



UWA Turf Research Newsletter

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Welcome

The Kikuyu turfgrass plots at the UWA Turf Research Facility are in good condition despite the below average rainfall in July. Staff and contractors have been busy upgrading and repairing the irrigator in preparation for the start of the irrigation season. Work has included the upgrade of the irrigation software and controller-associated hardware, plus the replacement of the on-site weather station. Hopefully our hard work over winter will minimise irrigation disruptions over summer.



UWA Turf Research Facility, July 2012.

Water Allocation Project: Update

The Water Allocation study at the UWA Turf Research Facility commenced 1 July 2012. The project is investigating how to effectively utilise a water allocation, and its start was marked by measuring turfgrass growth and quality. Turfgrass growth will be measured at least every two weeks during the three year study, while turfgrass colour and soil water content will be measured every four weeks. Irrigation will commence in September, with the soil tested for water repellence every four weeks during the irrigation season.

The UWA Turf Industries Research Steering Committee has endorsed the study's experimental design: 3 water allocations x 3 irrigation schedules x 3 wetting agent rates x 3 replicates.

The three water allocations are 5000, 6250 or 7500 kL ha⁻¹ year⁻¹. The three irrigation schedules are: (1) each allocation distributed based on historical weather data from the Bureau of Meteorology; (2) Schedule 1 refined using ET measurements from an

onsite weather station; (3) Schedule 2 further refined using soil water content measurements to adjust irrigation decisions.

A soil wetting agent will be applied at one of three rates: nil (control), at the manufacturer's recommended rate, or double the manufacturer's recommended rate. The wetting agent included in the study is widely used by the local turfgrass industry, and its effectiveness has been demonstrated at industry-based sites.

Thank you WA Turf Apprentices

A big thank you to Local Government and the WA Bowling Association for providing apprentices to mow the turfgrass plots at the UWA Turf Research Facility. **Mr Christopher M^cGuinn** (City of Perth), **Mr Ryan Crisa** (City of Stirling), **Mr Andrew Garlick** (Morley Bowling Club) and **Mr Matthew France** (Yokine Bowling Club) are assisting with mowing on a monthly-basis, working side-by-side with Sam the project research officer. This in-kind contribution provides an opportunity for apprentices to learn about the research being conducted by UWA, while UWA researchers benefit from the apprentice's knowledge of turfgrass management and mower maintenance.

Soil Amendment Project Proposal

The UWA Turf Industries Research Steering Committee has plans for this new project. The research will focus on water use efficiency benefits for turf by amendment of our sandy soils using organic and inorganic amendments. A number of groups have expressed interest to be partners in the research, and the project team with help from a sub-committee are currently discussing involvement and potential amendments to be evaluated. Dr. Pieter Poot, a new member of the UWA Turf Research Team, is coordinating project development. We will introduce Pieter in our next newsletter.

2013 WA Turf Industry Seminar Day

Planning for the 2013 WA Turf Industry Seminar Day is underway. The event will be co-ordinated by Mrs Louise Edmonds, the WA Turf IDO, and will take place during winter in 2013. Updates on this event will be provided as planning progresses.

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).