

2009 'Happenings' at Turfgrass Research

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The 2009 season was a challenging, but dynamic, one. The amount of projects was down a little because of the economy, including the elimination of all but one of the NTEP (National Turfgrass Evaluation Program) trials. However, this allowed for improvements and changes of many sections of the research area. There was approximately 70,000ft² of newly seeded areas to be used for future research projects, which included many species and varieties. The species were tall fescue (30,000ft²), creeping bentgrass (8,000ft²), perennial ryegrass (11,000ft²), fine-leaf fescue (8,000ft²), and Kentucky bluegrass (13,000ft²).

In addition to the seeding, there were approximately 50 new Rainbird[®] irrigation heads installed to upgrade the Rainbird[®] irrigation section. There were also new Toro[®] irrigation heads received as a donation from the Toro Giving Program to upgrade the remaining irrigated areas. A slightly used Toro[®] irrigation controller (Veenker Memorial Golf course) and a new Toro[®] irrigation controller were donated for use and upgrade of the irrigation system. The older, gently used Rainbird[®] irrigation controllers were set in place of outdated ones to give a slight upgrade in other areas. Special thanks to the Toro Giving Program for supporting much of the update of the irrigation system.

One last item that changed at the turfgrass research area was the removal of the Heatway[®] heating system. The Heatway[®] system consisted of a shed that contained a boiler. The boiler circulated heated coolant throughout rubber tubes that were woven throughout a fixed sand-based area at the station.

Hopefully, 2010 will bring new and an increased number of studies to the turfgrass research area.