International Turfgrass

The Newsletter of the International Turfgrass Society

September 2019

14th International Turfgrass Research Conference Copenhagen, Denmark

11-16 July 2021

First call for submissions of titles and short abstracts for oral and poster presentations

Deadline: 1 Dec. 2019

Titles and abstracts for oral and poster presentations at 14th International Turfgrass Research Conference 11-16 July 2021 can now be uploaded at https://itrc2021.org/. The purpose of this early submission is, firstly, to help organizers develop a program draft. The conference will include both thematic sessions and interdisciplinary sessions highlighting main societal challenges (climate change, restrictions on pesticide and fertilizer use, pressure on natural resources, biodiversity loss etc.) from various perspectives. Secondly, this early submission of titles and short abstracts shall help organizers ensure that we have sufficient review capacity for the flow manuscripts expected by the deadlines 1 May 2020 (full papers) and 1 Sep. 2020 (short communication or technical papers, max length 3 pages). Please note that all presentations at the conference - oral and posters - must be accompanied by a scientific or technical paper accepted for publication in International Turfgrass

In July, most all members of the ITS Board members meet in Copenhagen to plan and preparation for the 14th ITRC. As a result, you see the call for papers has been announced. If interested, please think about proposing a host location for the 16th ITRC in 2029. In the meantime, have you renewed your ITS 2017 to 2021 membership? Remember to submit a paper for publication in one of the several journal options, at least one author must be a member of the society.

Also, if you have any newsworthy stories or information for readers of International Turfgrass, I hope you will consider submitting an article for the next newsletter in January 2020.

I hope you enjoy the very good articles in this edition.

Sincerely,

Nathan R. Walker

Society Research Journal (ITSRJ), Crop Science (CS) or Agronomy Journal (AJ). Crop Science and Agronomy Journal are options mainly for those wanting their paper published in a journal with impact factor.

Please <u>click here</u> to get to the conference website where you can submit the title (max 150 characters) and short abstract (max 1000 characters) of your contribution for ITSC 2021. There is no restriction on the number of submissions by each individual author, but it is a requirement that at least one of the authors of a paper is a member of ITS.



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Medio Sep. 2019	Call for papers	
1 Dec. 2019	Deadline for submission of titles / short abstracts (necessary to start build program)	
1 Feb. 2020	Draft outline for thematic and interdicipliary sessions. Feedback to authors	
1 May 2020	Manuscript submission deadline – full papers.	
1 Jul. 2020	Manuscript reviews back to authors	
1 Sep. 2020	Deadline for revised manuscripts – full papers.	
1 Sep. 2020	Manuscript submission deadline – Technical papers /short communications	
1 Feb. 2021	Review process completed	
1 May 2021	Last revisions – scientific program	
1 June 2021	ITS membership and ITSRC registration confirmed before accepted papers are made accessible at journal homepage and confernce app.	

Shaping the Future of ITS - ITS Mid-Term Board Meeting 2019

Wednesday July 10th to Friday July 12th By Maria Strandberg, ITS president, Sweden

Arenas like ITS and the International Turfgrass Research Conference are very important to meet the challenges we face, both global challenges and sector-specific challenges. These arenas give us opportunities to improve and further develop important international interdisciplinary collaboration, which is the only viable strategy to overcome current challenges and create a sustainable future.

The theme of the ITS Mid-Term Board Meeting was "Shaping the future of ITS". Today, our most important challenge is to increase the number of ITS members and the participants at our conferences. We have good opportunities to do this if we look at the turfgrass society from a broader perspective and identify and develop benefits of the ITS membership also to people from a wider cross-section of interests in turfgrass science.

Workshop

I was very glad to welcome 24 ITS Officers and National Directors from 16 countries to the ITS Mid-Term Board Meeting in Copenhagen. The meeting started with a one-day workshop, moderated by Bruno Hedlund, with the keywords Communicating - Attracting – Expanding. The need to attract new members to ITS was the primary reason for conducting the workshop and our goals are to

increase the number of members to 300 for 2019-2021 and 500 for 2021-2025.

Based on the ITS survey carried out during 2017-2018 the following important items were discussed:

- How to increase number of ITS members and number of ITRC 2021 participants?
- Activities between the ITS conferences
- Improved communication
- Future strategies for ITS publications
- Input to ITRC 2021 programme



Fig. 1: ITS Board of Officers and Directors together with some guests, July 2019.

ITS board agreed on the following actions:

- Set and implement routines for launching a calendar of events with major activities of ITS and related organizations
- Revisit cost of ITS membership (possibly yearly option vs 4-year membership fees to attract new members).
- Send out subscription renewal to existing (and previous) members
- Introduce new membership categories
- Investigate the need for improved website functionality
- Investigate the need to have a social media presence
- Make an inventory resulting in a list of professional turfgrass related societies around the world
- Based on the new membership categories, each board member will recruit 10 ITS members
- All officers shall contact and connect to regional turfgrass organisations
- Encourage commercial companies to promote the society



Networking in the Copenhagen university park, close to the conference venue.

Technical Tour

On the Thursday, the board was treated to an all-day bus tour visiting the ITRC 2021 conference venue at Copenhagen University, including a tour in the university park, (see related article in this newsletter) and some of the venues that will be showcased during the Technical Tours at the 14th ITRC in 2021. These included Frederiksborg castle garden. A historical baroque and romantic castle garden with many different lawn types and management strategies. Furesø golf course, a golf course with a scientific and systematic approach to golf course maintenance and the first Danish golf club awarded with the environmental prize of the golf sport. Furesø golf



Frederiksborg castle garden.

course will also host the conference event "Eat your Golfcourse". Brøndby stadium, the home stadium for one of the top clubs in Denmark with hybrid grass and artificial turf training facilities. The tour ended at DLF research station in Store Heddinge where we got an introduction to their breeding programme and a tour to experimental facilities and field trials. The day was concluded by a fantastic BBQ dinner hosted by the DLF.



Furesø golf course.

ITS Mid-Term Business meeting

The Board held its business meeting on Friday morning, 12 July to review action items from the Pre- and Post-Conference ITS Board meetings in New Brunswick, NJ in 2017 and to hear reports from several ITS Officers. J.R. James, ITS Treasurer, provided a financial update showing that ITS is in excellent financial standing. ITS Historian ITS Richard Gibbs, ITS Newsletter Editor Nathan Walker, ITS Website Editor Tom Hsiang, and ITS membership campaign chair Christian Jensen all provided updates to the board on their previous activities and plans for the coming year.



Brøndby stadium.

Trygve Aamlid Editor-in-Chief of the 14th ITRC 2021 Journal, and Ruth Mann ITS Vice-President gave an overview of the editorial procedures and paper submission schedule planned for the ITRC in 2021 (see related article in this newsletter). I presented the draft budget for ITRC 2021, which was agreed by the board. Trygve Aamlid, chair of the scientific program committee, gave an overview of the proposed conference program. The United Nations´ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the 2030 Agenda will constitute



DLF research station in Store Heddinge.



BBQ in DLF garden in Store Heddinge.

the conference programme framework. The ITRC 2021 programme will include keynote speakers, oral and poster presentations, industry networking opportunities, technical tours, social events and much more. The One-Day Practitioner Seminar "Modern Sports Turf Management" is new for this conference. This seminar is a meeting arena for practitioners and turfgrass researchers. The meeting also concluded an updated wrap-up of the 13th ITRC in New Brunswick NJ, by Bruce Clarke ITS Past President. The board agreed that the 13th ITRC was a great success and returned a substantial profit to the ITS, earmarked for the 14th ITRC. Hideaki Tonogi, ITS President-Elect, presented the plans for the 15th ITRC, which will be held in Japan in July 2025.

The ITS board and the ITRC 2021 planning group hope that the articles in the newsletter will have piqued your interest and curiosity about ITRC in 2021 in Copenhagen. This is a conference that you will not want to miss! So be sure to save the dates for July 11 - 16, 2021 in Copenhagen, Denmark. For more information about the ITRC 2021 please visit www.itrc2021.org.

14th International Turfgrass Research Conference Venue in

Copenhagen, July 11 - 16, 2021

By Nathan Walker, ITS Newsletter Editor Oklahoma State University



The next International Turfgrass Research Conference will be arranged by STERF (Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environment Research Foundation) in Copenhagen 2021.

The venue will be located at the University of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg Campus (Thorvaldsensvej 40) in Marmorhallen near the

Copenhagen Plant Science Center. Please note there are several University of Copenhagen campuses in and around Copenhagen, so make sure you go to the correct campus. I found that if you use google earth and enter "Frederiksberg volley, Copenhagen" this building is directly east of Marmorhallen. The campus is a short walk of about 15-20 minutes from the Main



Exterior of Marmorhallen on University of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg Campus.

Copenhagen Central Station. This will be an ideal location for the 14th International Turfgrass Research Conference with plenty of space for attendees to



One of the auditoriums inside Marmorhallen on University of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg Campus. move around, view posters, visit with colleagues, and meet new turfgrass professionals from around

and meet new turfgrass professionals from around the world. Marmohallen is a very large building and classes will be mostly out of session and several different auditoriums will be available for conference



Plenty of room for poster viewing and conversing in Marmorhallen.

speakers. I think all conference attendees will find that this will be an ideal location for the conference, plus the venue will all be available at no charge to attendees which will help keep meeting costs down.



Cafe Vaeksthuset across the street from Marmorhallen - keep an eye out for bicyclists.

As with all University campuses there will be a variety of locations attendees can get a small bite to eat. The Cafe Vaeksthuset is directly across the street from Marmorhallen. In front of the Cafe there is an extensive garden with flowers fruits and vegetables. If you like, you can wander under many rose trellises to the very well manicured Garden of the Royal Danish Veterinarian and Agricultural High School. Given the very mild July weather we can expect during the conference I expect many will enjoy a stroll through the gardens

I look forward to the ITRC in 2021 I think we have an excellent venue to learn the latest cuttingedge research in the turfgrass industry and I am sure everyone will enjoy the friendly city of Copenhagen.

The most recent information about ITRC 2021 can be found on www.itrc2021.org.



Garden of the Royal Danish Veterinarian and Agricultural High School.

The 6th European Turfgrass Society Field Days - Padova (IT) 27th-28th May 2019

"Transitioning Turfgrasses" by Alessandro De Luca, Italian Golf Federation

The 6th ETS European Turfgrass Society Field Days, was held at Padova University and Montecchia Golf Club, Padova (IT), last May 27th - 28th 2019, with the theme "Transitioning turfgrasses".

Two intense days of study on turfgrasses, with more than 160 participants from Europe and also from the United States, with a welcome mix of academics, practitioners and turfgrass industry delegates.

The main topic covered by the 6^{th} European Turfgrass Society (ETS) Field Days was the management of turfgrasses in the transition zone, considering the new maintenance trends.

The seminars were held at the University of Padova - Campus of Agripolis - on the morning of the 27th, and at the Golf della Montecchia, Selvazzano Dentro (PD), on the morning of the 28th, while the afternoons of both days were dedicated to the technical visits.

Work opened on the morning of May 27th with the invited speaker presentations given by Michel Pirchio, Researcher at Pisa University, showing the different autonomous mowing solutions and innovations. Prof. Gerald Henry from the University of Georgia (USA), followed the first presentation, talking about the site-specific management for reduction of turfgrass inputs.



Day 1: The 6th European Turfgrass Society Field Days - Padova University.



Prof. Diego Gomez de Barreda, from the University Politecnica of Valencia (Spain), showed the challenges and opportunities for growing grass in the transition zone. Dott. Lucia Bortolini, researcher at the University of Padova, presented a study on high distribution uniformity of irrigation systems to ensure turf quality and efficient use of water. Cristina Pornaro from the DAFNAE of the University of Padova, talked about a new hyperspectral based system for the estimation of weeds and botanical composition of turfgrasses. Professor Geunhwa Jung, from the University of Massachusetts (USA), presented a study conducted in two golf courses in Japan and in South Korea, where it was highlighted the importance of rolling fairways in order to control Sclerotinia homeocarpa (Dollar Spot). Discussion with questions to the speakers followed presentations.

After a delicious lunch, the afternoon was dedicated to field visits at the Azienda Agraria Sperimentale of the University of Padova, where the participants observed the experimental parcels of some Poa pratensis cultivars, showing resistance to drought stress with different levels of fertilisation. Furthermore, during the field visit, it was showed a method for the determination of the optimum time for Bermudagrass seeding in the transition zone, a comparison between new Lolium perenne and Festuca arundinacea cultivars, and the possible use of Achillea millefolium for low maintenance turfgrasses. Last visit of the day was at the Landlab Company, a research center well known for the hi-quality of the results provided, where, after the visit, a delightful dinner was offered and was much appreciated.

Day 2 was held at the Golf della Montecchia, a course that is much involved in the environmental sustainability since many years.

Michael Kenna, the director of the Green Section of the United States Golf Association (USGA), opened the seminar morning, talking about the US Experiences on Sustainable Turfgrass Management, focusing on water conservation, environmental benefits, pesticide and nutrient fate. Alessandro De Luca, responsible of the Turfgrass Section of the Italian Golf Federation, has showed the "Biogolf case study", a management project that include 9 out of 27 holes, inspired by the organic farming protocols. The practical implications of this project were then showed during the Course visit in the afternoon, and described below.

Following De Luca, Prof. Stefano Macolino from the DAFNAE of the University of Padova, presented a study on the naturalization process of roughs, to enhance golf courses biodiversity and permit to reduce management inputs. Simone Magni, researcher at Pisa University, talked about the conversion methods from cool season to warm season turfgrasses. The Superintendent of the Golf della Montecchia, Brian Og O'Flaherty, has reported and focused the presentation on the positive results of the course after the conversion with Cynodon spp. (hybrid bermudagrass). Seminars were closed with the last presentation of Massimo Mocioni from Agroinnova, University of Torino, showing the different strategies for the management of the main turf diseases without the use of pesticides.

The afternoon was dedicated to the visit of the 9 holes of the "Percorso verde" of Golf della



Day 2: The 6th European Turfgrass Society Field Days - Golf della Montecchia.



Golf della Montecchia: example of providing diverse habitats in the golf course landscape.

Montecchia where, since January 2015, the "Biogolf case study" started. The management is inspired by the organic farming fundamental principles: enhancing all the agronomic practices to reduce the incidence of diseases, weeds and insects in the terms of turf management. Fundamental for the project was the involvement of four Universities (Bologna, Padova, Torino, Pisa). To illustrate the main study in progress, the visit was organized in 5 Stations:

Station W

To contain the negative effect of broad leaf weeds, two different mechanical system - the harrow and the verticutter - have been used and compared.

Station U

Ultradwarf bermudagrass (cv.Minverde) overseeded with *Poa trivialis* and disease control (Spring Dead Spot and Dollar spot): acid injection system, aerification, plugging, iron sulfate, antagonistic microorganism, rolling

Station O

The purpose is to create new habitats for insects to attract birdlife. As well as increasing the hard rough area, one of the ways is by introducing scents that can attract insects that will, in turn, attract birds. Moreover, hives have been introduced to focus the attention of the players.

Station S

In winter 2017 the greens suffered cold damage, in particular in the areas most exposed to north-east, where there was no tree and shrub vegetation able

to act as a windbreak barrier against colder winds. The study identify the suitable species ensuring at the same time the landscape, the playability and the economic sustainability.

Station B

Bunkers maintenance is an important and expensive part of golf course management. A concrete based drainage system was tested in order to avoid sand contamination and to limit the growth of weeds. *Zoysia matrella*, a species characterized by a slow growth was sodded on the perimeter in order to limit the edge finishing.

The 2 days saw also the visit at the Botanical Garden of Padova, recognised as the oldest in the world, founded in 1545 and declared UNESCO heritage since 1997.

Last visit of the day was at the Pratoverde, a company well known for their machines and equipment, where a delicious final barbeque was served for dinner and all participants could talk and relax all together.

In conclusion of the day, conveners **Alessandro De Luca** and **Stefano Macolino** gave their warmest thanks to all attendants for their participation.

All presentations from the two days of the ETS Field Days 2019 were printed on paper and digitally and can be downloaded here:

https://www.ilverdeeditoriale.com/PubFree/ETS/mobile/index.html#p=

2019 Spring Annual Meeting, Kofu, Yamanashi, Japan

by Hideaki TONOGI

Head, International relations Committee Director, Japanese Society of Turfgrass Science

The Spring Meeting of the Japanese Society of Turfgrass Science in FY2019 was held at the main venue of the University of Yamanashi, Kofu Campus for three days from June 14th to 16th.

On the first day, we toured four sports facilities in Yamanashi Prefecture as a local tour (Figs 1 & 2), and a golf course tour at Maple Point Golf Club in

Fig. 1. Sports facilities in Yamanashi Prefecture.

Uenohara, Yamanashi as a local tour.

On the second day, it was held in order of section group meeting, councilors, general meeting, symposium and social gathering.

On the third day, research presentations, luncheon seminars organized by Japan Crop Protection Association, and the International Relations Committee were held in order.

The meeting was attended by 258 people, including one person from Norway, on the first field tours was attended by 44 people, the second field tour



Fig. 2. Sports facilities in Yamanashi Prefecture.

by 23 people, the information exchange meeting was attended by 151 people, the luncheon seminar was enjoyed by 70 people, and the international exchange committee by 22 people. This symposium was titled *Continued on next page*

"Exploring the potential of hybrid turf... overcoming challenges from a lawn management standpoint", and received discussions from four panelists, followed by a general discussion.

First, the transition and types of hybrid turf in Japan and how to use them were introduced, and then two examples of soccer pitch management cases constructed with hybrid turf were introduced. After that, from a different perspective, the soccer player introduced the results of a consciousness survey based on the difference between natural grass and artificial grass on the soccer field. In the awareness survey of ease of play, regardless of the quality of the play technology, the artificial turf passes a high-accuracy path. Proposals were made that it would



Fig. 3. Attendees at the Symposium.

not be possible to pass, and it would be necessary to prepare many natural turf pitches in order to raise the technical level. In addition, it was shared that the hybrid turf material had an artificial turf material mixing rate of less than 5%, which was different from the pitch of 100% artificial turf. After that, a general discussion was held based on questions from the participants.

Summarizing the contents of the questions and answers, hybrid turf should understand the nature of turfgrass species combined with artifacts, the risk of artifact disposal is low, and Japan's own (or stadium's) unique hybrid turf management method However, it was confirmed that the adoption of hybrid turf is likely to be effective.

The venue was a hot symposium with more than 200 participants (Fig 3). Future development is expected. After the symposium, an information exchange meeting was held, and a variety of enthusiastic opinions were exchanged by many participants with discussions at the symposium. (Fig 4)

On the third day, 31 general research presentations and a seminar were held by the Agricultural Chemical Industry Association titled "The important role played by pesticides used in our sports turf" was followed by a seminar with sports turf in mind. The event was held, and 60 participants listened enthusiastically, and showed high interest in this topic.



Fig. 4. Information exchange meeting.

After that, the International Relations Committee gave the title "Towards the 2025 ITRC (International Turfgrass Research Conference)"-an explanation for the participants of the tournament. The contents discussed in the meeting were shared with the participants of this tournament. In response to many questions, he presented the policy he was currently thinking about.

The 2019 Fall Games will be held from September 14th to 16th in Tottori Prefecture, which is famous for Zoysiagrass production.

Master in Turf in Italy

"Gestione tecnica e progettazione dei tappeti erbosi sportivi ed ornamentali" "Technical management and design of sport and ornamental turfgrasses"

In 1988 the Italian Golf Federation founded the Green Section, with the main objective of training and educate qualified technicians. In those years, there were no specific schools in Italy on this subject and Federgolf was the first to have welcomed the importance of a rational and scientific approach in the construction and maintenance of turfgrasses.

To date, more than 2,000 technicians have attended the several courses organized by the Green Section, also due to the fact that not only in Italy, but also in the Mediterranean area, there are no specific schools dedicated to this sector. In fact, there is a significant presence at the School of foreign students (Spain, Switzerland, Malta, Algeria, Morocco, Romania, Albania), but there are also many requests for Italians, called to work abroad (Germany, France, Switzerland, Spain).

An increasing number of companies engaged in the management of green areas, in the commercial and in the construction sector, but also football, horse riding and rugby clubs, have taken advantage of the technicians who attended the Green Section courses since a few years.

The turfgrass has more and more importance in Italy not only for sport purposes (football, golf, equestrian sports, athletics ...), but also for ornamental and amenity purposes. At the same time, there is the need to have a high quality turf but sustainable from both the economical and environmental point of view. In Italy there are currently around 420 golf courses and a further increase is possible in the next years, also thanks to the assignment to Rome of the 2022 Ryder Cup, considered one of the most important sports media events worldwide, second only to the Olympics and to the World Soccer Championships. Regarding football, in addition to the 38 fields of the Series A and B (Italian first categories), there are around 20,000 facilities in the lower Series, with special maintenance requirements, often left in the hands of non-specialized operators.

The ornamental sector, especially in the last years, has been important for public and private green



areas, with many new large sites expanded and with an increase of sod companies, now reaching over 150 throughout Italy, with a total surface of about 1700 hectares.

On the basis of these considerations, the University of Bologna, in collaboration with the Green Section, has activated for the academic year 2019-2020, the first edition of the master degree in "Gestione tecnica e progettazione dei tappeti erbosi sportivi ed ornamentali" (Technical management and design of sport and ornamental turfgrasses), the first university course in Italy to deal with these themes for a correct design and management of turfgrasses, in order to be able to train competent technicians to operate in multiple situations.

Confirming the interest in this type of education, the initiative is supported not only by Federgolf, but also by many other institutions, such as the Italian Football Federation, the Institute for Sport Credit, the Italian Association of Golf Technicians and the Italian Association of Public Gardens Directors and Technicians.

For more information, please check the master's official website:

https://master.unibo.it/gestione-progettazione-tappeti-erbosi/it



INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS SOCIETY

Exchanging Turfgrass Knowledge Worldwide

The International Turfgrass Society (ITS) is a not-for-profit scientific organization that encourages research and education in turfgrass science.

ITS was established in 1969 and promotes communication among international turfgrass researchers by organizing international conferences on turfgrass research and all phases of turfgrass production and use.

International Turfgrass Research Conferences (ITRC) are held at 4-year intervals and the next ITRC will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark in July 2021.

ITS membership is a 4-year subscription (2018-2021) and includes the following benefits:

- copy of the ITS Research Journal from the next ITRC
- discounts for ITRC registration
- back issues of the ITRC Proceedings and Journal articles.
- access to the Members Only section of the ITS website
- subscription to the ITS Newsletter

Join ITS and ensure your discount for ITRC2021 Copenhagen
Standard subscription fee is 325 USD – Student discounts apply
Please download the membership application form from the ITS homepage turfsociety.com



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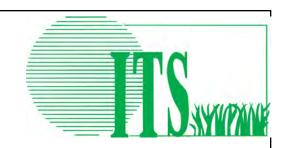
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Regular Membership Fee (2017-2021) \$325.00 USD

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- * Student member must have confirmation letter from major faculty advisor.
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Please send comments, feedback, and turfgrass news articles for future issues to the newsletter editor. If you know any non-members, new faculty, staff, and new personnel involved in turfgrass research who

If you know any non-members, new faculty, staff, and new personnel involved in turfgrass research who might be interested in joining ITS please forward their e-mail address to the newsletter editor and they will also receive the Triannual issues of International Turfgrass.

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is December 15, 2019



Visit the ITS Website here

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