



UWA Turf Research Newsletter

Number 3 Volume 13 December 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 agronomy, 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 in turfgrass management.

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 and/or improve turfgrass quality when under a limiting water regime.

In the last year of the project the current field site, which has plots with a variety of amendments incorporated in the top 10 cm of the sandy soil, will be used to test the effect of topdressing (pictured below) on evaporation. Hydrological modelling suggests topdressing could potentially reduce the evaporative loss of applied irrigation water.



Topdressed turfgrass plots (a) and a new pot study (b)

In addition, a pot experiment (see picture above) has been setup at Shenton Park to test the effect of a range of soil profiles on turf water use. The results from this experiment may allow us to further generalise the results obtained from the project so far.

2015 WA Turf Industry Seminar Day

The 2015 WA Turf Seminar Day 'Perth's Fields of Dreams' was held on Wednesday 29 July at Tompkins on Swan in Alfred Cove. The premier turfgrass event organised by the Sports Turf Association (WA) and the Turf Growers Association of WA was definitely the place to be, attracting over 200 delegates and exhibitors from across the turf industry. Speakers

highlighted current challenges facing the imminent construction and development of major sports turf facilities in the Perth metropolitan area, as well as the planning and provision of water to public open spaces. Updates on UWA research were presented by Pieter Poot (Soil Amendment Project) and Louise Barton (Water Allocations Project). We thank the host industry associations, seminar sponsors, industry booth participants, all speakers and attendees, for making it such a successful event. The WA Turf Seminar Day is held every second year and is organised by the UWA Turf Industries Research Steering Committee.



2015 WA Turf Seminar Day Delegates. Photo E. Ricci.

Water Allocation Project: Final update

This project has been completed and the final report accepted by Horticulture Innovations Australia (HIA).

The project investigated approaches for effectively utilising water allocations for turfgrass. Our field-based study compared how combinations of water allocation amounts, watering schedules, and soil wetting agent use, affected turfgrass growth and quality, for three years.

Key findings have been summarised in a Factsheet that will be distributed electronically to all subscribers of the UWA Turf Research Newsletter.

Irrigator upgrade

The boom irrigator at Shenton Park has now been fully upgraded. The diesel motor has been replaced by a connection to mains electricity (no noise!), and water is supplied via an onsite container and a running hose (no trench!).



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