



NTEP's News for You

In This Issue

[New Ky. Bluegrass Data Online](#)
[Update on 2013 Bermuda and Zoysia Trials](#)
[USGA/NTEP Putting Green trial update](#)
[National Arboretum turf exhibit update](#)

Quick Links

[News More On Us](#)

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Dear Kevin,

Summer is fully upon us with some regions experiencing record heat, drought and even [wildfires](#) while other regions have seen record [rainfall](#). The rain and drought cause lawn problems, albeit different problems.

Summer is a good time to relax, enjoy time with friends and family and rest up for a busy fall lawn season.

If brown patch (see photo at right) is harrassing your lawn, we have data on cultivars with improved tolerance. If you decide that summer droughts are too much for you and want to plant a warm-season grass, we have info on bermuda, zoysia, st. augustine and seashore paspalum. Now is the time to consider changes grasses, whether you go with cool-season on warm-season. And we can help. please feel free to [contact us!](#)



In the meantime, enjoy the summer, vacations and time away from the grind!



NEW KY. BLUEGRASS DATA ONLINE

First data from our new Kentucky bluegrass trial, as well as 2012 perennial ryegrass and bentgrass data

New data from our 2011 Kentucky bluegrass trial can now be found on our [web site in table form](#) or in [pdf format](#). First year data typically is a strong reflection of establishment rate, with the amount of data on diseases and other stresses being limited. This of course, will change over the five year trial period.

A new change this year to some data summaries, is the use of a [Location Performance Index](#), along with data analyzed [regionally and by management level](#). New trials will use this format as well.



New data from perennial ryegrass, particularly for diseases and traffic tolerance can be found [here](#). We have additional data on drought tolerance and overseeding with perennial ryegrass that is still be analyzed. That data will be added to the site as it is processed.

We also recently added 2012 data from our [2008 Bentgrass Fairway/Tee trial](#). 2013 is the final year of data collection for our putting green and fineleaf fescue trials, with new versions of these trials starting in fall 2014. In the meantime, look for data from the bentgrass putting green and fineleaf fescue trials in the coming weeks. Please contact us if you have any questions.

UPDATE ON 2103 BERMUDA AND ZOYSIA TRIALS

New bermuda and zoysia trials have been organized and shipped to cooperators for planting

Our newest version of bermudagrass and zoysiagrass trials were sent to cooperators June 10-11 and June 17-18, respectively. These two trials consist of 52 total vegetative entries (along with 18 seeded entries in the bermuda trial). Vegetative entries are much more time consuming to handle and costly to ship with 40-50 sq. ft. of plant material (in plug trays) required for each entry. These entries, coupled with the USGA putting green trial (see below), required us to assemble, keep in our 2500 sq. ft. of greenhouse space for several weeks, and then ship to cooperators almost 450 boxes of 25-35 lbs. each. Fedex made out but got tired of seeing us as well!



Entry and sponsor lists for the [bermuda](#) and [zoysia](#) trials are finalized, along with the [bermuda](#) and [zoysia](#) cooperator lists.

Trials have been planted at many locations, and below is the bermuda trial, one day after planting at College Park, MD. Note the vegetative entries (planted as plugs) as well as bare

plots established with seeded entries. Establishment data will primarily be collected in 2013, with more detailed data collection commencing in 2014. With so many new entries, the future for these warm-season grasses is very bright.



USGA/NTEP PUTTING GREEN TRIAL UPDATE

USGA/NTEP warm-season trial set to evaluate bermuda, zoysia and seashore paspalum for putting greens

NTEP is partnering with the USGA to establish a new putting green trial for warm-season grasses. The trial, which includes fifteen (15) bermudagrasses, eleven (11) zoysiagrasses and two (2) seashore paspalum [entries](#), contains several interesting plant types (see zoysia entry below). The trial has been, or will be planted this summer at a dozen locations across the south, southwest and Transition Zone. [University researchers](#) are responsible for data collection, however, [trial locations](#) are split between golf courses and university research centers.

Trial management goals are to achieve stimpmeter readings of 9-10' while reducing inputs, as compared to ultradwarf bermudas. [Initial establishment and management parameters](#)

[parameters](#) have been developed and these will be tweaked over time.



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NTEP shipped one box of each entry (three (3) two sq. ft. trays) to eight location June 24-25. Two other locations received plant material shortly thereafter with an additional one scheduled for next week. We are hoping to identify a final trial location in the

southeastern U.S. before the summer is over.



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

Grass Roots is taking shape as the outdoor turf exhibit is refined and other programs are discussed

For the past 18 months in this newsletter, we have outlined 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.

New developments with *Grass Roots* include finalizing the design into [14 elements](#) as well as refinement and scientific review of the [messaging](#) for each element. In addition, a [Question and Answer](#) document has been developed, with all of this information contained within [this update](#). A full-time Coordinator position has been created to manage all aspects of *Grass Roots*. Web-based materials are under development. And a new collorary concept, the [National Greenscape Corridor](#), which links the National Arboretum with the [National Mall turf renovations](#) and [Arlington National Cemetery](#), has been created. All of this information can be found on the web at [the National Turfgrass Federation site](#).

And the turf industry is starting to step to the plate, with about \$190,000 in funds, product and services being pledged thus far to help in the development and construction of the outdoor exhibit (see our [sponsors](#)). 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 \$190,000 pledged. That still leaves us short \$210,000 to initiate this *Grass Roots* and maintain the program and exhibit over the four year period, including hiring the full-time coordinator.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available (see [sponsorship levels and how to donate](#)). 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.

Sincerely,



Kevin Morris
National Turfgrass Evaluation Program



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