

Update on university turf-related research projects, Part II

Editor's note: Following are more reports from some leading turfgrass researchers in the US on their current studies. Part I appeared in our December 2009 issue.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Traffic stress research conducted on National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) trials will continue at Rutgers University Horticultural Research Farm II, North Brunswick, NJ in 2010. Previously, the 2005 NTEP Kentucky bluegrass test received seasonal wear applications in fall 2006, summer 2007, spring and fall 2008, and summer 2009. This test is scheduled to receive wear in spring 2010

Wear stress is applied with a modified M24C5A Sweepster in which the steel brush on the unit was replaced with rubber paddles. The rotational movement of the paddles causes wear. The simulator allows control of both forward operating speed as well as paddle rpm. In addition to wear data, turfgrass quality has been assessed in the absence of wear since the inception of the test and 2009 data include entry susceptibility to dollar spot.

The 2006 NTEP tall fescue test has received season-specific applications of traffic (wear plus

compaction) in fall 2007, summer 2008, and spring and fall 2009. Wear is applied with the modified Sweepster and compaction is applied with an approximately 1.0-ton vibratory roller. The test is scheduled to receive traffic in summer 2009. Other data include non-trafficked turfgrass quality (2007-09) and brown patch susceptibility ratings taken on multiple dates in both 2008 and 2009. Similarly, research results can be found at the aforementioned websites.

Wear was applied to entries comprising the 2004 NTEP Perennial Ryegrass trial in the fall of 2009.

In late 2009, the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science constructed a Cady Traffic Simulator to compliment its current wear simulator. The new traffic simulator will be integrated into future turfgrass traffic stress tolerance projects at Rutgers. Comparison of the Cady traffic simulator with the modified Sweepster (wear) simulator will be made.

Rutgers research personnel include:

• Brad Park, Sports Turf Research &

FieldScience

Research Update

Education Coordinator

• Dr. James Murphy, Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management

T.J. Lawson, Research TechnicianBill Dickson, Research Farm

Supervisor • Joe Clark, Research Technician

• Dr. Bruce Clarke, Director,

Center for Turfgrass Science

Research results can be accessed at www.ntep.org and in the Rutgers Turfgrass Proceedings (www.turf.rut gers.edu/research/reports/index.html). Specific URLS for some reports include:

http://www.turf.rutgers.edu/research/re ports/2008/201.pdf and http://www.turf.rutgers.edu/research/re ports/2007/213.pdf

http://www.turf.rutgers.edu/research /reports/2006/179-196.pdf

Research is sponsored by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, and New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

For additional information, please contact Brad Park at park@aesop.rut gers.edu or murphy@aesop.rutgers.edu.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Weed management update: Indaziflam (Bayer CropScience), a new herbicide for preemergence and postemergence *Poa annua* control in warmseason turfgrass. Scott McElroy, Assistant Professor, and Jack Rose, Research Assistant.

Indaziflam is a new herbicide currently being evaluated for preemergence weed control in primarily warm-season turfgrass that was introduced at the 2009

Indaziflam is a new herbicide currently being evaluated for preemergence weed control in primarily warmseason turfgrass