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Volume 3, Issue 3

October 2012

Dear Kevin,

As I write this, the Mid-Atlantic is awaiting the arrival of a major hybrid storm the forecasters are calling 'Frankenstorm'. What will happen is anyone's guess. However, the constant is Mother Nature always throwing us curveballs and change-ups (baseball terminology is in honor of the World Series).

Weather is variable and unpredictable, seemingly even more so than when many of us were growing up (seems like forever ago for me!). At NTEP, we help you deal with uncertainty by testing turfgrasses over multiple environments and years, hopefully accounting for some of those weather variations and disease stresses.

Use us to the maximum for better turf down the road. Or contact us so that we can help you make better decisions. Either way, you and your turf area will benefit.

Enjoy the changing of seasons, it is part of life's beauty!



NEW TALL FESCUE DATA ONLINE

Brown Patch, Drought and Traffic data are very helpful

A five year data summary from our most recently completed tall fescue trial is now available on our web site [here](#). You may not experience extreme traffic, such as that seen on the National Mall 4th of July celebration held each year in Washington, DC (below),



however, our traffic experts have collected data that allow you to choose [the best tall fescues](#). Data on tolerance to [shade](#), [saline irrigation](#), and [brown patch](#) are also available on our site. And of course, you can find good [recovery from drought data](#) there as well, along with turf quality, color, density and other important traits.

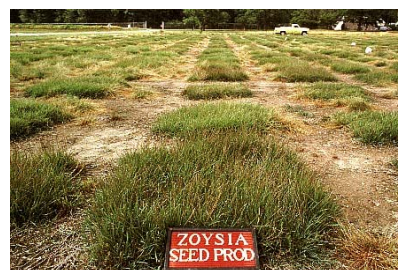
In addition, we have initiated a new tall fescue trial in fall 2012. Entries and locations are looking good thus far (see <http://www.ntep.org/newsroom.htm> for details). We are excited to watch these new tall fescues and track their progress. First data will be available in spring 2014.

TAKE OUR WARM-SEASON TRIAL SURVEYS

Bermuda and zoysia trials planned for 2013, including a putting green trial in conjunction with USGA

In 2013, NTEP will initiate three new trials: a bermudagrass trial, a zoysiagrass trial and a warm-season putting green trial. Two other trials (seashore paspalum and st. augustinegrass) are under consideration.

Because we value your input when developing the trials, please take our [bermudagrass survey](#) and [zoysiagrass survey](#). Your feedback is critical as we determine the trial parameters and testing locations.



The warm-season putting green trial is made possible with considerable funding from the [United States Golf Association Green Section Research Program](#). This trial will evaluate warm-season grasses suitable for putting greens at ten locations across the lower half of the U.S.

More details on these trials will be available in future issues of this newsletter.

FUNDRAISING COMMENCES FOR TURF EXHIBIT AT U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM

'Grass Roots' program that will showcase benefits, uses and the science of turf improvement is now in fundraising stage



In the spring and summer issues of this newsletter, we discussed the development 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 two 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.

That effort has expanded to a four-year focus on turfgrass entitled '[Grass Roots](#)'. 'Grass Roots' will include a series of workshops, symposia and demonstrations over the four-year period, with the centerpiece of the program being the outdoor turfgrass exhibit. 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 will be reviewed by an independent panel of turfgrass scientists from the Crop Science Society of America.**

A design team is currently hard at work developing the concepts and content to be displayed, but your help is needed now to get this project off the ground. **Without significant help from the turfgrass industry, 'Grass Roots' will not happen.** The National Arboretum is providing \$83,000 in support and service. However, we need to raise an additional \$400,000 to implement this program. This [brochure](#) gives more details on the four year program, the outdoor exhibit and the budget needed.

We are currently working on developing sponsorship levels and should have that available within the next week or so. If you have interest in financially sponsoring the outdoor exhibit, please feel free to contact me at 301-504-5125 or kmorris@ntep.org.



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.

Enjoy a new day, the time change and new challenges!

Sincerely,



Kevin Morris
National Turfgrass Evaluation Program



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