

USGA Turfgrass & Environmental Research

THE USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee met in Washington, D.C., to complete the selection of new research projects for 2001. Fifteen new projects were selected with a three-year funding commitment of \$934,241. Of the new projects selected, three deal with putting green construction, four focus on the environmental impact of golf courses, and eight will investigate new integrated turfgrass management techniques (see table below). There were no new turfgrass breeding or molecular genetics projects selected. Two or three new Wildlife Links projects will be selected later this fall.

The announcement of the new research funding brings the USGA's commitment for 1998 through 2002 to more than \$8 million for the five-year period. Included in this funding amount are other popular USGA programs such as Wildlife Links, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, and the Turfgrass Information Center endowment. The 2001 proposal selection will be the last group of new projects for this five-year cycle. A new

call for proposals for the next five-year funding cycle, beginning in 2003, will be made in late 2001 or early 2002. The Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee will begin a thorough evaluation of the current projects and begin the process of assessing the future direction of the research program.

From 1983 through 2002, the USGA has funded more than 215 projects at a cost of \$21 million. This private, non-profit research program provides funding opportunities to university faculty interested in working on environmental and turf management problems affecting golf courses. More than 80 graduate students have benefited from USGA funding, most receiving a Master of Science degree. More than 20 new turfgrass varieties with improved water use or stress resistance were produced. Six reference books and hundreds of articles have been published, especially during the last ten years of the research program. The USGA remains the nation's leading authority on golf course management and construction and will continue in this role for years to come.

New research projects receiving funding through the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program for 2001-2003*

<u>Research Project</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Research Grant</u>
<u>Course Construction</u>		
Simulation of Putting Green Hydrology	Ohio State University/OARDC	\$ 28,850
Long-Term Assessment of Putting Green Rootzone Mixes Under Two Microenvironments	Rutgers University	90,000
Soil Physical Characterization of Aging Golf Greens	University of Nebraska	81,375
	Subtotal	200,225
<u>Environmental Impact</u>		
Best Management Practices to Reduce Pesticide Runoff from Turf	University of Illinois	59,633
Fate of Pesticides and Their Partitioning Among Water, Soil, and Biomass Elements in a Turfgrass Ecosystem	Kansas State University	90,000
Operational Comprehensive Fate and Transport Model for Turfgrass Pesticides	Cornell University	48,952
Modeling Nitrogen and Phosphorus Runoff and Leaching from Golf Courses Using PRZM3/EXAMS2	University of Georgia	90,000
	Subtotal	288,585
<u>Integrated Turfgrass Management</u>		
Evaluation of Golf Turf Management Systems with Reduced Chemical Pesticide Inputs	Cornell University	87,000
Identification of Mechanisms of Resistance in Kentucky Bluegrass for Control of Black Cutworm in Turfgrass	University of Wisconsin	72,740
Three Biocontrol Agents for Pest Mole Crickets in Georgia	University of Florida	24,070
Determination of Critical Thresholds of Soil Temperature and Heat Accumulation Capacity Controlling Summer Bentgrass Decline for Various Creeping Bentgrasses	Kansas State University	89,985
Growth and Pathogenicity of <i>Ophiosphaerella agrostis</i> and Epidemiology of Bentgrass Dead Spot, a New Pathogen and Disease of Creeping Bentgrass	University of Maryland	27,000
Management of New Dwarf Bermudagrasses	Texas A&M University	21,156
Evaluation of Ultradwarf Bermudagrass Cultural Management Practices	University of Florida	32,480
On-Site Evaluation of Golf Course Products: Wetting Agents	GCSAA	100,000
	Subtotal	454,431
	Total	\$943,241

*Total research grant to be divided over the three-year funding cycle.

Physical Soil Testing Laboratories*

The following laboratories are accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), having demonstrated ongoing competency in testing materials specified in the USGA's Recommendations for Putting Green Construction. The USGA recommends that only A2LA-accredited laboratories be used for testing and analyzing materials for building greens according to our guidelines.

BROOKSIDE LABORATORIES, INC.

308 S. Main Street, New Knoxville, OH 45871
Attn: Mark Flock
(419) 753-2448 • (419) 753-2949 FAX

EUROPEAN TURFGRASS LABORATORIES LIMITED

Unit 58, Stirling Enterprise Park
Stirling FK7 7RP Scotland
Attn: John Souter
(44) 1786-449195 • (44) 1786-449688 FAX

N. W. HUMMEL & CO.

35 King Street, P.O. Box 606
Trumansburg, NY 14886
Attn: Norm Hummel
(607) 387-5694 • (607) 387-9499 FAX

ISTRC NEW MIX LAB, LLC

1530 Kansas City Road, Suite 110
Olathe, KS 66061
Attn: Bob Oppold
(800) 362-8873 • (913) 829-8873
(913) 829-4013 FAX
e-mail: istrcNewMixLab@worldnet.att.net

LINKS ANALYTICAL

22170 S. Saling Road, Estacada, OR 97023
Attn: Michael S. Hindahl, Ph.D.
(503) 630-7769

THOMAS TURF SERVICES, INC.

1501 FM 2818, Suite 302
College Station, TX 77840-5247
Attn: Bob Yzaguirre / Jim Thomas
(409) 764-2050 • (409) 764-2152 FAX

TIFTON PHYSICAL SOIL TESTING LABORATORY, INC.

1412 Murray Avenue, Tifton, GA 31794
Attn: Powell Gaines
(912) 382-7292 • (912) 382-7992 FAX

TURF DIAGNOSTICS AND DESIGN, INC.

310-A North Winchester Street
Olathe, KS 66062
Attn: Sam Ferro
(913) 780-6725 • (913) 780-6759 FAX

*Revised November 2000. Please contact the USGA Green Section (908-234-2300) for an updated list of accredited laboratories.

Two Welcome Additions to the Green Section Staff — Jeff Nus and Todd Lowe



From left: Jeff Nus and Todd Lowe.

TO MEET THE NEEDS of the ever-growing number of golf courses in Florida, Todd Lowe recently was hired as an agronomist for the Florida region.

Todd is a graduate of the University of Florida, where he majored in environmental horticulture, and he received a master's degree in horticulture from Clemson University in 1998, working with Dr. Bert McCarty. His master's degree studies focused on turfgrass weed control.

Todd gained his first real turfgrass experience at the age of 14, when he worked with his father, then a golf course superintendent in Florida. In 1999, Todd was selected as one of 15 students from across the country to participate in the USGA Green Section Internship Program, during which he spent a week making Turf Advisory Service visits with Green Section agronomists. Most recently, Todd worked at the Old Collier Golf Course in Naples, Florida. Old Collier currently is under construction and is being planted entirely to seashore paspalum.

Todd will be located on Florida's West Coast and will make Turf Advisory Service visits to the golf courses in that area. He will work with

John Foy, director of the Florida Region.

Dr. Jeff Nus has joined the USGA Green Section staff in the newly created position of manager, Green Section Research. In this capacity, Jeff will create educational materials that summarize the results of the USGA's Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program. The information will be disseminated through the *Green Section Record*, the USGA website, and other communications media.

Most recently, Jeff served as director of research for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Prior to his 10-year stint at GCSAA, Nus spent six years as an assistant professor at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. Currently he is the chairman of the Crop Science Society of America's Turfgrass Division. Jeff earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in horticulture, specializing in turfgrass management, from Iowa State University.

Jeff will base his office in Lawrence, Kansas, and report to Dr. Mike Kenna, director, Green Section Research.

The USGA Green Section staff welcomes both Todd and Jeff to the staff, and wishes them much success.

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

JAMES T. SNOW, Editor