

SUBJECT: USGA/NTEP Warm-Season Turfgrass Putting Green Evaluations
TO: Seed Companies, Sod Growers and Breeders
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 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. Most likely, *experimental* entries will be charged a reduced entry fee (\$1,000/year for five years - \$5,000 total). The fee for a *commercial* entry, i.e. an entry that is commercially available when submitted, will be \$2,000/year for five years (\$10,000 total).

If an *experimental* entry is commercialized during the testing period and therefore reclassified as a *commercial* entry, the fee will become \$10,000 total for the trial. NTEP will immediately invoice the sponsor or licensee for any past entry fees. Current and future NTEP entry fees will be invoiced at \$2,000 per year. This will expire the date of the last trial data publication. Entries previously tested by NTEP may also receive a reduced entry fee.

At this point, we are soliciting interest in submitting entries. Please complete the attached questionnaire and return to me by **December 28, 2012**.

If you have any questions about this trial, please feel free to contact me (301-504-5125 or kmmorris@ntep.org).

2013 USGA/NTEP WARM-SEASON TURFGRASS PUTTING GREEN EVALUATIONS

Sponsorship of Entries

1. Approximately, how many entries would you like to sponsor? Please provide the species for each (bermuda, zoysia or seashore paspalum).

2. ADDRESS

Your name _____

Institution _____

Bldg., Street _____

P. O. Box _____

City, State, Zip _____

Country _____

Phone No. _____ FAX No. _____

Email address _____ Date _____

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