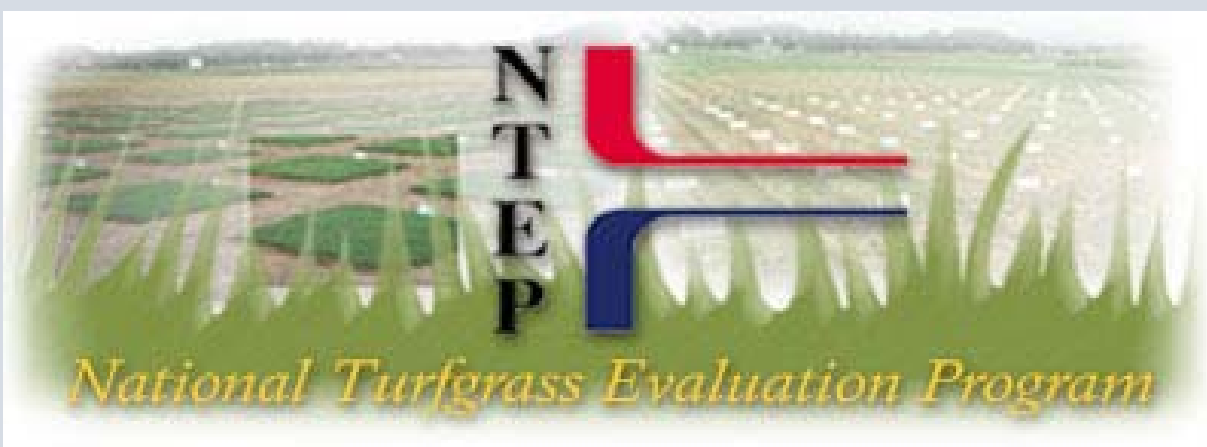


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Volume 4, Issue 1

March 2013

Dear Kevin,

Welcome to spring 2013! Or should I say, almost spring 2013 as some regions are experiencing colder than normal temperatures or those lovely spring snows!

I stated in my fall newsletter that Mother Nature often throws us curveballs (yes, Opening Day is almost here!), that weather is variable and unpredictable, but that we must adapt to these changing conditions. We at NTEP can help you deal with uncertainty as we test turfgrasses over multiple environments and years, hopefully encountering as many of these changes and challenges as possible.

Spring, a time of rebirth is here - or is coming (I promise!) If we can help you with anything, please do not hesitate to contact us.



PRELIMINARY REPORT OF 2012 DATA ONLINE

## First data from our new Kentucky bluegrass trial

A [preliminary report](#) of data collected in 2012 from current NTEP trials is now available on our web site, or in [pdf format here](#).



This report includes the first data from our new [Kentucky bluegrass trial](#), established in 2011. Note that we publish our preliminary data in alphabetical order based on entry designation, not based on turf quality scores from highest to lowest. Also, please note that as the final report for each trial is prepared and posted, data will be summarized and published with the most current names and sponsor information.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

### NEW BERMUDA AND ZOYSIA TRIALS FOR 2013

**Bermuda and zoysia trials planned for 2013, seashore paspalum and st. augustinegrass trials postponed until 2015**

2013 will bring new NTEP trials evaluating bermudagrass and zoysiagrass at multiple locations. The details on these trials are being developed and will be available soon, including entry fees and trial locations.



In the meantime, if you have an entry you would like to submit, we will request 25 trays of each bermuda vegetative entry and 2.5 lbs. of each seeded bermuda entry. For zoysia, we will need 20 trays of a vegetative entry and 2 lbs. of a seeded entry. For both trials, we ask that either 18 cell (3" x 3" cells) or 72 cell (1.5" x 1/5" cells). Trays and seed will need to be submitted to NTEP in late spring - a deadline for seed and trays will be most likely late May or early June. A firm deadline on entry submission is forthcoming.

## NTEP POLICY COMMITTEE MEETS IN SAN DIEGO

### Committee members discuss potential new trials

The NTEP Policy Committee held its annual board meeting Feb. 8-9 in San Diego. Committee members present include:

Mr. Warren Bell, Biograss Sod Farm  
Dr. Ken Diesburg, Southern Illinois University  
Dr. Scott Ebdon, Univ. of Massachusetts  
Dr. Melodee Fraser, Pure-Seed Testing (chair)  
Mr. Paul Hedgpeth, Columbia River Seeds  
Dr. Doug Karcher, Univ. of Arkansas  
Dr. Michael Kenna, USGA  
Dr. David Kopec, University of Arizona  
Dr. Greg Lyman, GCSAA  
Mr. Pat McClain, Burlingham Seeds  
Mr. Kevin Morris, NTEP Executive Director

Discussions covered many topics over the day and a half meeting.

A main topic of discussion was new trials that NTEP might initiate. The committee decided to develop a Low Input/Native Grass trial for establishment on 2015. Also, a new Cool-Season Drought Trial and postponement of the seashore paspalum and st. augustinegrass trials until 2015 (they were scheduled for 2013). All of this is outlined in our updated [trial schedule](#).

The committee also agreed to further investigate the development of an online database, which will allow easier sorting of test results and customized report generation.

### NEW WARM-SEASON PUTTING GREEN TRIAL FOR 2013

#### **NTEP/USGA cooperative trial will evaluate bermuda, zoysia and seashore paspalum for putting greens**

In 2013, NTEP will partner with the USGA to establish a new putting green trial for warm-season grasses. The trial, which will include bermudagrass, zoysiagrass and seashore paspalum, will be planted this summer at a dozen locations across the south, southwest and Transition Zone. Trial locations will be split between golf courses and university research centers.

Trial management goals are to achieve stimpmeter readings of 8-9' while reducing inputs, as compared to ultradwarf bermudas.

Standard entries are being increased by NTEP (as shown in the photo taken March 1), while sponsors are increasing 36 trays of each entry for shipment to NTEP in late spring.



The warm-season putting green trial is made possible with considerable funding from the [United States Golf Association Green Section Research Program](#). We truly appreciate the support of the USGA in funding this project!

Updates on this trial will be provided in future issues of this newsletter.

### NATIONAL ARBORETUM TURF EXHIBIT UPDATE

#### **The outdoor turf exhibit, the first phase of 'Grass Roots', is in the design stage**

In past 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. In addition, we have discussed the 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.



'Grass Roots' is a unique opportunity for the turf industry to inform and educate visitors about turfgrass and the turfgrass industry. **All information presented within the 'Grass Roots' program will be science-based and reviewed by scientists in the field.** 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. Therefore, the National Arboretum is the perfect setting for the turf exhibit and the 'Grass Roots' Initiative.

A design team is currently hard at work developing the concepts and content to be displayed in the outdoor exhibit and great progress has been made. In addition, plans are being to develop and publish many interesting articles and features about turfgrass, its benefits and utility on the Arboretum web site. And the turf industry is starting to step to the plate, with about \$140,000 in funds, product and services being pledged thus far to help in the development and construction of the outdoor exhibit. However, your help is still needed 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 in addition to the \$140,000 pledged. That still leaves us short \$260,000 to initiate this program and maintain the program and exhibit over the four year period, including the hiring of a full-time coordinator for the program. This [brochure](#) gives more details on the four year program, the outdoor exhibit and the budget needed.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available (see [sponsorship levels here](#)). If you have interest in financially sponsoring the outdoor exhibit, please feel free to contact me at 301-504-5125 or [kmorris@ntep.org](mailto:kmorris@ntep.org).



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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.

**Sincerely,**



Kevin Morris  
National Turfgrass Evaluation Program



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