



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 in February. Attendance was up on last year, despite the warm weather. We now welcome Autumn, as pressure on the irrigator decreases, and project members take an opportunity to review data.

2013 UWA Turf Research Open Day

This year's 'Open Day' was held at the UWA Turf Research Facility at Shenton Park on the 19th February. The UWA gave an overview of each project, including aims, approach and findings-to-date. Over 160 people attended and inspected the turfgrass plots after a brief presentation from each project team. The morning also provided an opportunity for UWA staff to receive feedback from Industry, as well as enable networking amongst the Turf Industry attendees.

Open Day attendees viewing UWA turfgrass plots.



Special thanks to the WA Turf Growers Association and Sports Turf Australia for providing a BBQ and cool drinks for attendees.

Water Allocation Project: Update

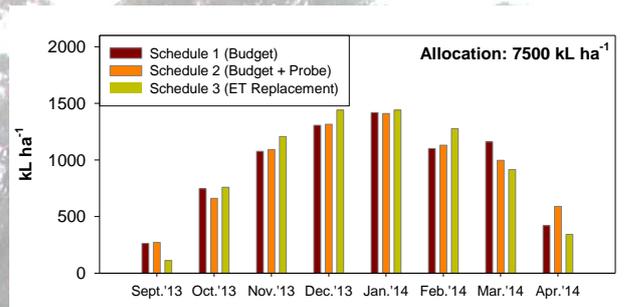
This project is comparing the effectiveness of three water allocations (5000, 6250 or 7500 kL ha⁻¹ per year) to maintain turfgrass growth and quality.

In 2013/14 each water allocation was distributed during the irrigation season (September–April) using one of three approaches:

- **Schedule 1:** A budget approach based on long-term evaporation data.
- **Schedule 2:** Schedule 1 refined using moisture probe readings.

- **Schedule 3:** Schedule 1 refined using ET measurements from an on-site weather station.

In 2013/14 water was fully allocated to Schedule 3 (ET replacement) by mid-April, and to Schedule 1 (monthly budget) and Schedule 2 (ET replacement + Probe) by the end of April.

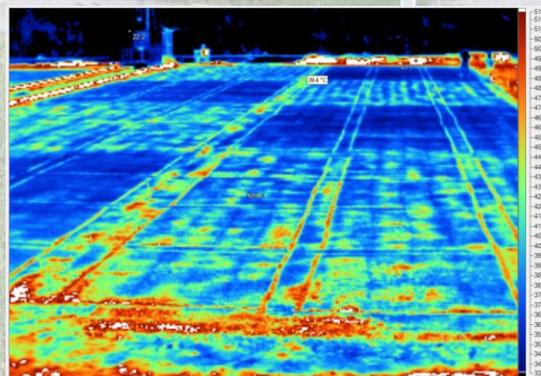


Monthly water applications for the 3 irrigation schedules for the 7500 kL ha⁻¹ per year allocation.

Soil Amendment Project: Update

This project is comparing the effectiveness of a range of soil amendments to increase the water holding capacity of our sandy soils. The main aim of the project is to evaluate whether soil amendments can decrease the irrigation requirements of turfgrass.

The experimental irrigation treatments commenced early February 2014. The irrigation treatments are 65% replacement of ET, with water applied 3 times per week, OR 47% replacement of ET, with water applied 2 times per week. Infrared measurements show the low irrigation treatment is warmer than the high irrigation treatment (see picture below).



Infrared image illustrating the effect of the two different irrigation treatments on surface temperature in February. The bluer the colour, the cooler the turfgrass surface.

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