

International Turfgrass

The Newsletter of the International Turfgrass Society

May 2023

One-day technical tour / Highlight on events of 15th International Turfgrass Research Conference planned on July 12-16, 2025 in Japan

By Shin Nakamura, Masakazu Ushilo, Kunitsugu Ogawa, Satoru Tanaka, and Hideaki Tonogi, ITS President: International Relations Committee, Japanese Society of Turfgrass Science

The next International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC) will be held at the Karuizawa Prince Hotel West in Karuizawa, Nagano, Japan from July 12 to 16. This is the first conference in Japan since the ITRC held in Tokyo in 1989. The conference program consists of keynote speeches, oral & poster sessions, a practitioner seminar, a one-day technical tour and the Zoysiagrass symposium. Our goal at the conference is to shape the green environment and foster well-being, creating green space in our society through knowledge-sharing and discussions on turfgrass R&D and engineering.

Here, we take a brief look at the one-day technical tour. The tour gives all attendees a chance to visit a wide range of turf venues across the Eastern part of Japan based on selected courses.

One of the largest soccer stadiums in Japan. Home stadium of the Urawa Red Diamonds in the



Tokyo and Saitama area: Saitama is a dedicated soccer stadium.

Japan Professional Football League. Constructed more than 20 years ago, the main stadium field is maintained with three cool-season grasses: Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and tall fescue.

Rugby Stadium that hosts a variety of rugby matches from elementary school to professional league. The Main Field uses the warm-season western turf called Bermudagrass (cv. TifGrand).

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I hope everyone is doing well. In Oklahoma and much of the mid-west we are under a drought status. Being in the transition zone and a sudden freeze here in the region, we had a lot of *Cynodon* spp. (Bermudagrass or Couchgrass) winter death. The problem was quite widespread and led to a number of unusual issues. Another issues, that was a first for me this spring, was the submission of a sample that had *Fuligo septica* also called 'dog vomit slime mold' on a *Festuca* spp. or fescue. The common name is very entertaining if you ask me.

If you have any newsworthy stories or other information such as employment opportunities for readers of International Turfgrass, I hope you will consider submitting an article for the next newsletter by August 15, 2023.

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

Sincerely,
Nathan R. Walker

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Kamagaya Rugby Stadium(Saitama)

Kumagaya Sports Culture Park, Rugby Stadium. Display of masterpieces and outstanding bonsai works. Presentation of the history of bonsai arts.

Nagano area:



Hidaka Country Club(Saitama)

Hidaka Country Club

Members-only golf course. Total of 27 holes in flat forest area. Opened in 1961. The fairway and teeing ground use Manila grass (*Zoysia matrella*), the rough uses *Zoysia* grass (*Z. japonica*), and the putting greens are established with bentgrass.



Tokyo Horse Race Track(Tokyo)

JRA Tokyo Racecourse.

Horseracing track built in 1933 with a 2,083-meter turf course. It hosts the Japan Derby in May and the Japan Cup in November.



The Omiya Bonsai Art Museum

Omiya Bonsai Art Museum.



Asama Kogen Country Club(Nagano)

Asama Kogen County Club.

Members-only golf course opened in 1990. All 18 holes, PAR72. The fairway, rough and teeing areas use Japanese *Zoysia* grass (*Zoysia japonica*), while the putting green uses Pennncross creeping bentgrass. The altitude is 700 m at the clubhouse, 500 m at the lowest point, and 1,000 m at the highest point.



Sania park Sugadaira(Nagano)

Sania Park Sugadaira.

Sacred rugby turf field. Used by the rugby team from mid-July and cross-country skiers in winter. The main field is maintained with a mixture of Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, and perennial ryegrass at a ratio of 40:40:20.



Nagano U Stadium(Nagano)

Nagano U Stadium.

All the visitors will gather at the BBQ restaurant in the evening where they can greet each other and talk for networking.

The upcoming ITRC will be welcoming an estimated 500 attendees from more than 30 countries. We will be pleased to meet you to the 15th ITRC in Japan in 2025. For the details, please refer to <https://itrc2025.turfsociety.com/>.

STERF Yearbook 2022

By Maria Strandberg, Sweden, ITS Past President

The STERF yearbook 2022 is now published on www.sterf.org

Important in 2022 was the 14th International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC2022) in Copenhagen, arranged by STERF in collaboration with the ITS (International Turfgrass Society). At last, after years of delay due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, the world's best expertise in turfgrass science and technology gathered in Copenhagen. ITRC 2022 was among the largest and most comprehensive gatherings of turfgrass professionals anywhere in the world, with over 300 delegates from 28 countries in attendance.

The conference week was fantastic, with large volumes of scientific results, innovative discussions, and technology transfer, enhanced by extremely nice weather and exhilarating social events. The conference also was a good opportunity to collect opinions about the future, in particular the global challenges and trends we face, from organisations, greenkeepers, industry representatives, authorities etc. We found almost total agreement between these different stakeholders. The main opinions, which the STERF team will use as input when designing

coming programmes, are summarised in the yearbook www.sterf.org

Other important STERF activities 2022 were:

- STERF's open call for proposals and the decision to start four new projects during 2023. The new projects are presented on www.sterf.org
- STERF field days related to the on-going projects ICE-BREAKER, SCANGREEN and ROBOGOLF.
- The 2022 EIGCA Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland, focusing on climate change and inspired by the STERF-funded Carbon-Par project.
- More videos than ever before were produced during 2022 and many publications were translated to Nordic languages.

Information about all STERF's programmes and projects can be found on www.sterf.org Please let us know if you have any questions or comments related to the yearbook. Your feedback on STERF's ongoing projects and activities would be very valuable for us. Ideas of potential collaboration, new programmes and projects would also be interesting and inspiring.



Inaugural Turf Days

By **Guilherme Barcellos**

**Programme Leader – Seed Production Research
PGG Wrightson Seeds Limited, New Zealand**

On March the 22nd and 23rd Kimihia Research Centre was host to the Inaugural Turf Days™ event put together by PGG Wrightson Turf. It provided a unique opportunity for everyone associated with the New Zealand turf industry to see the latest in turf machinery and maintenance products and hear market insights and perspectives from key industry experts.

The vision for this two-day event was a celebration of the New Zealand turf industry and for all those associated with all aspects of the turf sector to come together for a hands-on experience with new technologies, whilst being able to socialise and connect in a fun and vibrant atmosphere. With the Kimihia facility allowing for machinery demonstrations, static displays and interactive product promotions, we hoped that Turf Days™ would become a highlight of the year for all involved in the professional turf industry of New Zealand.

View the full image gallery from the 2023 event here: <https://www.turfdays.co.nz/gallery>

Education was provided through disease

workshops run by Syngenta, golf and sports field panel sessions that featured some of NZ and Australia's best Turf Managers, plant breeding tours run by our team of Agronomists and Plant Breeders and many industry icons talking about their experiences working in the industry we all love. Sports Entertainment Network (SENZ) broadcast live from the site on day 1 and interviewed a number of the trade and delegates on their involvement in the turf industry which went a long way to promoting the diversity and investment in the sports turf market.

The social side was well supported by Good George Brewery, a local band, food stalls and sporting icons allowing for delegates and trade to reconnect friendships in a vibrant and relaxed environment.

Whilst the weather during set up and on day one was challenging, we saw about 400 people attend each day of the event, with a number taking the opportunity to travel from Australia to be part of what proved to be a fantastic couple of days. Excellent feedback was received from people who exhibited and attended as delegates.



Inaugural Turf Days, New Zealand



Select the logo above to visit the 15th ITRC website



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 Japan in July 2025.

ITS membership is a 4-year subscription (2022-2025) 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 **ITRC2025** Japan

Standard subscription fee is 325 USD – Student discounts apply

Please download the membership application form from the

ITS homepage turfgrassociety.com



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Regular Membership Fee (2022-2025)	\$325.00 USD
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Please make check payable to: *International Turfgrass Society*.

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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 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 August 15, 2023