



NTEP's News for You

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Dear Kevin,

As I write this, the outdoor temperatures are in the 90's F, during the hottest stretch of weather this summer in the Washington, DC area. However, much of the Eastern half of the U.S. has seen below normal temperatures this summer and rain has been adequate in many locations (California and the western states notwithstanding). Fall is quickly approaching and new seeding of cool-season grasses will be in full swing very soon. And then there's winter, which is predicted to be cold by the Farmers Almanac (which incorrectly forecasted a very warm summer this year). So it's anybody's guess what will happen!

We are still here to provide information on new grasses for use. We have much new performance data on our [web site](#)...please check it out!! Please keep in touch with us via social media. And if we can help you in any way, please feel free to [contact us!](#)

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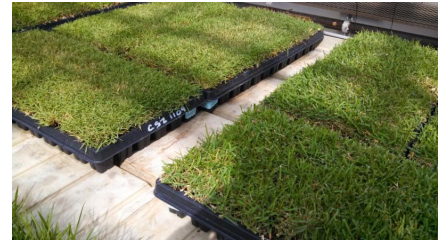


2013 WARM-SEASON TRIALS UPDATE

New plant material of bermuda, zoysia and a mixed warm-species trial for putting greens were replanted in some locations

NTEP was fortunate to initiate three trials of new warm-season grasses in 2013 - bermuda, zoysia and a three species trial for putting greens. The

three trials include a total of 80 vegetative entries and 18 seeded bermudagrasses. Each trial was planted at multiple locations with 2013 serving as an establishment year.



With the severity of winter 2013, we anticipated some winter damage and the need to do some replanting. As soon as spring arrived, we heard from several cooperators about the extent of the damage. Therefore, [here is the list of locations](#) that requested, and we sent, supplemental plant material. No additional replanting will take place with these trials, so we will surely note the survival of the fittest!

2014 TRIALS ASSEMBLED AND SHIPPED

New bentgrass and fineleaf fescue trials established in fall 2014

We have put the finishing touches on our new fineleaf fescue and bentgrass trials, which were mailed to cooperators last week. 21 trial locations received the fineleaf fescue trial, while the bentgrass fairway/tee and bentgrass putting green trials were each sent to 19 locations.

The fine fescue trial consists of 42 entries, the bentgrass putting green trial has 20 entries and the fairway/tee trial has 17 entries. Below is a list of entries and sponsors, and locations for each trial.

[2014 Fineleaf Fescue Trial Locations](#)

[2014 Fineleaf Fescue Entries and Sponsors](#)

[2014 Bentgrass \(Fairway/Tee\) Trial Locations](#)

[2014 Bentgrass \(Fairway/Tee\) Entries and Sponsors](#)

[2014 Bentgrass \(Putting Green\) Trial Locations](#)

[2014 Bentgrass \(Putting Green\) Entries and Sponsors](#)

NATIONAL ARBORETUM TURF EXHIBIT and GRASS ROOTS UPDATE

The *Grass Roots* outdoor turfgrass exhibit is almost completed!

After three years of planning, intense discussion, fundraising and finally construction, the outdoor turfgrass exhibit at the National Arboretum, the first of its kind at any location, is almost completed. Thanks to Geoff Rinehart, Grass Roots Coordinator, Scott Aker, Head Horticulturist, National Arboretum staff and National Turfgrass Federation interns, tremendous progress has been made since spring in designing, shaping and planting this exhibit. Opening this fall, the Grass Roots exhibit will showcase turf and landscape benefits for the next four years.



Following are some recent pictures of the exhibit and its development:



Our USGA spec putting green with 007 creeping bentgrass

Our pond with aquatic plants (left) and our Zeon zoysia 'fairway' (right).



For the past several newsletters, we have outlined the development of the outdoor turfgrass exhibit at the [U. S. National Arboretum](#), a 446 acre USDA, ARS research and education public gardens facility two miles from the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC. In addition, we have discussed the four-year focus on turfgrass entitled *Grass Roots*. *Grass Roots* will include a series of workshops, symposia and demonstrations over the four-year period, with the centerpiece of the program being the outdoor turfgrass exhibit.

The exhibit features 14 elements including a small scale golf hole, a small green roof, a rain garden, and over **40 different ornamental grass species**, as well as other interesting displays. Scientific review of the messaging for each element was completed by a committee of scientists from the Crop Science Society of America. In addition, web-based information has been developed, including a [Question and Answer](#) document, with all of the current web information found [on the National Arboretum web site](#). Additional web-based information is under

development and will be expanded over time.



The exhibit features fourteen different turfgrass cultivars and/or species, in some cases planted in blocks to highlight their differences and uses.



Our sports field element features Latitude 36 bermuda adjacent to synthetic turf.



The turf 'history walk'. Note the poles where banners will hang throughout the exhibit to explain each element. This section will also feature an irrigation display (in center of photo) and the benefits of fertilizing turfgrass.

Mr. Geoffrey Rinehart is the full-time Grass Roots Coordinator and he manages all aspects of *Grass Roots* development. Follow Geoff's progress with *Grass Roots* on  at NTF Grass Roots Initiative and  [Grass_Roots_NTF](#).

And a new collorary concept, the [National Greenscape Corridor](#), which links the National Arboretum with the [National Mall turf renovations](#) and [Arlington National Cemetery](#), is under development. All of this information can be found on the web at the [National Turfgrass Federation site](#).

The turf and green industries are stepping up to the plate, with an estimated \$385,000 in funds, product and services being provided thus far to help in the development and construction of the outdoor exhibit (see our [sponsors](#)). **However, we still need your help to keep *Grass Roots* rolling and to provide proper maintenance for the exhibit over the four year period. If we do not secure additional funding, will we not be able to maintain the outdoor exhibit beyond 2015.**

Sponsorship opportunities are still available (see [sponsorship levels and how to donate](#)). If you have interest in financially sponsoring the outdoor exhibit, please feel free to contact me at 301-504-5125 or kmorris@ntep.org.

We hope this newsletter and future issues provide some important information that you can use in your business or job. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kevin Morris
National Turfgrass Evaluation Program



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