

The ZOU

Monthly Newsletter

Issue #2

Week of August 25th, 2008



Memorial Stadium/Faurot Field
University of Missouri

MIZZOU Football!

Is here and I couldn't be happier to be back in Columbia. I left for the summer to intern in Washington, DC with the Washington Nationals. There I was able to learn from one of the best Head Groundskeepers in the game, Larry DeVito. Larry and his assistant, John Royse, shared a lifetime of baseball field and Sports Turf knowledge with me. They gave me hands on experience with everything. Anything they would do on the field, I would do. During my internship I had the opportunity to travel to Philadelphia to visit and work with another Head Groundskeeper, Mike Boekholder from the Phillies, for a day. Mike was able to share his Sports Turf knowledge with me as well. He explained how he will eventually will have to switch his field from

Kentucky Bluegrass to Bermuda so that the field can hold up through the grind of concerts and events on it during the baseball season. While in Philly I had the chance to visit the Eagles Stadium and meet with Head Groundskeeper, Tony Leonard, where his Patriot Bermuda field was looking great! My summer internship also took me to Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore where Head Groundskeeper, Nicole Sherry invited myself and another Nationals Intern up to see the park and a game. My internship experience was great and I'm really glad I was able to have the opportunity to work on and visit all these Major League playing surfaces. I encourage all of you to consider an internship before your time is up at Mizzou.

Richie Prendergast

South Farm Showcase

The South Farm Showcase is a free event put on by CAFNR and the Missouri Agriculture Experience Station that gives mid-Missourians a chance to tour the farm and learn about ongoing MU research on native plants, water quality, agroforestry, alternative fuels, beef and most importantly, turfgrass. The Turf Club will be doing their part to make this an enjoyable learning experience for all visitors and will be stationed at the all the different turfgrass locations to help. **September 27th. 10am to 4pm**

Upcoming Events

- **Seed Sale**
Anheuser-Busch Building
University of Missouri
September 11-12, 2008
9am-5pm
- **South Farm Showcase**
at the
University of Missouri
South Farms
September 27, 2008
10am-4pm
- **Missouri Green Industry Conference**
St. Louis, MO
December 3-4, 2008
- **Common Ground Conference**
Overland Park, KS
December 16-17, 2008

WELCOME BACK!



"We don't tarp for clouds."

Larry DeVito
Head Groundskeeper
Washington Nationals



Billy Pipp works to repair the home bullpen at Nationals Park in Washington DC this summer

News to KNOW!

Another summer comes to an end...

As summer winds down and another fall semester begins, some changes in the turf program are in place. Our new assistant professor, Xi Xiong (pronounced "she she-ong"), started last Friday on August 15th. Dr Xiong will be teaching Turf 3355 and eventually Advance Turf 4355. Her office is in 214 waters Hall. Please stop by to introduce yourself and welcome her to Mizzou.

Another bit of progress for the program includes the announcement to fill a Turfgrass Pathologist position. A search committee has been formed

and the position announcement written and posted. We hope to interview candidates this fall and have that individual on board in the spring. This position will be 70% extension and 30% research. This individual will also contribute much to our program in the way of turfgrass diseases and diagnosis. So needless to say, we are seeing exciting things taking place for turf sciences at Mizzou.

Let's look forward to a great fall semester and exciting football season!

Hope you all have a safe trip back to Mizzou,

Brad Fresenburg

Kenton's Corner

Dear Turf Club Members,
I hope everyone had a great summer and learned many valuable lessons. It is amazing sometimes how fast the summer will fly by and the next thing you know school is starting again. This year's Turfgrass and Ornamental Field day turned out well. Despite the small rain shower that we got in the morning we had beautiful weather, a great group of spectators and speakers talking about their research. We had a lot of vendors show up and a few demonstrated their new products that they had to offer.

At the 2008 Ozark Turf Association Scholarship and Research Tournament down at Old Kinderhook we had a great turnout, with a full field participation. I would like to thank the members that came down to help and represent the turf club. We had many donations of rounds of golf, a push mower, St. Louis Cardinals tickets, and other supplies for our raffle to raise money.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 27. This is the Annual South Farms Showcase that will be held for the public to demonstrate what is done on the farm and what CAFNR is all about.

On the turf side we will be having 19th hole clubhouse again and allowing kids to run the bases and chip and put on the green. We will be doing the raffle again as a fundraiser for the turf club, so be thinking and talking with people about possible donations. Once again I hope everyone had a great summer and hope the school year goes well!

Kenton M. Binkholder



Kenton Binkholder educates a crowd about his research on Glyphosate Resistant Bluegrass during the Turfgrass and Ornamental Field Day at Southfarm

Tips from Daniel

Welcome back Turf Club Members! I hope everyone had an awesome summer and I look forward to hearing from everyone about what you learned from your job or internship experiences this summer.

Well school is back again and fall is right around the corner. This summer has been mild for mid Missouri for summer temperatures this year and we have had an excessive amount of rain at times when you would least expect it. I am not sure what to expect this fall, but I do expect to see cooler temperatures and possibly an early frost. At this point I think my guess is as good as yours.

As we all know September is the prime month for cool season grasses. Many things such as: seeding, over seeding, fertilizer applications, and core/solid tine aeration beings. I know many of you will continue your jobs this fall and some of you might be working for golf courses, athletic fields, sod farms, landscaping, and lawn care companies. For others I know you might be doing side jobs on your own getting your name and out there trying to start out on your own, which is a great experience all on its own. I want to point out some key things to keep in mind this fall when doing these things no matter what type of job you might have in the turfgrass industry.

1. Always be aware of the turfgrasses you're working with (cool or warm-season) when applying fertilizers and pesticides during the fall.
2. Make sure you're applying the correct fertilizer for this time of the year and at the correct application rate.

Look for fertilizers that have higher nitrogen and potassium percentages when applying to established cool season turfgrasses. If fertilizing when seeding a new area, always do a soil test first to know the correct fertilizer recommendations. For more information you can visit:

<http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/mastergardener/mg0010.htm#renovation>

3. Choose the best turfgrass cultivars when seeding or overseeding any turf. Do your research before just grabbing a bag of seed at Lowe's or Home Depot. (The NTEP website <http://www.ntep.org/contents2.shtml> is a good source for information for the best cool season cultivars in the transition zone.)

4. Fall and spring is considered one of the best times for soil aerification whether using a solid tine or hollow tine aerator. An ideal time to aerify is when the soil is moist throughout the soil profile. This will make it easier for the aerator tines to penetrate deeper into the soil profile. Aerification breaks up compacted soils or thatch layers within a turf allowing air, water, and nutrients to get into the soil profile to the roots of the turfgrass plants.

DANIEL EARLYWINE

Turfgrass Graduate Research Assistant
University of Missouri



Contact Us:

*Turfgrass Research Center
3600 East New Haven Road
Building 50
Columbia, MO 65201*

Web Site:

turf.missouri.edu

Brad Fresenburg
Office: 573-442-4893
fresenburgb@missouri.edu

Kenton M. Binkholder
Office: 573-442-4893
Cell: 573-823-2710
binkholderk@missouri.edu

Richie Prendergast
rtp638@mizzou.edu

TURF CLUB OFFICERS

*PRESIDENT: Richie Prendergast
VICE PRESIDENT: John Daniels
STUCO REP: Cory Gettemeier
SECRETARY: Zach Lowenstein
TREASURER: John Haguewood
HISTORIAN: Mark Peper
FUNDRAISER: Kenton Binkholder
ADVISOR: Brad Fresenburg*