



July 28, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NTEP hires Dr. Jeff Krans to improve data collection and trial maintenance techniques

The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) is extremely pleased to announce that effective July 1, 2004, Dr. Jeff Krans, retired professor of turfgrass science, Mississippi State University, has been hired by NTEP on a part-time basis. Dr. Krans will be conducting site visits to university trial sites on behalf of NTEP, using an 'NTEP Trial Audit' format to review, evaluate and discuss NTEP trials with researchers at the various trial locations across the U.S. Dr. Krans will visit approximately ten sites per year to work with researchers in addressing any problems they may have, discussing evaluation techniques and trial management issues. Dr. Krans' extensive experience with both cool-season and warm-season species makes him an excellent person to advise researchers working with NTEP trials. The hiring of Dr. Krans is part of a broader strategy by NTEP to improve its trial management, data collection, statistical analysis procedures and data presentation. Other aspects of the strategy include the investigation of automated technology for increased accuracy and cost-effectiveness in data collection, consideration of new statistical analysis procedures, better cultivar disease and insect tolerance information and presentation of state and regional data via the NTEP web site (www.ntep.org) and NTEP CD. These issues and needs were some of those raised by attendees of the 'NTEP Listening Session' held in February 2004 in San Diego.

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NTEP, established in 1980, is a sponsored program of the National Turfgrass Federation, Inc. (www.turfresearch.org). NTEP develops and coordinates uniform evaluation trials of turfgrass varieties and promising selections in the United States and Canada. 'Official' trial locations can be found at land-grant universities in forty states. 'On-site' trials are or have been established on about 25 golf courses nationwide. NTEP is currently testing over 600 cultivars and experimental selections, encompassing about twenty turfgrass species. More information can be found on the NTEP web site (www.ntep.org) or by contacting Kevin Morris, NTEP Executive Director at 301-504-5125.