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## Update on Turfgrass Research

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# Update on Turfgrass Research

## **Abstract**

The 2009 season was a challenging, but dynamic, one. The number of projects was down slightly 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 70,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of newly seeded areas for future research projects, which included many species and varieties. The species were tall fescue (30,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), creeping bentgrass (8,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), perennial ryegrass (11,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), fine-leaf fescue (8,000ft<sup>2</sup>), and Kentucky bluegrass (13,000 ft<sup>2</sup>).

## **Keywords**

RFR A9057, Horticulture

## **Disciplines**

Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Horticulture

## Update on Turfgrass Research

### RFR-A9057

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The 2009 season was a challenging, but dynamic, one. The number of projects was down slightly 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 70,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of newly seeded areas for future research projects, which included many species and varieties. The species were tall fescue (30,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), creeping bentgrass (8,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), perennial ryegrass (11,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), fine-leaf fescue (8,000ft<sup>2</sup>), and Kentucky bluegrass (13,000 ft<sup>2</sup>).

In addition to the seeding, there were approximately 50 new Rainbird<sup>®</sup> irrigation heads installed to upgrade the Rainbird<sup>®</sup> irrigation section. There were also new Toro<sup>®</sup>

irrigation heads received as a donation from the Toro Giving Program to upgrade the remaining irrigated areas. A slightly used Toro<sup>®</sup> irrigation controller (Veenker Memorial Golf course) and a new Toro<sup>®</sup> irrigation controller were donated for use and upgrade of the irrigation system. The older, gently used Rainbird<sup>®</sup> irrigation controllers were set in place of outdated ones to give an upgrade in other areas.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<sup>®</sup> heating system. The Heatway<sup>®</sup> 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 new studies to the turfgrass research area.