



UWA Turf Research Newsletter

Number 1 Volume 14 March 2016

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 to produce appropriate turfgrass surfaces, while minimising the 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 our last irrigation season we are testing the effect of topdressing (pictured below) on field plots that have a range of amendments incorporated in the top 10 cm. Hydrological modelling suggests topdressing could potentially reduce the evaporative loss of applied irrigation water and thus improve turfgrass quality under limited irrigation.



Topdressed turfgrass plots (a) and soil columns (b)

In addition, a soil column experiment (pictured above) has been setup at Shenton Park to test the effect of a range of soil profiles on turfgrass water use. Treatments include (1) incorporating amendments (bentonite or compost) at different depths in the soil profile (i.e. 0-10 or 5-15 cm), (2) using two different types of sand profiles, (3) using two species of turfgrass (i.e. soft-leaf buffalo or kikuyu), and (4) with and without soil wetting agent. The results from this

experiment will allow us to further generalise the results obtained from the project so far.

2016 UWA Turf Open Day

The annual UWA Turf Research Open Day was held on February 17th and attracted some 70 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 leader of the amendment project (Pieter Poot) gave an update on findings-to-date, after which people had the opportunity to walk around and discuss the experiments with UWA research staff. Baileys Fertiliser are thanked for providing the coffee and muffins, and the WA Turf Growers association for providing bottled water!



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 or Pieter Poot.

For further information contact Dr Pieter Poot (pieter.poot@uwa.edu.au; 6488 2491),

Dr Louise Barton (louise.barton@uwa.edu.au), or Prof Tim Colmer (timothy.colmer@uwa.edu.au).