to compile this year) should be available later this month.

UPDATE: TURF EXHIBIT AT U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Exhibit to showcase benefits, uses and the science of turf improvement is progressing



In the spring issue of this newsletter, we introduced the concept of an outdoor turfgrass exhibit to be established at the [U. S. National Arboretum](#), a 446 acre USDA, ARS research and education public gardens facility three miles from the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC. The National Arboretum is the home of many beautiful gardens and collections, as well as the Capitol Columns, the original sandstone columns from the East side of the U. S. Capitol. With over 500,000 visitors each year including members of Congress, the National Arboretum excels in research and education programs for young and old alike.

The exhibit will highlight the benefits and uses of turf, as well as provide information on grasses, maintenance and the turf industry, in an outdoor setting. **A key component of the exhibit will be the authenticity of its content - all**

statements made within the context of the display will be scientifically accurate and based on refereed scientific articles. Also, in the future, the National Arboretum would like to complement the exhibit by holding turf workshops and symposia.

A design team consisting of USDA staff, as well as a paid designer have been working hard on this project. Their challenge is to take input from a stakeholder advisory group and develop 1) the content to be displayed, 2) design concepts/drawings to be used for fundraising, and 3) final content, drawings and blueprints for construction. The group is hoping to have items 1) and 2) above ready by the end of the summer, and for construction to begin when sufficient funds are secured. The exhibit will run for three years, if sufficient funding is raised for installation and maintenance.

We have had significant interest in this project from various segments of the turf industry, as many see this as a vehicle to explain the value of turf to those people either outside our industry, or antagonistic to our profession. Members from the [Irrigation Association](#), [Turfgrass Producers International](#), [USGA](#), [PLANET](#) and national companies have been consulted on and informed of the project to date. We hope to reach many more in our industry as the fundraising effort starts later this year. Watch our [Facebook](#) page for developments on this project.



We hope this newsletter and future issues provide some important information that you can use in your business or job. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Talk to you this fall!

Sincerely,

Kevin Morris
National Turfgrass Evaluation Program

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