THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

UWA Turf Research Newsletter

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Welcome

The UWA Turf Research Program has been working in partnership with the Australian Turf Industry to develop science-based best management practices for water and nutrient use Turfgrass, for over 15 years. The program has contributed to the development of the Australian Turf Industry and to a more sustainable environment for the broader community. Below we list the aims and status of current research projects, plus we acknowledge the UWA Turf Industries Research Steering Committee and other in-kind supporters who volunteer their time and expertise to ensure the program meets its aims.

UWA Turf Research: 2012 Overview

The UWA Turf Research Program is currently conducting two projects, both funded by Horticulture Australia Ltd (HAL) in partnership with the Turfgrass Industry.

Soft Leaf Buffalo Renovation and the Influence of Mowing Height on Water Use (2009–2012), HAL in partnership with the Turfgrass Industry

This project addressed two topics: (i) renovation trials for thatch removal on a diverse set of soft leaf buffalo genotypes; (ii) evaluations of the influence of mowing height on water use (soft leaf buffalo, couch, kikuyu and zoysia). Results were presented at the WA seminar day in 2011 and some findings have been published in industry journal papers. The final report is due for submission to HAL by 31st March 2012.

Effectively Utilising Water Allocations (2011–2016), HAL in partnership with the Turfgrass Industry

Water allocation is a key water planning method used to irrigate public open spaces in metropolitan Perth. This project will investigate approaches to best manage current and future water allocations by: (i) investigating if turfgrass can be maintained with a water allocation (7500 kL ha^{-1} $year^{-1}$), and the implications of further lowering the allocation on turfgrass quality; (ii) evaluating how an annual water allocation is best distributed during the year; and (iii) assessing if soil amendments improve the effectiveness of a water allocation.

Thankyou

Every year a number of individuals and businesses volunteer their time and services to the UWA Turf Research Program. Such contributions are invaluable as these ensure that our research remains relevant to the Turf Industry, and also decrease our costs.

In 2011 the **UWA Turf Industries Research Steering Committee,** and associated sub-committees, contributed over 300 hours to the UWA research program. Committee members identify research needs, as well as help develop and implement successful research proposals. Turf Research at UWA would not occur without our dedicated committee members. The composition of the committee is on our web-site (address below).

Site establishment and maintaining equipment (irrigator and mowers) can be a challenging proposition, as many of you are aware. We thank **Greenacres Turf Farm** for advising on irrigator maintenance; **City of Belmont** for providing turf for our recently commenced project on water allocations, **MowMaster** for servicing our high-cut mower; **Classic Hire** for discounting the cost of us using a turfgrass roller; and **Toro** for providing an irrigation controller at no charge. We also thank **Sports Turf Technology** for assisting us to establish new study sites within Local Government.

Publications from Past Projects

Over 30 Scientific and Industry papers have been published from the program since its inception. A list of the publications can be found on our website (http://www.plants.uwa.edu.au/research/turf) or by contacting Louise Barton (details below).

If you would like further information about the UWA Turf Research Program, please contact A/Prof Louise Barton (louise.barton@uwa.edu.au; 6488 2543) or Prof Tim Colmer (timothy.colmer@uwa.edu.au).