

International Turfgrass

The Newsletter of the International Turfgrass Society

September 2023

Call for Papers: 15th International Turfgrass Research Conference July 12-16, 2025 in Japan

By Doug Soldat, University of Wisconsin, Senior Editor and Hideaki Tonogi, ITS President:
International Relations Committee, Japanese Society of Turfgrass Science

Website: <https://itrc2025.turfsociety.com/>

Conference Dates: 12-16 July 2025

Conference Venue: Karuizawa Prince Hotel West /
Karuizawa, Japan

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the 1st call for papers for the International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC 2025), which will be held at the Karuizawa Prince Hotel West from 12 – 16 July, 2025. The conference will bring together the international turfgrass community including researchers, teachers, industry professionals, and turfgrass practitioners to exchange knowledge, present cutting-edge research, and foster collaboration in the field of turfgrass science.

ITRC 2025 provides a platform for participants to share their research findings, discuss emerging trends, and explore innovative solutions

Since returning from the ITS mid-conference planning meeting in July, I was summoned for jury duty. My obligation has continued for months. I was selected and seated. The judge was getting impatient as the process was into the fourth hour and he rapidly asked me questions, basically trying to get a jury seated that day. He said can you answer yes to all the question he asked and the three law firms asked, I said yes. Then he asked me what I knew about the case, well then I started talking about it. The judge stopped me and said how do you know this. I told him did my research and every attorney in the room jumped up and I was removed, not after hours but in seconds!

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 December 15, 2023.

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

Sincerely,
Nathan R. Walker

to challenges facing the turfgrass industry through a diverse range of scientific sessions, technical tours, a zoysiagrass symposium, a practitioner seminar, and many networking opportunities. The conference will cover a broad spectrum of topics, including but not limited to:

- Turfgrass breeding, genetics, and biotechnology
- Turfgrass physiology and ecology
- Turfgrass disease, insect, and weed management.
- Golf course and athletic field management and maintenance
- Turfgrass water and nutrient management
- Turfgrass root zone design and soil management
- Sustainable urban and landscape maintenance

We invite researchers, scientists, and experts in the field of turfgrass science to submit original research papers and abstracts for oral or poster presentations. The conference provides an excellent opportunity to disseminate your research, exchange

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ideas, and network with professionals from various sectors of the turfgrass industry.

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 Society Research Journal (ITSRJ), Crop Science (CS) or Agronomy Journal (AJ). Crop Science and Agronomy Journal are options for those wanting their paper published in a journal with impact factor. Please click here to submit the title (max. 150 characters) and short abstract (max. 1000 characters) of your contribution for ITRC 2025. There is no limit to 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 the International Turfgrass Society.

In addition to the categories, 'Full Papers' and 'Short Communications', we allow for submissions in a third category, 'Technical Papers'. These are submissions that will not be subjected to rigorous scientific review, but only checked for English language and the absence of commercial aspects by one of ITSJRJ's Editors who will take a special responsibility for this category. Like short communications, the length of technical papers shall normally not exceed three printed pages. They will be published in a digital annex to ITSJRJ, volume 15. The acceptance of a full paper, short communication, or technical paper will give the same right to presentation at the conference. The 'Standards for International Turfgrass Society Research Journal' have been revised to make a clearer distinction between 'Short Communications' and 'Technical Papers'. The standards are accessible at the conference website <https://itrc2025.turfsociety.com>

Important Dates:

- Title/Summary Submission deadline: 1 December 2023
- Invitation for full paper submission: 1 February 2024. Full Paper submission deadline: 1 May 2024.
- Short Communication submission deadline: 1 September 2024.
- Deadline for non-peer reviewed technical papers: 1 January 2025
- Early bird registration deadline: 1 May 2025

Abstracts can be submitted online at <https://tinyurl.com/2nfrvdx>

Detailed guidelines and templates for paper preparation and submission will be available on the conference website. For any inquiries, please contact the Editor-in-Chief for ITSJRJ at djsoldat@wisc.edu.

Conference Website and Contact Information: For further information, guidelines, registration, and updates regarding ITRC 2025, please visit our conference website at <https://itrc2025.turfsociety.com/>.

We look forward to your valuable contributions and participation in ITRC 2025. We hope to see you in Japan where we will seek to enhance our understanding of the sustainable management of turfgrass for the benefit of the turfgrass industry, our global society, and the environment.

Sincerely,
Doug Soldat
Editor-in-Chief, ITSJRJ
djsoldat@wisc.edu
Department of Soil Science / University of Wisconsin-Madison

2023 Japanese Society of Turfgrass Science Annual Meeting (Online)

By Yutaka Miura, Shin Nakamura, Kunitsugu Ogawa, Satoru Tanaka, and Hideaki Tonogi
International relations committee, Japanese Society of Turfgrass Science

Focus group meeting

The 2023 Japanese Society of Turfgrass Science Annual meeting was held on an online platform with around 100 participants on June 10 and 11, 2023. In the morning of June 10, three focus group sessions (golf course management, school yard

turf, ground cover plants) were organized. In the golf course management focus group, the chairman, Mr. Ushiki, opened the session by mentioning that several pain points in golf course management had been already discussed since 2015. Critical topics

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in course management, such as how to control the problematic weeds like *Poa annua*, utilization of soil microorganisms, introduction of automatic mowers and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), had been ever reviewed. The session at this time focused on issues regarding fairway and rough management. They also underlined the problematic diseases in Zoysiagrass along with effective countermeasures.

Symposium

In the afternoon of June 11th, the symposium was held to exchange opinions regarding the expansion and diversification of green space services. City park associations shared their expertise and experience on how to maintain green areas in cities. Through the discussion, we looked into challenges and the way forward for the future greenery business.

Oral presentation

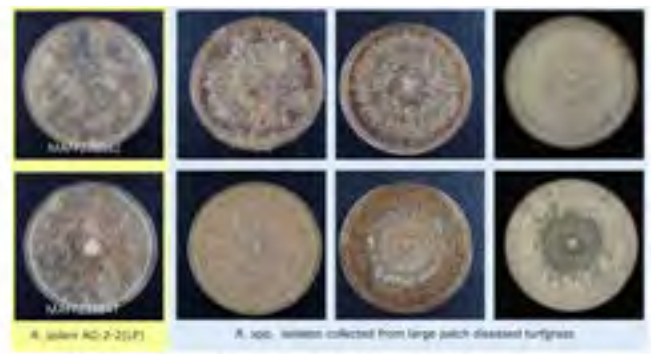
On June 11, a total of 14 oral presentations were given from universities, golf courses and private companies. Among them, four presentations were related to disease management and four presentations addressed the diagnosis of soil fertility or fungus flora in turfgrasses. Furthermore, with reflection of in SDGs, biostimulant, robotic mower or carbon neutral in golf course are discussed at other presentations. As follows, selected presentations were briefly reviewed. New bentgrass disease was reported by Mr. Keisuke Hotta from Riken Green Co., Ltd. The pathogen isolated from bentgrass in the Mie prefecture was categorized as *Poitrasia circinas* with a 96% homology through BLAST DNA sequencing. The new disease would seem to be the first species in the world that is categorized to *Poitrasia* spp. as a bentgrass disease. The characteristic of *Rhizoctonia* spp. isolated from large patch disease of Zoysiagrass in the Ibaraki prefecture were investigated by Dr. Akemi Tanaka from Maruwa Biochemical Co., Ltd. The *Rhizoctonia* spp. showed good environmental fitness even under high temperatures, 28-30 degrees Celsius, contrary to the common notion that large patches would be weakened at temperatures higher



than 28 degrees Celsius. A disease resistance inducer, acibenzolar-S-methyl, was tested to ascertain the side effects on bentgrass by Ms. Sachiko Idota from Miyazaki Univ. The mixture of acibenzlar with fluzioxonil tended to accelerate the root growth of bentgrass. Ms. Mizuho Kawamura from SOFIX Co., Ltd., Mr. Hideaki Tonogi from Hyponex Japan Co., Ltd., and Mr. Hidetomi Watanabe, superintendent at



the Shin-Numazu country club effectively employed soil analysis tools, Soil Fertile Index (SOFIX) and PCR-DGGE, to measure the soil fertility and fungus flora in turfgrass.



Cultural morphology of *Rhizoctonia solani* AG-2-2(LP) and *Rhizoctonia* spp.

Standards for the International Turfgrass Society Research Journal (ITSRJ)

1) Background

The International Turfgrass Society (ITS) runs, through the efforts of the host country, an international conference every four years. The ITS is responsible for publishing the papers presented at each conference in a peer-reviewed format. Acceptable papers will be published in the International Turfgrass Society Research Journal (ITSRJ) or at least one additional journal that has an Impact Factor. This/these additional journal(s) shall be announced by the ITS publishing committee at least two years before the conference.

Papers submitted to the Impact Factor Journal(s) in conjunction with the ITS conference shall be written and submitted according to the standards for that /those journal(s).

This standards document provides authors and ITSRJ Editorial Board members information on:

1. the types of papers that will be acceptable for submission to the ITSRJ.
2. a set of instructions to authors, which are specific to the ITSRJ.
3. the system of refereeing used by the ITS Editorial Board for submitted manuscripts.

2) Types of Journal Articles

ITSRJ is a quadrennial publication of papers in turfgrass science and management that may involve, but is not limited to, plant genetics; breeding; metabolism; physiology; ecology; weed science; entomology; pathology; soil science and management; multifunctionality and ecosystem services provided by turfgrass.

While the most common type of paper to appear in the ITSRJ is the standard research paper, the Journal is also open to publish other sorts of papers. The following categories are acceptable formats for publishing in the ITSRJ. Descriptions of each category are summarized below.

1. Research Papers (volunteered)
2. Review Papers (invited but may also be volunteered)

3. Issue Papers (invited but may also be volunteered)
4. Case Studies (volunteered)
5. Short Communications (volunteered)

Research Papers

Articles reporting experimentation or research in turfgrass will be accepted for review as papers. These papers will be original works of research that describe the background and justification for the work, how the work was conducted, and its significant findings along with appropriate interpretations and conclusions.

Most guides to authors from scientific journals provide clear direction on article structure relative to the type of research: field, greenhouse, laboratory, etc. The general article structure describing experiments includes an Abstract, Introduction (including literature review), Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion (or Results and Discussion sections combined), and References. There may be cases where this structure should be altered based on article/research content and examples of this can be found in numerous journals. Any authors choosing to deviate from a traditional structure for a paper must be able to provide documentation of that structure being used elsewhere by a recognized scientific journal to the Editor, Technical Editor, and/or reviewers.

As a general rule, more repetition of experiments is required when there is less control over conditions. Field studies should be repeated in space or time to reflect appropriate or expected environmental (season, soil, etc.) influences. It is generally expected that field experiments will be repeated for more than one year. Exceptions to this general rule must be justified by the author(s). For example, some research questions may be more appropriately answered by repeating a trial in the same year under different temperature conditions rather than repeating in different years under similar temperature conditions. Authors must provide a brief and clear rationale regarding decisions on the repetition of trial work that might be unusual to reviewers and many readers.

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There is less need to repeat greenhouse/glasshouse experiments depending on how well the conditions have been controlled. A single run for experiments conducted in a fully controlled environment (e.g. flowering, temperature effects) should be adequate. For research involving controlled environments, see https://www.crops.org/publications/forms_resources/ for guidelines.

Review Papers

Articles reporting reviews or interpretation of experimentation or research in turfgrass will be accepted for review as papers. Review papers are usually less formal than full-length articles and may be longer than a research paper but should generally not exceed 16 pages in the Journal including reference list. Plenary papers are often of this category. Such papers should provide a synthesis of existing knowledge and give new insights or concepts not previously presented in the literature, or at least not with the same level of detail. These articles should not be considered exhaustive reviews of the literature but should instead include enough literature review to provide a basis for understanding and interpretation of the topic under consideration.

A good review is often one of the most important ways to advance an area of science. Readers expect a review paper to:

1. deal with an important subject that needs a scholarly review,
2. cover the entire spectrum of the subject, not just the segment about which the author of the review paper has published articles,
3. present a balanced coverage that is fair to all the work it reviews,
4. add a perspective to the entire subject and contribute significantly to understanding, and
5. identify knowledge gaps and needs for further research.

Issue Papers

The intent of these papers is to stimulate discussion and possibly a rethinking of current views. They may be provocative and controversial. These papers may give a broader and often more personal perspective on a subject than a review paper. Papers discussing contemporary environmental issues may present a combination of scientific, political, legislative, and regulatory perspectives. These papers

will often have more of a philosophical bent to them, but must still be based on a foundation of good science. Although most are invited by the Editor, volunteer submissions should be welcomed. Plenary papers may also be of this category. The length of these papers should be limited to 16 pages in the Journal including reference list.

Case Studies Papers

Case studies should provide thorough documentation of an activity or series of activities that involve turfgrass science or management. These papers should provide all the relevant information or material gathered about the activity. Arrangements of these papers will probably be varied because of the diverse and unique subject matter for papers in this category. The arrangements, however, should serve as an organized record and have analytical value for a scientist, educator, student, manager, etc. The length of these papers should be similar to that of research papers. The same criteria for originality of work and review process apply to papers in this category as for other categories.

Short Communications

Short Communications represent a category of manuscripts that describe recent results and experiences from research that is still in progress and not necessarily repeated, but that has been validated and discussed in a scientific context. Authors could be graduate students or scientists that have only one year of field data. Papers on new experimental techniques and apparatus fall in this category if presented in a scientific context. Company representatives are welcome to submit results from in-house research of non-commercial character as long as data are analyzed statistically and interpreted in light of the peer-reviewed literature.

The Short Communications will be published in the same ITSRJ volume and under the same thematic area as full papers, but each paper shall normally not occupy more than three printed pages in the journal.

Authors submitting papers to ITSRJ must fully understand the consequences of publishing data in this category. All reputable scientific journals expect that any submitted work is original and unpublished

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or not being considered for publication elsewhere. If portions of a paper have been submitted or published elsewhere, the authors are required to disclose that fact at the time of submission and to provide copies of relevant prior publications. In general, publication as a short communication /technical paper in an issue of ITRSJ will be considered prior publication only if substantially all of the data and conclusions have been published.

Occasionally, the Editor of ITRSJ may believe a paper submitted as a full paper will better fit this category, or vice versa. If the author agrees, the manuscript can be transferred to or from this category of papers.

The criteria for originality remains paramount and the Short Communications will be subjected to peer-review involving a Technical Editor, an Associate Editor and at least one Reviewer. Compared with full papers, the deadline for submissions will normally be closer to the conference and the Editor shall – as far as possible - facilitate a rapid review to allow inclusion of recent results.

Technical papers

This category is suitable for concepts, ideas for new projects and experiences from advisors and practitioners reflecting the benefit of turfgrasses and turfgrass management in real world situations. It has been set up to encourage participation and communication among various segments of the turfgrass industry at the conference.

Papers in this category will not be subjected to peer-review, but they will be assigned to a Technical Editor who will check the English language, ensure that the paper is not of commercial character, and offer his/her advice for improvement of the paper.

Technical papers will be published in a digital annex to the ITRSJ designated 'Non-reviewed technical papers'. The length of a technical paper shall normally not exceed three printed pages.

Instructions to Authors

General Requirements

Papers must be either reports of original research, critical reviews, issue/interpretive articles,

case studies, or short communications/technical papers. Submissions to ITRSJ must not be previously published in or simultaneously submitted to any other scientific or technical journal. No Prior Publication and no simultaneous submissions are allowed.

Except for reviews or issues papers, publications in the ITRSJ must be original reports of research, case studies or practical experiences. Submission of a manuscript for review is understood to imply that the work is original and unpublished and not being considered for publication elsewhere. If portions of the paper have been submitted or published elsewhere, the authors are required to disclose that fact at the time of submission and to provide copies of relevant prior publications. Whether publication in nontechnical outlets constitutes prior publication is decided on a case-by-case basis. In general, publication in non-technical media or as a short communication / technical paper (e.g. in a previous issue of ITRSJ) will be considered prior publication only if substantially all of the data and conclusions have been published.

Eligibility of Authors

Papers are published on the condition that at least one of the authors will attend the ITRC with an oral or poster presentation of the paper. At least one author of each paper presented to the ITRSJ must be a member in good standing of the International Turfgrass Society. For full members, an author cannot be the sole member on more than two paper submissions. Student members cannot be the senior or first author or sole member on more than one paper submission. Authors presenting plenary papers may be the sole member on two paper submissions in addition to the plenary paper. For information on ITS membership, visit <http://www.turfsociety.com>

Length of the Printed Paper

Manuscripts should be as concise as possible to reduce to a minimum the number of pages of the ITRSJ. As a general rule the maximum recommended length of an invited paper is 16 pages and of a submitted oral paper or poster is 8 pages, including figures and tables, except for short communications or technical papers which should be no more than 3 pages. An average page of text will contain about

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800 words. Manuscript reviewers may recommend eliminating unnecessary information and will advise on the number of pages each manuscript should have taking into account its content and characteristics. ITS will have the right to charge a fixed charge per page exceeding a certain length to be announced at the call for paper submissions.

Language

English is the official language for the Journal. The ITSRJ has no preference whether English or American spelling (fertilizer-fertiliser, center-centre, etc.) is used although uniformity within each paper is required. Latin words or phrases are in italics, with the exception of very common expressions such as “i.e.,” “e.g.,” “et al.,” “in vitro,” “ex vitro” and “etc.” The expression “etc.” for “and so forth” should be used only with series, such as 1, 2, 3, etc. The authors’ instructions used by the International Society of Horticultural Science (ISHS) contain useful suggestions for preparing a manuscript for an international audience; see <http://www.ishs.org/wri/pap1.htm>.

Units

Use the metric system exclusively. Use abbreviation L for liter, mg/L for milligram per liter, ml for milliliter, and t for tonne (metric ton). SI units can be used where appropriate.

Arrangement of Manuscripts

Manuscripts of research papers prepared for ITSRJ are normally arranged in the following order:

1. Title and byline.
2. Author–paper documentation (addresses/affiliations, e-mail of the corresponding author, etc.).
3. Abstract.
4. Introduction (including literature review).
5. Materials and Methods.
6. Results. This section is sometimes combined with the discussion.
7. Discussion. This may include a subsection for conclusions. No separate summary section is used, because it would duplicate the function of the abstract; a summary statement may, however, be given as a closing paragraph.
8. Acknowledgments (optional).
9. References. (The reference format used by

Crop Science is recommended; it provides a comprehensive list of journal name abbreviations to use).

10. Figure captions, then tables, then the figures themselves.

Authors are encouraged to review the Style Manual of the American Society of Agronomy for details on arrangement of papers. Deviations from this order are acceptable if based on a structure that is consistent with the subject matter content; it is preferred that the arrangement be based on one used by a recognized scientific journal. For the cases where the arrangement of a manuscript is highly unusual, the corresponding author should consider providing an example paper using such an arrangement along with the submission or the Editor and Technical Editor may request this from the corresponding author.

Statistical Design and Analysis – Research papers

A description of the statistical design and analysis is expected so that readers can judge the results for validity. The particular statistical method used and its appropriateness depend upon the type of research, theoretical assumptions, sampling design, and type of observations. The reporting of the results from each analysis should include a brief description of the statistical method and a literature citation providing its full detail, and descriptions of sampling design and experimental observations in relation to the statistical analysis. In all cases, a measure of the statistical confidence used to interpret the data in relation to the research question(s) should be reported by the authors.

More details on reporting of statistical design and analysis can be found in the guidelines for authors of many scientific journals; for example, see <https://www.crops.org/files/publications/style/chapter-04.pdf>. Additionally, the following textbooks provide detailed discussions of the principles and procedures of statistics for research.

- 1) Little, T.M., and F.J. Hills. 1980. Statistical methods in agricultural research. John Wiley & Sons, New York.
- 2) Steel, R.G.D., and J.H. Torrie. 1980. Principles and procedures of statistics: A biometrical approach. 2nd ed. McGraw-Hill, New York.
- 3) Steel, R.G.D., J.H. Torrie, and D.A. Dickey. 1997. Principles and procedures of statistics: A biometrical approach. 3rd ed. McGraw-Hill, New York.

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Description of Soil

Authors should use the system that applies in their country for describing the soil used in an experiment that will be published in ITRSJ. If feasible, authors are also encouraged to provide the equivalent description in the US soil classification, at least at the broader level.

In the cases where turfgrass will be grown on a man-made profile, the profile should be properly described and a soil type will not be stated. Some countries have terms for such soils; for example, anthroposols in The Australian Soil Classification (Isbell, 2003) and there is similar terminology in other systems around the world, which authors should use.

Chemical Names

Authors should use the simplified common name of chemicals based on standard on-line databases.

Plant Species and Cultivar Names

The scientific and common names of plant species and cultivars should be stated at first appearance in the paper, and then scientific names thereafter. This is the preference for an international audience given the often parochial nature and use of common names. The botanical authority should be stated the first time only or in a list in a table.

There is often confusion about names of plant varieties. Full and correct names should always be used. For example, the registered name of the hybrid bermudagrass is ‘Champion Dwarf’ (PP9888) not ‘Champion’ as is often stated. Moreover, plant varieties are sold with formal cultivar names or under a trademark, either registered or unregistered. These need to be differentiated clearly and used accurately. For species names, use single quotation marks around the cultivar name only; TM or ® should be used with a varietal name at first use only, and simply the name thereafter. FloraDwarf is a trademark used with ‘FHB-135’ (PP9030), and TifSport is the trademark use to market ‘Tift 94’ (PP10079). If these names are unregistered in the country of the research, these names should be referred to with a trademark: as FloraDwarfTM and TifSportTM. If the name is a registered trademarks, a superscript ® should be substituted for TM: for example, *Paspalum vaginatum* SeaDwarf®.

Ethical Responsibilities

Issues such as plagiarism and not giving proper credit to others will not be tolerated in ITRSJ. Evidence of plagiarism and similar misconduct are immediate grounds for rejection of a manuscript and loss of membership in ITS.

System for Refereeing Manuscripts Submitted to ITRSJ

Editorial Board

The ITRSJ will have both an Editor (for the current Conference) and an Assistant Editor (normally the designated Editor for the next Conference) that are selected by the ITS Board. The Editor and Assistant Editor will propose a broad international group of Technical and Associate Editors reflecting the diversity of the ITS membership.

The selection of Technical and Associate Editors must also be matched the wide range of topics in the ITRSJ including, but not limited to, soils, nutrition, breeding and molecular studies, plant physiology, ecology, weeds, pests, diseases, economics, education and ecosystem services. Manuscripts should be assigned to Technical and Associated Editors with appropriate expertise.

Review Process

The editorial process for ITRSJ is described for the benefit of improving consistency in refereeing standards for all submitted manuscripts. The review process is provided to all Editorial Board members (Editor, Assistant Editor, Technical Editors, Associate Editors and reviewers). It also available through the ITS website and is included in all calls for papers.

All manuscripts are to be submitted electronically to the submission platform decided by the Editor. The Editor will make an immediate determination of each manuscript as it is submitted regarding its readiness for review. The Editor may ask the Assistant Editor for a second opinion regarding the readiness of a manuscript but this action should not substantially delay the decision. If the manuscript is ready, it is immediately assigned to a Technical Editor with the appropriate expertise. The Technical Editor has the authority to may make suggestions

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and provide the authors an opportunity to revise the manuscript accordingly and, should time allow, resubmit the manuscript for review.

The Editor along with the Assistant Editor will assemble an appropriate number of Technical and Associate Editors that will be representative of the membership of ITS. Once assembled, a listing of Associate Editors will be reported to the ITS Board for approval. The ITS Board has authority to request modifications in composition of the Associate Editors. The assembly of Technical and Associate Editors should be completed and published on the ITS website before the call for papers.

The Editor will be responsible for monitoring all Technical Editors and assuring an expedient and fair review process. The Assistant Editor may assist the Editor with this duty but this should be limited and full responsibility for all manuscripts lies with the Editor.

The Editor is responsible for handling all appeals. The Editor may assign appeals to the Assistant Editor in the case of a conflict of interest or an extraordinary number of appeal cases.

Plenary and invited papers should be refereed by the Editor and the Assistant Editor or a Technical Editor qualified to review the subject matter. The Editor may select a reviewer other than the Assistant Editor or an Associate Editor if expertise outside the Editorial Board is required.

Each Associate Editor will handle no more than five manuscripts. Associate Editors will solicit two additional reviews for each manuscript, with the exception of Short Communications which will require one additional review. All reviewers agreeing to review for ITSJR will be sent the Standards for ITSJR by the Associate Editor.

Any recommendations from the Associate Editor for each manuscript to the Editor should be based on a minimum of two reviews.

See the document – Guidelines for ITSJR Reviews – for more information on review criteria and recommendations of reviewers, Associate Editors, Technical Editors and the Editor.

Appeal Process

Authors will have the option to appeal any result of the review of a submitted manuscript. Authors and the Editorial Board must adhere to all submission and review deadlines for the appeal process to be effective. If timelines are not met, there may not be sufficient time to process appeals.

All appeals are made to the Editor. Immediately upon appeal, the Editor and/or Assistant Editor will identify at least one representative from the author's region or country to assist with the appeal. The country/regional representative does not need to, but may, be a Technical or Associate Editor or ITS Board member. The appeals board will be a three-person including the Editor, Assistant Editor, and country/regional review representative. A majority vote by the appeals board constitutes a valid decision on the appeal.

The Technical Editor that handled the appealed manuscript may be queried for information about the appealed manuscript but will not deliberate or have a vote on the decision of the appeal.

The Editor and Technical Editor should be prepared to report on any appeal to the ITS Board for the purpose of monitoring the integrity of the process with the expectation that this would be rarely done, if at all.

What's in a plant name?

Taxonomy by trademark = commercial overreach

Dr. Donald S. Loch (past Vice-President ITS, 2013-17)

Peter E. McMaugh, AM (past President ITS, 1993-97)

The term “branding” refers to the widely used commercial strategy marketing goods and services under a trademark, or “brand”. Over the past 30 years or so, there has been a strong increase in the use of branding with new plant varieties. Nowadays, plant breeder's rights (PBR) protection

and the marketing trademark – two different forms of intellectual property (IP) – are often used in tandem at release of a new variety because they have different, yet complementary, properties.

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A cultivar name defines, and attaches to, a particular genotype described and protected under PBR for 20 years whereas a trademark is associated with the marketer and does not define the cultivar being marketed. When used together, all of the value in terms of consumer recognition once PBR protection expires after 20 years is in the trademark which can then be renewed for as long as required until the variety becomes commercially obsolete.

While cultivar names are expressly banned from being registered as trademarks (hence the commercial use of the two separate IP names), there would appear to be a serious loophole in current national legislation and regulations (but harmonised worldwide) such that higher levels in the taxonomic botany hierarchy, notably the principles by which genus and species are named, are not afforded the same level of protection. For example, two Australian trademark applications #2159605 (words) and #2287244 (figurative) for “ZOYSIA AUSTRALIS” were recently approved and registered by IP Australia to cover “Turf, natural; Natural turf; Reinforced natural turf”, but apparently without any concurrent consideration that these trademark words mimic the Latinised binomial species names that have been fundamental to principles and practices in the plant sciences for 270 years and as formalised in long-standing international nomenclatural rules. Unless the national regulator’s decision is reviewed and corrected, it stands as a potential future source of nomenclatural confusion in the scientific literature; all that it would take to slip by the standard editorial checks and balances is one ignorant author, one lazy

reviewer, and an overworked editor.

The idealistic definition and explanation of a trademark is that it identifies the quality of the goods and services supplied by the mark holder or licensee, hence the logic behind branding. But even IP Australia admits that misuse is rife in the industry (Graham Brown, personal communication 2023). In the present example, the contentious trademark is being used to market a *Zoysia japonica* cultivar bred in the US at the University of Georgia (<https://lawnsolutionsaustralia.com.au/grass-type/zoysia-australis/>). Significantly, independent turf growers are already reporting enquiries for what is being perceived erroneously by consumers as a new Australian native turfgrass based on the brand name, ignorant (as most would be) of the fact that *Z. japonica* is an exotic species from South-East Asia. All of which raises the further question as to whether licensors should be expected to hold to account licensees acting inappropriately.

Of more immediate need and importance is what we as scientists can do. Above all, we need to respect and support our science by learning and applying the international nomenclatural rules that are no longer taught adequately by universities worldwide. In this context, ITS members should note that manuscripts for the next International Turfgrass Conference will again be edited to correct nomenclatural errors as in the last (2022) Conference. But in the final analysis, we must also defend our science by calling out misleading pseudo-scientific marketing names if and when they occur.

Australian Medal of Agricultural Science – Peter McMaugh AM

Article copied from The Weed Society of New South Wales Newsletter: Sydney, AU

The Australian Medal of Agricultural Science is awarded to persons who have made outstanding, specific contributions to the advancement of Agriculture and Natural Resource Management.

Peter graduated from Sydney University in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (B. Sc. Agr). He took over a company, Grass Research (NSW) Ltd owned by the Bowling and Gold Association and based at the Ryde School of Horticulture. In the space of 5 years, the company had outgrown the facilities at Ryde and in 1971 he moved to new purpose-built laboratories at Concord West. He retired as Director in 1978. During the period, he changed the company name to ATRI which functioned until 1998.



Chris Russell (right) presenting Peter McMaugh (left) with the 2023 Australian Medal of Agricultural Science.

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Peter introduced Wintergreen couch (syn. Bermudagrass) in 1984 before plant breeder's rights came into effect. This grass upset the established leader and was dismissed by other leading turf growers. Today over 80% of couch growers in Australia grow a version of Wintergreen couch. In 1992, Peter introduced the far superior couch grass Windsor Green, which he has bred from Wintergreen by irradiation mutation. This was the first couch grass through Plant Breeder's Rights in Australia. Windsor Green couch grass has for 20 years graced the Royal Botanic Garden's rose garden, which is visited by millions each year.

The demand for Windsor Green by golf courses led to the design of the Qualturf row planter. This was designed and built at the farm workshop and Peter acknowledges the combined skills of Don Hunt, Steve Smythe, and others for the success of the project. The machine was designed for golf course work and planted and over planted on more than 30 golf course projects that he worked on. This machine has been copied commercially and altered to a long wheelbase design which is not as flexible as the initial machines.

This machine has been an industry changer. During the 1980s a series of severe floods in the Hawkesbury occurred and the industry changed from a small number of growers/suppliers and became much larger with many vegetable growers changing over to become turf growers. At this time Peter set out to form the NSW Turfgrowers Association and this happened in 1983 with him being the inaugural President.

He was been a long-time member of Turf Producers International or the ASPA (American Sod Producers Association) and brought out Dr. Henry Indyk from Rutgers University in New Jersey to help us with this setup. Henry was the first executive director of the ASPA and was fundamental in its foundation. Today he is proudly the beneficiary of their highest honour – Honorary Member. Today TPI honours him with three annual scholarships in his name.

Along with the planter, his workshop crew also built a neat compact washing plant for turf. There are a few of these in use around the Hawkesbury. Because he could not physically be a fulltime farmer, he had a farm manager right from the early years of

Qualturf and Pat Hunt was the man.

Alongside Qualturf, Peter ran a fulltime consulting business as Turfgrass Scientific Services Pty Ltd. This took Peter to many countries worldwide but especially into SE Asia. I introduced commercial turf farming in northern China and spent over 20 years working with the City of Tianjin on its Greening China program. This led to the Shanxi Government awarding him the Greening China award in 2005. It also led to developing an export trade in his grasses into both the middle east and SE Asia.

Peter's scientific interests in turf led him to joining the International Turfgrass Society (ITS) which was formed in 1969. Peter later joined in 1973. This experience led Peter to bring out to Australia the leading researchers from the USA for the AGCSA conferences over many years. These visitors read as a list of who's who in the World Turfgrass industry. Among them were the greats Dr. Jim Beard and Dr. Jim Watson, Dr. Joe Vargas, Dr. Arden Baltinsperger. In 1993 Peter became President of ITS and ran the 1997 conference (ITRCI) in Sydney at Sydney University. The interaction between Turfgrass Scientific Services and Qualturf was very beneficial for Qualturf and the feedback from Qualturf helped greatly to develop the value of Turfgrass Scientific Services.

He is especially proud to have brought the importance of the Turf Industry into the limelight with the 2019 appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia. In the last few years Peter has concentrated on breeding new turfgrass lines which are currently being commercialised but disrupted by Covid 19.

Among his many achievements have been creating the name for Australia's most recognised buffalo grass, Sir Walter, and developing the notion of a drop-in wicket in the early days of one-day cricket.

He has also undertaken ground-breaking work on mites which was funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia. He is undertaking several writing projects including a Manual for Turf Farming. Peter turned 86 in October 2021 and has made an outstanding contribution to the Turfgrowers Association of NSW and the turf industry.

Introducing some of the new Directors of the International Turfgrass Society (more introductions to follow)



Dr. Wilhelm Graiss is a senior scientist at the Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein in Austria where he leads the department of ecological restoration and forage crop breeding. The main work fields are management of the grassland gene bank of Austrian grassland, development of the technique for seed propagation of grasses and small grain legumes as well as methods for determining seed quality. He works together with the German Turf Society and have gained experience in the field of sports turf and gravel turf. With the participation in the scientific board of the International Turfgrass Society (ITS) he will contribute to the exchange of knowledge to the national turfgrass community.



Dr. Sun Yan is the president of the China turfgrass Society (2016-2020, 2021-2025) She is a professor in the Department of Turfgrass Science and Engineering, College of grassland Science and Technology, China Agricultural University (CAU) the deputy director and technical leader of Forage Seed Laboratory of CAU (ISTA Accredited Lab) and the Forage and Turfgrass Seed Quality Supervision, Inspection and Testing Center (Beijing) of the Ministry of Agriculture. she received her bachelor's degree in grassland from Inner Mongolia Agricultural University in 1989, her master's and Doctor's degree in grassland science from China Agricultural University in 1994 and 2012, respectively. Since 1994, he has been engaged in the teaching and research work of Turfgrass science and Management, Seed testing for forage and turfgrass. His main research direction is the physiology and molecular mechanism of stress resistance of turfgrass. She has been dedicated to the resistance screening and application of native turfgrass species in China, and she has good experience in other seed identification on seed testing.



Guilherme Barcellos is an Agronomist at PGG Wrightson Seeds in New Zealand responsible for the Seed Production Research Programme. Holding a B.Eng degree in Agronomy from Rural Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ) in Brazil,

Guilherme has had a diverse work experience of both hands-on, sales, and research jobs including Stadium Turf Agronomist, Turf Manager at a Sculpture Park, and Product Development Manager, acting in North America, South America, and Oceania.

For the last few years Guilherme has been involved in turfgrass plant breeding evaluation with a focus on using technology to assist breeders. Guilherme is proud to represent New Zealand at the ITS and keen to contribute to the growth of the organization.



Dr. John Kaminski is a professor at Penn State University where he specializes in turfgrass science, particularly in the areas of weed and disease management. He has been a faculty member since 2005 and currently serves as the Director of the Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program. Dr. Kaminski earned his undergraduate degree in Turfgrass Science from Penn State and completed his M.S. and Ph.D. in plant pathology at the University of Maryland. In his role at Penn State, Dr. Kaminski oversees a disease diagnostic lab and teaches eight courses that span topics from turfgrass diseases to golf course management. Each summer, he visits his international students during their internships to offer mentorship and hands-on guidance. Dr. Kaminski has authored two books: “Introduction to Turfgrass Management” and “Introduction to Turfgrass Diseases,” the latter of which is available in both English and Spanish. He also employs cutting-edge technology such as autonomous mowers and drones in his research. As a board member of the International Turfgrass Society he is representing the USA, Dr. Kaminski contributes his extensive knowledge and experience to both the American and international turfgrass communities.

2025 ITRC Graduate Student Competition Website Information

A Graduate Student Competition will once again take place at the 2025 ITRC. Competitions will be held for both oral and poster presentations and entrants will be divided into multiple categories based on their topic of research. The top contestants in each category will receive a complimentary ITS student membership and a modest cash prize. The presenting author of an accepted manuscript must be a graduate student at the time of the 2025 ITRC to be eligible for the competition. To enroll in the Graduate Student Competition, please click 'I would like to enroll in the graduate student competition' while registering for the conference on the website.



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
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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

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USA

Email: jsm0010@auburn.edu

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ITS Board Members 2022 - 2025

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Chiba University
H-310, 3-1 Kotesashi-cho
Tokorozawa, Saitama
Japan
Tel: +81-90-1268-6937
tonogi1234@jcom.home.ne.jp

Treasurer

Scott McElroy
Auburn University
233B Funchess Hall
Auburn, AL 36849
USA
Tel: +1 334 844-3992
jsm0010@auburn.edu

Past President

Maria Strandberg
STERF (Scandinavian Turfgrass &
Environment Research Foundation)
P.O. Box 11016, SE-11016
Stockholm
Sweden
Tel: +46 (8) 622 15 27
maria.strandber@golf.se

Newsletter Editor

Nathan R. Walker
Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078
Tel: +1 405 744 6830
nathan.walker@okstate.edu

Vice-President

Ruth Mann
Agrii
Throws Farm
Dunmow, CM6 3AQ
UK
Tel: +44 (0)7767392442
ruth.mann@agrii.co.uk

Secretary

Jim Murphy
Rutgers University
Dept of Plant Biology
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
USA
Tel: +1 848 932 6326
jamurphy@njaes.rutgers.edu

Journal Editor-in-Chief

Doug Soldat
University of Wisconsin
245 King Hall
1525 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706
+1 608 263 3631
djsoldat@wisc.edu

Historian

Alessandro De Luca
Italian Golf Federation - Green
Section
Via Montecchia, 22a
35030 Selvazzano Dentro - Padua
Italy
tel. +39 348 4150248
adeluca@federgolf.it

President- Elect

Katerina Jordan
University of Guelph
4214 ECB
Edmund C. Bovey Building
Guelph Turfgrass Institute
Tel: +1 519 824 4120 x56615
kjordan@uoguelph.ca

Website Editor

Tom Hsiang
University of Guelph
Environmental Sciences
Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1
Canada
Tel: +1 519 824 4120 ex. 52753
thsiang@uoguelph.ca



Directors

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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 December 15, 2023