



UWA Turf Research Newsletter

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
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Welcome

The UWA Turf Industries Research Committee has been busy assisting with the practical aspects of research, developing the Soil Amendment Project Proposal and commencing to organise the 2013 WA Turf Industry Seminar Day. Keep reading for details!

Soil Amendment Proposal Submitted

A research proposal aimed to investigate the efficacy of a range of soil amendments (organic, inorganic, blends) has been submitted to Horticulture Australia Ltd (HAL). Led by Pieter Poot, and in partnership with Tim Colmer and Louise Barton, the proposal has been supported by Water Corporation, soil amendment producers, the Western Australian Land Development Authority, a consortium of local government authorities, plus Turf Producers Australia.

Proposed outcomes of the research include independent verification of the:

- Efficacy of a range of recommended soil amendments in decreasing the irrigation requirements of turfgrass
- Mechanisms responsible for efficacy of soil amendments
- The amount of water that can be saved by using soil amendments and the resulting turfgrass quality

Successful projects will be announced by Horticulture Australia Ltd in April 2013.

2013 WA Turf Industry Seminar Day

The 2013 WA Turf Industry Seminar Day will be held on Wednesday 17th July 2013. The event will take place at 'The Rise Function and Convention Centre' in Maylands. The venue offers plenty of parking and is close to a train station. The Seminar Day planning committee, led by Ms Louise Edmonds (WA Turf Industry Development Officer), are busy finalising the program. We will continue to keep you informed of developments.

Water Allocation Project: Update

Irrigation of the turfgrass plots commenced in the first week of September. In the last newsletter the study's experimental design was outlined. You may recall that the project is comparing the effectiveness of three water allocations (5000, 6250 or 7500 kL ha⁻¹ per year) to maintain turfgrass growth and quality.

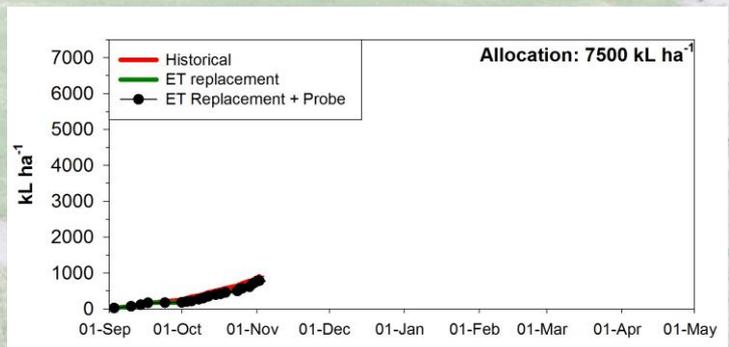
Each water allocation is distributed during the irrigation season using one of three approaches:

Schedule 1: Based on historical weather data from the Bureau of Meteorology

Schedule 2: Above schedule refined using ET measurements from an onsite weather station

Schedule 3: Further refinement of Schedule 2 by using soil moisture probe readings

By the end of October, 13–14% of the annual water allocation had been applied to all treatments. The graph below shows results for the 7500 kL ha⁻¹ allocation only. Slightly less water had been applied to the irrigation scheduling based on ET replacement than that using historical weather data for all water allocations.



Cumulative water application to the end of October for each of the three irrigation scheduling approaches

2013 UWA Turf Research Open Day

An informal Open Day at the UWA Turf Research Facility will be held on Wednesday 20th February. The Open Day will provide an opportunity for you and your staff to assess how the turfgrass plots are faring under the different water allocations. Further details of the event will be sent via email in January.

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), Dr Pieter Poot (pieter.poot@uwa.edu.au), or Prof Tim Colmer (timothy.colmer@uwa.edu.au).