



UWA Turf Research Newsletter

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
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Welcome

Thank you to those that visited the UWA Turf Research Facility in February for our Open Day. We had excellent attendance, despite the warm weather. We now welcome Autumn, as pressure on the irrigator decreases, and the Water Allocation project team will have an opportunity to review the approaches currently taken to allocate water.

2013 UWA Turf Research Open Day

This year's 'Open Day' was held at the UWA Turf Research Facility at Shenton Park on the 20th February. The morning provided the UWA team with an opportunity give an overview of the Water Allocation project, including aims, approach and outcomes. Approximately 110 people attended and inspected the turfgrass plots, after a brief presentation from the project team. On-site demonstrations explained how UWA researchers measure turfgrass colour and soil water content.



Open Day attendees viewing UWA turfgrass plots.

Photo courtesy of Nick Bell.

The morning provided UWA staff with an opportunity to discuss the study with the Turf Industry and to present some of the results to date, receive feedback about the research from Industry, as well as enable networking amongst the Turf Industry attendees.

You will get an opportunity to hear more about the UWA Turf Research Program at the 2013 WA Turf Industry Seminar to be held in July.

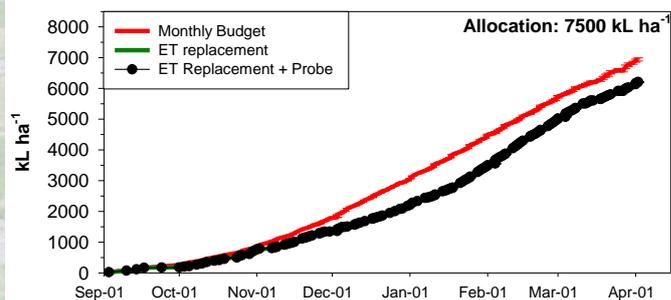
Water Allocation Project: Update

This 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:** A budget approach based on long-term evaporation data.
- **Schedule 2:** Schedule 1 refined using ET measurements from an onsite weather station.
- **Schedule 3:** Further refinement of Schedule 2 by using soil moisture probe readings.

Irrigation commenced in September 2012. Up to 93% of the annual allocation had been applied by the end of March 2013 (results for the 7500 kL ha⁻¹ allocation treatment with the 3 schedule methods are below).



Cumulative water applications for the 3 irrigation schedule methods for the 7500 kL ha⁻¹ per year allocation (September 2012 – March 2013).

2013 WA Turf Industry Seminar Day

The program for the 2013 WA Turf Seminar Day is almost finalised and will provide a day of interest. Perth's rapidly changing and developing urban environment is the focus of the program.

The 2013 WA Turf Industry Seminar Day will be held on Wednesday 17th July 2013 at "Tomkins Park" Function Centre in Alfred Cove ([note new location](#)). Registration details will be distributed within the next month.

Contact Tony Guy (Tony.Guy@allsaints.wa.edu.au) for further information.

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