



UWA Turf Research Newsletter

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Welcome

Winter provides an opportunity for the WA Turf Industry to catch up with irrigation and machinery maintenance, as well as attend conferences and seminar days. In this edition of the UWA Turf Research Newsletter we thank the WA Turf Industry for helping us with our winter maintenance program, as well as provide an update on other activities.

Irrigation Trench Upgrade

Once again, the WA Turf Industry has come together to assist with the maintenance of the UWA Turf Research Facility at Shenton Park. Thank you! The irrigation trench has suffered some minor collapses over the past two irrigation seasons; however, this will be a thing of the past with the installation of two limestone retaining walls. Members of the WA Turf Growers Association (WATGA) and the Sports Turf Association are thanked for co-ordinating the upgrade. A special thank you to Darren Kirkwood (President, WATGA) for volunteering his time to ensure the project was completed before the start of the 2013 irrigation season.

Volunteers from the WATGA and the Sports Turf Association draining the irrigation trench before removing the liner.



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 various approaches. The first irrigation season commenced in September 2012, with annual allocations applied by May 2013. The second irrigation season has just commenced (on 1 September). We will provide an update on our irrigation scheduling approach in the next newsletter.

Soil Amendment Project: Update

In late June 2013 it was announced by Horticulture Australia Ltd that our soil amendment project had been successful! By mid-October we plan to have this second field experiment up and running at the Shenton Park Turf Research Facility. Treatments will include 1 organic (compost) and 5 inorganic amendments (bentonite, kaolinite, spongelite, readygrit and zeolite), as well as organic-inorganic combinations. Amendments will be incorporated at rates between 7.5 and 15 kg m⁻² and plots will be watered two or three times per week during the irrigation season.

2013 WA Turf Industry Seminar Day

The 2013 WA Turf Seminar Day was held on 17 July at Tompkins on Swan in Alfred Cove. The Honourable Terry Waldron, Minister for Sport and Recreation, opened the day and discussed various issues with industry members during the coffee break. Speakers highlighted current issues related to planning and provision of turf surfaces in Public Open Space. Topics included: community benefits of turf, irrigation design and water management, water sources and recycling, and a Perth public open space database. Updates on UWA research were presented by Louise Barton (first year of data from the Water Allocations Project) and Pieter Poot (plans for the Soil Amendment Project).

The seminar day attracted ~ 160 delegates from across the turf industry and from Metro and Country areas. We thank the host industry associations, seminar sponsors, industry booth participants, all speakers and attendees, for making it such a successful event. Special thanks to Tony Guy, Eva Ricci and the Seminar Day Committee, for all their work. The WA Turf Seminar Day is held every second year and is organised by the UWA Turf Industries Research Steering Committee.



WA Turf Seminar Day Delegates. Photo E. Ricci

For further information 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).