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International Turfgrass

The Newsletter of the International Turfgrass Society

May 2024

Publication Update for the 15th International Turfgrass Research Conference (July 12-16, 2025) in Japan

By Doug Soldat, University of Wisconsin, Senior Editor International Turfgrass Society Research Journal

Website: https://itrc2025.turfsociety.com/
Conference Dates: 12-16 July 2025
Conference Venue: Karuizawa Prince Hotel West / Karuizawa, Japan

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to report a significant increase in title submissions for the 15th International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC) in Japan. We received 330 titles, a substantial rise from the 258 titles submitted for the 14th ITRC in Copenhagen. These titles were submitted by 271 unique corresponding authors.

Here's a breakdown of the submissions:

- Full Papers: 226 titles (submission deadline has passed, and review is underway)
- Short Communications: 77 titles (due by September 1, 2024)
- Technical Reports: 27 titles (due by January 1, 2025)

Of the full paper submissions, authors planned to submit to the following journals:

- International Turfgrass Society Research Journal (ITSRJ): 95 titles
- Crop Science: 86 titles
- Agronomy Journal: 45 titles

Papers deemed unsuitable for publication in Agronomy Journal or Crop Science will be transferred to ITSRJ.

Unfortunately, we did not collect data on the nationality of submitting authors during the title submission process. However, we will report these details after all manuscript reviews are complete. The previous conference had submissions from 24 different countries, and we aim to match or surpass this number. In addition, we received 53 submissions for the oral graduate student competition. We are pleased to see increased interest in ITS by graduate students, as they represent the future of our society.

Continued on next page

Yes, I am interested in turfgrasses. I have spent much time perfecting my own lawn. However; I recently let some of the yard convert back to nature/the prairie and it is taking back over. Less work for me. Sunflowers already dominating in May, pollinators prevalent, then migratory birds later this year will feed on the sunflower seeds (picture below).

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, 2024.

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

Sincerely,
Nathan R. Walker

In this Edition

- Publication Updated for the 15th International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC 2025)
- 15th International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC2025) Update
- Call for sponsorship
- International Turfgrass Research Initiative - A Cooperative Effort by STERF, The R&A, and USGA
- Botanical Names in Research Manuscripts: Check and Correct; Don't Just Copy Someone Else's Mistakes
- Why become an ITS Member?
- ITS Membership Application
- ITS Board Members

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The submitted titles reflect a diverse range of topic areas:

- Turfgrass Establishment and Maintenance: 54 titles
- Turfgrass Disease Ecology or Control: 46 titles
- Turfgrass Physiology: 44 titles
- Innovations and Developments in Turfgrass Science: 39 titles
- Turfgrass Weed Biology, Ecology, or Control: 31 titles
- Turfgrass Evolution, Breeding, or Genetics: 31 titles
- Case Studies: 21 titles
- Environmental Impacts, Ecosystem Services, or Biodiversity: 20 titles
- Turfgrass Soils: 18 titles
- Insect Pests and Nematodes: 17 titles

A small remainder indicated their work spanned multiple topic areas. For presentation formats, there was a near 50/50 preference for oral or poster presentations. While the program committee will strive to honor first choices, preferred formats cannot be guaranteed due to space and logistical constraints.

We are very excited about the record-breaking interest in the 15th ITRC. We are grateful to our skilled and dedicated editorial teams at Agronomy Journal, Crop Science, and ITSRJ, who will be facilitating the review of these submissions. The ITSRJ team will benefit from the leadership of Dr. Eric Lyons of Guelph University, serving as the Assistant Editor, alongside a team of 8 Technical Editors and 31 Associate Editors. We are also thankful for the many ad hoc reviewers who will enhance the quality of the manuscripts prior to publication.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me at:

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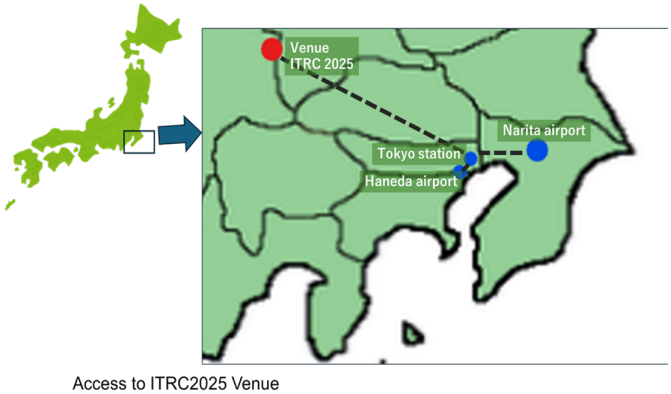
15th International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC2025) Update

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

We are excited to welcome ITRC2025 to Japan, in the summer of next year. It will be held at the Karuizawa Prince Hotel West from July 12 to 16, 2025. The location is within 1 hour of Tokyo station, 2 hours of Haneda airport and 2 and a half hours of Narita station by bullet train. The venue's hotel will accommodate as many of you as possible.



Access to ITRC2025 Venue

Conference and hotel reservations will open in December 2 2024. Please register and join us to explore innovation in turfgrass science, share your research findings and insights in a global network, talk with researchers and enjoy meeting them and friends from all over the world. (https://itrc2025.turfsociety.com/)

ITRC2025 will focus on SDGs. One of the aspirations toward SDGs is to have "a company not only focus on its own financial situation, but also on whether it fulfills its responsibilities to the environment and society." The fact that turfgrass-related companies are striving to achieve SDGs and bring about beneficial effects for society is contributing to improving the environment, enhancing their corporate image, and helping consumers select products and services to help maintain a healthy and sustainable environment.

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More than 300 research papers

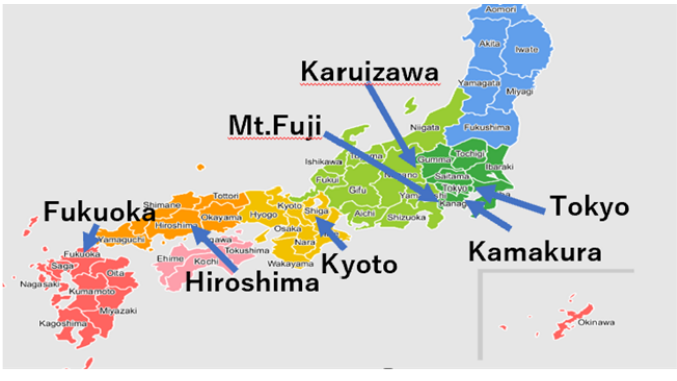
For the oral and poster sessions, applications have been received for more than 300 titles. Each paper is expected to be submitted for peer review or final check, with due dates May 1, 2024, Sept. 1, 2024 and Jan. 1, 2025 for research full papers, short communications and tech papers, respectively.

Technical tour

A total of 8 trips are planned on July 15, 2025. Depending on the trip, you can visit a variety of sites, including a golf course, a football field or a Japanese garden. Please refer to the ITS Newsletter (May 2023) for details of the main visit sites.

Pre-conference tour

For ITRC2025, we are planning a one-week tour prior to the conference to give participants the chance to gain a deeper understanding of the culture of Japan, the host country, and to help make the experience even more enjoyable.



On the tour we will take in Fukuoka, a large city in the Kyushu region, and visit Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kamakura, and Tokyo. We will visit a golf course that uses Zoysia grass as well as cultural heritage sites such as shrines, temples, gardens, and a fish market.

We are planning a 6-day itinerary using Shinkansen bullet trains and buses to take us from Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kamakura, and Tokyo to the Karuizawa Prince Hotel.

The cost is expected to be approximately $2,200 (excluding the Shinkansen pass). The current itinerary and travel details are shown below.

Conference Program

Date			Time	Agenda
July	12	Sat.	PM	Opening Ceremony & Keynote speeches Oral Research presentations Welcome reception
July	13	Sun.	All day	Practitioner seminar Oral & Poster Research presentations
July	14	Mon.	AM	Graduate Student Presentation Contest Oral & Poster Research presentations
July	14	Mon.	PM	Oral & Poster Research presentations
July	15	Tue.	All day	Technical tour (1) Saitama area, (2) Nagano area, (3) Family Nagano Sightseeing Tour
July	16	Wed.	AM	Zoysiagrass symposium Oral & Poster Research presentations
July	16	Wed.	PM	ITS quadrennial meeting Graduate Student Contest Awards Farewell party

Date		Sites and transport	Hotel
7/6/2025	Sun.	Stay at Fukuoka	Fukuoka
7/7/2025	Mon.	Fukuoka --- Keya Golf Club --- Fukuoka --- (JR Train) --- Hiroshima --- Peace Memorial Museum	Hiroshima
7/8/2025	Tue.	Hiroshima --- Miyajima Shrine --- Hiroshima --- (JR Train) --- Kyoto --- Fushimi Inari Taisha	Kyoto
7/9/2025	Wed.	Kyoto --- Kiyomizu-dera Temple --- Kinkaku-ji ---Kyoto --- (JR Train) --- Tokyo	Tokyo
7/10/2025	Thu.	Tokyo --- Kamakura Kotoku-in --- Tsurugaoka Hachimangu --- Hamarikyu garden --- Tokyo	Tokyo
7/11/2025	Fri.	Tokyo --- Toyosu Fish Market --- Tsukiji --- Downtown Tokyo bus tour --- Karuizawa	Karuizawa

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Call for sponsorship

We appreciate the sponsorship from a number of organizations such as Syngenta, Husqvarna, TourTurf, ENVU, TORO, Bichemic, MBC, RIKENGREEN, STERF, BASF, SDS Biotech, R&A, JCPA, NISSAN CHEMIAL, HYPONeX, AGRO-KANESHO, ICL, KANEKO SEEDS, ROYAL GREEN, Benidai, NASU NURSERY, JGIA, ZMCP, TAKII SEED, Mr. Takeshi Ohnishi and TAISHIN SANGYO. Excellent sponsorship opportunities are still available at https://itrc2025.turfsociety.com/sponsorship/.

International Turfgrass Research Initiative - A Cooperative Effort by STERF, The R&A, and USGA
2024 Request for Proposals - project period 2026-2028

By Maria Strandberg ITS Past President, STERF Sweden, Cole Thompson, USGA, USA and John Kemp The R&A, UK

The challenges for the future of the golf and the larger turfgrass industry are many and diverse. Climate change is transforming abiotic stress patterns, pest life cycles, and basic turfgrass selection and management. Strong restrictions on the use of chemicals and fertilizers, and increasing pressure on natural resources (notably water, energy and land) are expected. Development is accelerating the loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity. All this calls for more research and innovation for a sustainable future.

Development and sustainability were the themes of the 14th International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC 2022) hosted by STERF in Copenhagen, Denmark, in July 2022. Global challenges and challenges within the turfgrass industry related to the United Nations sustainable development goals set out in Agenda 2030 were the focus of many presentations and discussions amongst delegates. STERF feels that investing in turfgrass research would be the most appropriate legacy from ITRC 2022, and STERF board have decided to reserve future funds to support global turfgrass research. Therefore, STERF, together with The R&A, and USGA have created the International Turfgrass Research Initiative (ITRI) to develop research projects with global significance.

Research Priorities

Sustainable agronomy is the most prevalent area of interest. In light of increasing pesticide regulations, warmer weather patterns, and more frequent droughts and irrigation restrictions in many parts of the world, all parties agreed that integrated pest management (IPM) and water conservation are important foci of the initiative. Another important focus is biodiversity research in turfgrass management, which is essential to foster ecological balance by understanding and preserving diverse ecosystems within turfgrass and golf course landscapes. A better understanding of the carbon balance in turfgrass management globally is crucial for understanding the impact of turfgrass on greenhouse gas emissions and net carbon sequestration. The following specific topics are prioritized:

- Integrated pest/turfgrass management
- Water conservation
- Biodiversity and landscape perspective
- Climate (carbon balance)

More information can be found in the “ITRI Framework Paper” at https://greensectionresearch.smapply.org/. Select the International Turfgrass Research Initiative programme at the bottom of the page.

Guidelines for Pre proposals and Full proposals

STERF, The R&A and USGA have together reserved approximately € 250,000 per year for three years for research projects with global significance. Collaboration and joint projects between international research organizations is an important aim of the initiative and a requirement for project funding. We also recognize that industrial engagement and support is a critical component of research. Applicants are therefore encouraged to secure either additional funding and/or in-kind support for their proposed research to deliver additional impact and outreach. Instructions for those wishing to apply for funding can be found in the “2024 Request for Proposals” at https://greensectionresearch.smapply.org/. Select the International Turfgrass Research Initiative programme at the bottom of the page.

Deadline and Decisions

Pre proposals are due August 15, 2024. Full proposals will be invited by October 31, 2024 and Full proposals are due February 26, 2025. Final decisions will be made by June 30, 2025.

Agreements for approved projects will be written for one to three years; however, continuation of a project will be determined annually based project progress and reporting.

Continued on next page

Proposals shall be uploaded at https://greensectionresearch.smapply.org/. The website is hosted by the USGA and an account will need to be created at the website before uploading a proposal.

If more information or clarification is required, please contact:

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E-mail: JohnKemp@randa.org

Botanical Names in Research Manuscripts: Check and Correct; Don't Just Copy Someone Else's Mistakes

By Dr. Donald S. Loch (The University of Queensland, Australia)

Carl Linnaeus (1707-78) is recognized as the founding father of modern botanical science. Among the many advances that Linnaeus made, his greatest legacy came in his landmark work, Species Plantarum (1753), which introduced a system of latinised binomial species names that finally enabled taxonomists to define accurately each different plant species. The first part of the binomial name shows the genus to which the species belongs, and the second part is the specific name (or specific epithet) which differentiates it from others within that genus.

Linnaeus's innovation has stood the test of time. It led to the ongoing development of an international set of rules under the so-called Botanical Code (started in 1867 and now in its 19th revised version, the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants or ICN [Turland et al., 2018]) with the aim of having a single name that is accepted and used worldwide for a particular plant or plant group. And 271 years later, it remains the cornerstone of international plant (and animal) taxonomy. More generally, those established nomenclatural rules are fundamentally important in the writing of scientific papers where the plant (and other) materials used in experiments must be defined accurately as routinely stipulated in journals' "Guides to Authors".

Based on the standard of botanical nomenclature used in manuscripts submitted to recent International Turfgrass Research Conferences, these rules appear to be poorly understood nowadays by many plant scientists. The ASA–CSSA–SSSA Publications Handbook and Style Manual, which covers all submitted Conference manuscripts, requires scientific names (together with botanical authorities) and common names (if available and not confusing) to be given at first mention in both the stand-alone abstract and the main text.

Taxonomy is never a finished science: taxonomic revisions are ongoing; and there are still new species to be described. To encourage international consistency, the ICN recommends following Authors of Plant Names by Brummitt and Powell (1992), which assigns to each author of a botanical name a unique abbreviation. Based initially on this work, up-to-date lists of currently accepted scientific names together with their relevant authorities each based on a valid publication are available from a number of online sources: e.g. International Plant Names Index (IPNI) at https://www.ipni.org/, Kew Plants of the World Online (KewPOW) at https://powo.science.kew.org/, GRIN-Global Taxonomy through https://www.gbif.org and an increasing number of genebanks worldwide, and Tropicos (Missouri Botanical Garden) at https://www.tropicos.org. For well-known plants, the listed authority names and abbreviations are virtually identical; and for less commonly encountered plants described post-1992, the listed authorities may vary slightly, perhaps by an initial or two. The following example for *Cynodon* turfgrasses illustrates the way these should be used and the historical information that the proper use of botanical authorities summarizes.

At genus level: *Cynodon* Rich. (bermudagrasses - plural) Genus established by Louis Claude Marie Richard in 1805.

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At species level, there are two natural taxa and one hybrid taxon.

Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers. (bermudagrass - singular). Described as *Panicum dactylon* by Carl Linnaeus in 1753; transferred (shown by the brackets) to the genus *Cynodon* by Christiaan Hendrik Persoon in 1805.

Cynodon transvaalensis Burtt Davy (African bermudagrass)
Described by Joseph Burtt Davy in 1921.
Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers. x *C. transvaalensis* Burtt Davy (hybrid bermudagrass)

Note that the authority is placed against the last name (i.e. following the species name not the genus, in a binomial name). The one exception occurs when there is a large range of morphological variation within a species such that it is further divided into subspecies or botanical varieties. In this case, the first validly described variety or subspecies automatically generates another variety or subspecies based on the species epithet. The latter is known as an autonym, in which case the botanical authority remains with the species name since there was no direct human involvement leading to its description. For example:
Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers. var. *dactylon*
Cynodon dactylon var. *aridus* J.R. Harlan & de Wet

Similarly for other species: for example:
Zoysia macrantha Desv. subsp. *macrantha*
Zoysia macrantha subsp. *walshii* Night.

Among the errors in botanical nomenclature noted in manuscripts submitted for the 2021 Conference was the incomplete *Cynodon dactylon* (L.). Who transferred Linnaeus's original description under *Panicum* to *Cynodon*?

However, the most worrying error – not common but also not unique – was to mention only *Cynodon dactylon* in the Introduction before listing the cultivars studied, all or most of which were from the hybrid taxon *Cynodon dactylon* x *C. transvaalensis*. The most likely cause could be the indiscriminate use "bermudagrass" to cover everything *Cynodon* in everyday life, in which case clear and unequivocal common names as per the above examples might help to avoid such misidentification of botanical taxa in the future. This also highlights a key difference between scientific and common plant names: at any particular point in time, there can only be one legitimate scientific name accepted worldwide for each taxon (e.g. genus, species), but each of these can have multiple common names, even in the same country or locality. And unlike scientific names, there are no international rules to be followed with common names – only Rafferty's rules!

Over time, ongoing taxonomic revision may change the accepted scientific name by which a plant was previously known in the literature. To minimise confusion, it is helpful to show the superseded name as a synonym following the currently accepted name. The following two examples illustrate the use of a synonym with a change of genus and a change of the specific epithet.

Axonopus fissifolius (Raddi) Kuhlm. (syn. *Axonopus affinis* Chase)
Cenchrus clandestinus (Hochst. ex Chiov.) Morrone (syn. *Pennisetum clandestinum* Hochst. ex Chiov.)

As per the preceding examples, scientific names and authorities for plants used or mentioned in a submitted manuscript are required to be shown in accordance with long-established international rules under the Botanical Code. The current accepted names and authorities are quickly and easily checked online; don't fall into the lazy trap of copying someone else's mistakes instead.

References

Brummitt, R.K., and Powell, C.E. (Eds.). (1992). Authors of plant names: A list of authors of scientific names of plants, with recommended standard forms of their names, including abbreviations. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
Turland, N.J., Wiersema, J.H., Barrie, F.R., Greuter, W., Hawksworth, D.L., Herendeen, P.S., Knapp, S., Kusber, W.-H., Li, D.-Z., Marhold, K., May, T.W., McNeill, J., Monro, A.M., Prado, J., Price, M.J., and Smith, G.F. (Eds.). (2018). International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (Shenzhen Code) adopted by the Nineteenth International Botanical Congress Shenzhen, China, July 2017. Regnum Vegetabile 159. Koeltz Botanical Books, Glashütten.

[Based on an extract from Loch, D.S. (2025) Branding with marketing trademarks adds another layer of complexity to traditional botanical taxonomy and nomenclature. ITSRJ 15 (in press)

Bust of Carl Linnaeus (1707-78) in Adelaide Botanic Garden.

Introducing some of the new Directors of the International Turfgrass Society

(more introductions to follow)

Kelly Kopp is a Professor and Extension Specialist in the Plants, Soils & Climate department at Utah State University (USU), where her research efforts are focused on sustainable turfgrass management, landscape water conservation, and irrigation technologies. She is the director of USU's Center for Water Efficient Landscaping and is board member and past president of the Utah Water Conservation Forum. From 2007-2016, she served on the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE), an international organization promoting all aspects of water efficiency, and as Chair from 2014-2016. Her service with AWE gave her the opportunity to work with numerous members of the water and irrigation industries, USEPA's WaterSense team, and other governmental agencies. She continues to work in these fields in pursuit of water use efficiency in the state of Utah, the Intermountain West, and beyond.

Recently, she has directed her research efforts toward characterizing "resource-positive" landscapes, with the goal of developing ornamental landscapes that provide enhanced ecosystem services to urban and suburban environments. This research takes a life-cycle analysis approach to identifying landscape designs and management practices to characterize these landscapes for the state and region, with the added objective of improving their climate resilience.

Dr. Kopp also leads broad outreach efforts through her work with USU Cooperative Extension, including the development of educational support materials for industry associations and clientele groups and numerous invited speaking events in the state, region, and country. She is also active with various national organizations including the Professional Grounds Management Society, the National Association of Landscape Professionals, and the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America as well as the International Turfgrass Society.

15th ITRC
2025 JAPAN

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.

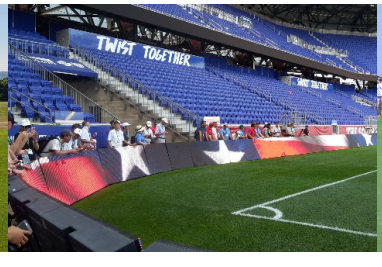
ITS membership is a 4-year subscription (2022-2025) and includes the following benefits:

- 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
- 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 **turfsociety.com**



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15th ITRC

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