



Kevin N. Morris
Executive Director

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SUBJECT: USGA/NTEP Warm-Season Turfgrass Putting Green Evaluations
TO: Cooperators
FROM: Kevin N. Morris, Executive Director *KNM*
DATE: December 3, 2012

In spring/summer 2013, the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) and the United States Golf Association (USGA) will initiate cooperative evaluations of warm-season turfgrasses under putting green conditions. These trials will be established in 10-12 total locations, including across the southern U.S. as well as north into the Transition Zone. The trial locations will be open to establishment on university sites as well as golf course putting greens. USGA sand rootzone locations will be required for the five year trial.

The intent of this trial is to address the needs of golf clubs that cannot financially afford to maintain ultradwarf bermuda to achieve good quality during the growing season and the winter playing season. **Therefore, the basis for this trial is to identify grasses and species that can maintain a healthy quality turf, putting green speeds of at least 9 - 10' on the stimpmeter, and survive traffic during the golfing season (including winter where applicable), all under a reduced maintenance regime as compared to the current 'ultradwarf' bermudagrass requirements.**

Sites will be chosen based on their geographical location, ability and willingness to utilize lower maintenance regimes, availability of a USGA rootzone trial site and ability to simulate golf traffic. In the case of a golf course site, a local university turfgrass scientist (cooperator) must be available to, and responsible for establishment, collection of data, submission of data to NTEP and overseeing general maintenance of the green. Cooperators will be paid \$10,000 total (\$2,000 per year for five years) for their supervision of each green.

This trial is unique as bermudagrass, seashore paspalum and zoysiagrass may be entered. The species will be planted on the same green, however in separate blocks to allow for 'tweaking' of maintenance practices based on species.

If you are interested in establishing this test, please complete the attached questionnaire and return to me by **December 28, 2012** (by mail or fax (301) 504-5167). Please understand that we will use the maintenance level you provide on the questionnaire as a guide and we may modify that later if you are chosen to evaluate this test.

If you have any questions concerning this test, please feel free to contact me (301-504-5125 office, 301-873-6545 mobile or kmorris@ntep.org).

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2013 USGA/NTEP WARM-SEASON TURFGRASS PUTTING GREEN EVALUATIONS

Questionnaire on interest in participating in a national test to evaluate warm-season turfgrass varieties and experimental selections under lower putting green maintenance regimes

1. ADDRESS

Your name _____
Institution _____
Bldg., Street _____
P. O. Box _____
City, State, _____
Phone No. _____ FAX No. _____
Email address _____ Date _____

2. Where would you like to establish this trial (university field location, golf course, etc.)? Please provide city/state and if applicable, name of golf course.

3. Please provide your proposed maintenance parameters for this test that will reduce inputs.

Mowing height: Spring _____ Summer _____ Fall _____
Nitrogen: Total Lbs/1000 sq. ft. _____ Application frequency _____
Source, liquid or granular, etc. _____
Irrigation: Water Quality _____
Frequency, amount, strategy or ET% _____
Vertical mowing: Timing/Type/Frequency _____
Growth regulators: Timing/Type/Frequency _____
Sand topdressing: Amount/Frequency _____
Grooming/brushing: Timing/Type/Frequency _____

6. COMMENTS:

Return questionnaire to: Kevin Morris, Executive Director
(by December 28, 2012) National Turfgrass Evaluation Program
BARC-West, Bldg. 005, Room 307
Beltsville, Maryland 20705
or fax to: (301) 504-5167 (301) 504-5125 Voice