



# UWA Turf Research Newsletter

Number 1 Volume 13 February 2015

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## Welcome

The UWA Turf Research Program has been working in partnership with the Australian Turf Industry to develop science-based best management practices for water and nutrient use in turfgrass since 1995. The UWA Turf Industries Research Steering Committee assists with research development implementation and dissemination. We are proud to contribute to the development of the Australian Turf Industry and to a more sustainable environment for the broader community.

## UWA Turf Research: 2015 Overview

The UWA Turf Research Program is currently conducting two projects, both funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited (HIA) in partnership with Industry.

*Effectively Utilising Water Allocations (2011–2015), HIA in partnership with the Turfgrass Industry*

Water allocation is a key water planning method used to irrigate public open spaces in metropolitan Perth. This project is investigating approaches to best manage current and future water allocations by: (i) investigating if turfgrass can be maintained with a water allocation ( $7500 \text{ kL ha}^{-1} \text{ year}^{-1}$ ), and the implications of further lowering the allocation on turfgrass quality; (ii) evaluating how an annual water allocation is best distributed during the year; and (iii) assessing if wetting agents improve the effectiveness of a water allocation.

*Application of Soil Amendments to Maintain Turf Quality on Sandy Soils under Reduced Irrigation (2013–2016), HIA in partnership with the Turfgrass Industry*

Soil amendments have the potential to increase the water holding capacity of our sandy soils. This project is investigating: (i) the efficacy of a range of soil amendments in decreasing the irrigation requirements of turfgrass; (ii) the mechanisms responsible for variation in efficacy (e.g. changes in soil physical and chemical characteristics, increased soil water holding capacity, decreased soil hydrophobicity, responses of

turfgrass root growth); and (iii) the amount of water that can potentially be saved by using soil amendments, and the resulting turfgrass quality.

## 2015 UWA Turf Research Open Day

You are invited to an informal Open Day at the UWA Turf Research Facility on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. The Open Day will provide an opportunity for you and your staff to assess how turfgrass plots are fairing over summer under the various soil amendment and irrigation regimes.

You will see:

- How amending soil affects turfgrass quality under different irrigation regimes.
- How different water allocations, in combination with wetting-agents, have influenced the development of dry-patch.



*When: 10:00 am – NOON, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015.*

*Where: UWA Research Station, 1 Underwood, Avenue, Shenton Park.*

*RSVP: Helpful, but not necessary.*

*Contact: Louise Barton, [louise.barton@uwa.edu.au](mailto:louise.barton@uwa.edu.au)*

Presentations will commence at 10:00 am. The site is sandy, so wear closed footwear; plus bring a hat.

## UWA Turf Research Publications

Interested in past UWA Turf Research? All our past research has been summarised in Industry and Scientific publications, with detailed information provided in Final Reports. For further details go to <http://www.plants.uwa.edu.au/research/turf> or contact Louise Barton.

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