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COLORADO STATE AWARDED TURFGRASS RESEARCH GRANT

In a show of support for the turfgrass industry, the Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Foundation has awarded a \$40,000 grant to Colorado State University for turfgrass research.

"We are very impressed by Colorado State's dedication to turfgrass research, and our foundation wants to be a partner in that research," said Steve O'Neill, president of the foundation.

The grant was the result of fund-raising efforts by the Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Association and the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents' Association, which along with the Rocky Mountain Professional Lawn Care Applicators Association make up the foundation.



Pictured during presentation of \$40,000 research grant: (L to R) Ken Brink, head of horticulture department; Steve O'Neill, president of Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Foundation; Tony Koski, turf specialist; Bill Brown, extension plant pathologist; Merle Niehaus, dean of the College of Agriculture; and Whitney Cranshaw, extension entomologist. Photo courtesy: Colorado State University.

The grant is the first presented by the foundation to Colorado State. A portion of the funds will support a horticulture research assistant for Tony Koski, Colorado State Cooperative Extension turfgrass specialist. The money will also help fund turfgrass disease and pest research to be conducted by William Brown, extension plant pathologist, and Whitney Cranshaw, extension entomologist.

Brown is conducting research on turfgrass disease, including the development of environmentally compatible controls for snow mold fungi, a family of turf disease that affects Colorado golf courses. "The turfgrass industry contributes \$660 million to Colorado's economy," Brown said. "This grant enables Colorado State University to support that industry through research."

Cranshaw's research is aligned with that of Brown, and both are part of the integrated turfgrass management program. Cranshaw is studying nonchemical pest control and turfgrass pests of the Rocky Mountain region.

"We need a better overall understanding of the Rocky Mountain region's unique pests," Cranshaw stated. "Also, pesticides are a national concern. Natural controls for turfgrass pests have a great deal of potential."

In addition to nonchemical pest and disease control, the foundation is interested in funding research on water conservation in turfgrass areas and the development of grasses which can better survive Colorado's climate. "This grant represents a major step forward in the university's turfgrass research and instruction program," said Ken Brink, Colorado State horticulture department chairman.