



UWA Turf Research Newsletter

Number 2 Volume 13 May 2015

THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Welcome

The UWA Turf Research Program aims to provide strategic and applied science outcomes to improve knowledge on turfgrass and soil processes, thereby assisting turfgrass producers and managers. Best management practices aim for quality/appropriate turfgrass surfaces, while minimising risk of potential environmental impacts. The program is currently investigating the role of soil amendments, and the effectiveness of water allocations, in turfgrass management.

2015 WA Turf Seminar Day

The program for the 2015 WA Turf Seminar Day is taking shape and is sure to be a highlight of the year's Turf Industry calendar.

"Stadiums and new developments in WA" is the focus of the day, and the theme will be to examine the dual challenge of increasing demands on sporting facilities and water resources for irrigation as our population grows.

The 2015 WA Turf Seminar Day will be held on Wednesday 29th July 2015 at 'Tompkins on Swan', Alfred Cove. We will continue to send you details of this forthcoming event, but in the meantime please mark this date in your diaries!



2015 WA Turf Seminar Day delegates. Photo: E.Ricci

Water Allocation Project: Update

The Water Allocation Project is comparing how effectively turfgrass can be managed on a range of water allocations (5000, 6250 or 7500 kL/ha per year). We recently finished irrigating turfgrass plots for the third, and final season. Thanks to some good summer rains, all treatments were irrigated until at least mid-April. Turfgrass growth and quality data will continue to be measured until the end of June. Key findings will be presented at the 2015 WA Turf Seminar Day in July.

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 is to evaluate whether soil amendments can decrease the irrigation requirements of turfgrass. Similar to the first irrigation season (summer 2013/2014), the second irrigation season, which just finished, showed considerable browning in many of the low irrigation plots (50% ET replacement), with only small differences amongst amendment treatments. In the coming months, the results of this summer will be further analysed and will be presented at the 2015 WA Turf Seminar Day.

2015 UWA Turf Research Open Day

The annual UWA Turf Research Open Day was held on February 18th and attracted some 80 people from a variety of organisations including the Sports Turf Association (WA branch), WA Turf Growers association, Irrigation Australia, Local and State governments, product suppliers, the Water Corporation, and many others. The research leaders of both projects gave updates on findings-to-date, after which people had the opportunity to walk around and discuss the experiments with UWA research staff. Tony Guy, staff at All Saints College, and the Sports Turf Association (WA) are thanked for providing drinks and BBQ food. NuTurf is thanked for supplying the BBQ, and Adrian Pitsikias is thanked for providing bottled water and shade tents.



2015 UWA Turf Research Open Day. Photo: E.Ricci

Farewell to Sam

The UWA Turf Research Team has bid farewell to Sam Flottmann, who has accepted a position with CSIRO. Sam worked with Industry to develop and implement the irrigation scheduling that formed the backbone of the Water Allocation Project. He was responsible for maintaining the study site on a day-to-day basis, and collecting various turfgrass and soil measurements. We thank Sam for his attention to detail and hard work, and wish him well at CSIRO.

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