

Hi There!

TURFGRASS SCIENCE

THE VIRGINIA TECH TURFGRASS SCIENCE PROGRAM'S 2024 ANNUAL TURFGRASS RESEARCH FIELD DAY IS SURE TO BE A SUCCESS WITH INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS LIKE YOU, SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF TURFGRASS RESEARCH.

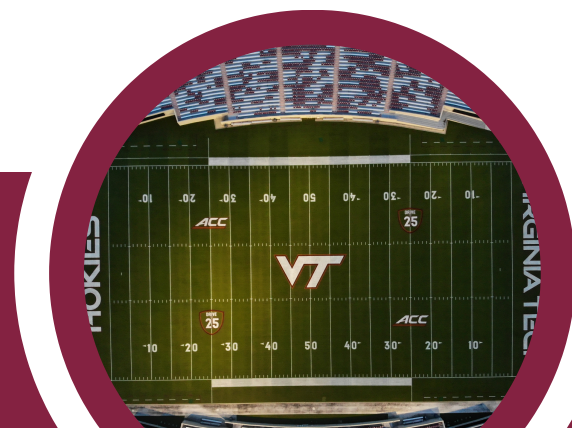
Established in 1972, these 25 acres became the home for our program's earliest scientists including Dr. Richard "Dick" Schmidt, Dr. Roy Blaser, John Shoulders, Dr. Houston Couch, Dr. Wayne Bingham, Dr. Jack Hall, and Dr. David Chalmers. Over five decades of field research have supported Virginia's golf-course superintendents, sports-field managers, sod producers, lawn-care operators, and green-industry professionals in becoming more excellent turfgrass managers and better stewards of the Commonwealth's natural resources. Over the past fifty plus years, many scientific contributions to the turfgrass science literature were born from these very grounds, and the turfgrass research center continues to serve our faculty, graduate students, and staff as a space to explore new ideas, identify sustainable solutions, and promote research-based best management practices for all areas of the turfgrass industry.

The Turfgrass Research Center continues to be a living asset in fulfilling Virginia Tech's land-grant mission of research and extension, and also serves as an outdoor classroom in providing experiential-learning opportunities for many young Hokies during the academic year. Students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' School of Plant and Environmental Sciences and the Agricultural Technology program demonstrate and build upon their classroom knowledge through laboratory exercises and gain first-hand experience in operating turfgrass equipment commonly used throughout residential properties and professional turf facilities.

Now, as we look forward to the future of turfgrass, we invite you to join us on Tuesday August 27th, to meet our current Turfgrass Team and connect with new and old friends as we highlight current research and share our vision for the future, at the 2024 Turfgrass Field Day in Blacksburg!

Thank you in advance for your consideration!

**BRANDYN BATY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
VIRGINIA TURFGRASS FOUNDATION
BRANDYN@VATURFGRASS.ORG
(757) 585-3058**



VIRGINIA TECH TURFGRASS TEAM

The VT Turfgrass faculty, staff, and students has long been called the “Turfgrass Team” by the administration of the College of Agriculture and Life Science because of its well-documented teamwork-first approach for many years across so many different disciplines in the field of turfgrass science.



Dr. Mike Goatley
Professor
Extension Turfgrass Specialist



Dr. Shawn Askew
Professor
Turfgrass Weed Science



Dr. David McCall
Assistant Professor
Extension Turfgrass Pathologist



Dr. Tom Kuhar
Professor
Extension Specialist
Entomology



Dr. Xunzhong Zhang
Assistant Professor
Research & Sr. Scientist



Dr. Dan Sandor
Assistant Professor
Turfgrass Science



Jon Dickerson
Instructor
Turfgrass Management



John Hinson
Manager
Turfgrass Research Center



Whitnee Askew
Turfgrass Program
Manager



Kevin Hensler
Field & Greenhouse
Manager



Travis Roberson
Research Associate
(Richmond, VA)



Dr. Jeffrey Derr
Director of Hampton AREC
Professor of Weed Science
Hampton Roads AREC



Dr. Alejandro Del-Pozo
Assistant Professor
Entomology
Hampton Roads AREC



Adam Nichols
Manager
Turfgrass Research
Hampton Roads AREC

THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH

The Virginia Turfgrass Foundation is thrilled to partner with Virginia Tech to fund a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) each year! The Fall of 2024 marks our second year of funding and supporting the future of turfgrass research.

The graduate students' names and faces are always changing (particularly this year), as the students graduate and move on to their next positions in their personal and professional careers. These young men and women are truly leading our research programs into the future!



Brett Corbett
GRA
Turfgrass Weed Science



Navdeep Godara
GRA
Turfgrass Weed Science



Caleb Henderson
GRA
Precision Turfgrass Management



Elisabeth Kitchin
GRA
Precision Turfgrass Management



Daewon Koo
GRA
Turfgrass Weed Science
dwkoo.vt.edu



John Peppers
GRA
Turfgrass Weed Science



Aaron Tucker
GRA -
Turfgrass Nematology
mat280@vt.edu



Juan Romero
GRA
Turfgrass Weed Science



Ava Veith
Future GRA
Field Playability & Athlete Safety

With your help, through donations, sponsorships, event attendance, and fundraisers, the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation will continue to make this funding achievement happen.

We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to supporting the future of research for many years to come.

ABOUT US

Dr. Shawn Askew is our turfgrass weed scientist evaluating management practices and researching new herbicides for weed control and Dr. David McCall is our turfgrass pathologist and conducts research using precision technologies for disease management and examines improved cultural and chemical practices for disease control. In addition to their many research projects located across the state, both Dr. McCall and Dr. Askew hold extension appointments and provide outreach-education for many turfgrass professionals. Dr. Mike Goatley is our turfgrass extension specialist, providing Virginia's industry professionals with educational programs and trainings, both in person and through virtual programming; and Dr. Goatley leads our turfgrass-variety trials in our research program.

Entomologists Dr. Tom Kuhar and Dr. Alejandro Del-Pozo are very active in supporting our industry needs in insect pest management. Dr. Jeffrey Derr and Mr. Adam Nichols lead our research and extension programs in turfgrass and ornamental weed control trials at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Virginia Beach. Dr. Xunzhong Zhang is our plant-stress physiologist who continues Virginia Tech's industry-leading role in research identifying how to best utilize bioproducts for enhancing turf performance. Dr. Dan Sandor leads our teaching efforts and student advising in the 4-year Bachelor's-degree program and serves as VT's faculty advisor for the VT Turfgrass club; and he is engaged in many aspects of our extension programming and research efforts. Mr. Jon Dickerson leads our 2-year Associate's-degree program, teaching and mentoring students in our college's Agricultural Technology program.

Whitnee Askew is our Turfgrass Program Manager and serves in data collection and reporting of our variety trials and wears many administrative and supportive hats behind the scenes. John Hinson serves as the manager of the Turfgrass Research Center, leading the day-to-day operations in field-trial installations, maintenance programs, and the planning of capital projects and improvements of our research-center facilities. PhD candidate Travis Roberson leads our unique research program on the Par-3 golf course at Independence Golf Club in Midlothian. Kevin Hensler serves as the primary field technician in fungicide evaluation trials, and also conducts research on the best native grasses for Virginia's climate.

The Virginia Turfgrass Foundation (VTF) is our non-profit 501(c)(3) partner that promotes the benefits of natural grass by funding our research to preserve, transform, and improve our environment throughout the commonwealth and beyond. The support of the VTF has allowed funding of over \$2M towards our program, and this year they will be funding our first Graduate Research Assistantship (graduate student) this coming Fall.

And while the names and faces of our **graduate students** are always changing, as our students graduate and move on to their next positions in their personal and professional careers, it is truly these young men and women that are leading our research programs into the future!

We hope you will let us know how we might support you in our role as a Turfgrass Team built to serve all segments of the turfgrass industry and the residents throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia!

EVENT SCHEDULE

2024 TURFGRASS FIELD DAY

Research. Education. Extension.

Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Center

BLACKSBURG, VA

● LAWNS ● LANDSCAPE ● GOLF ● SPORTS FIELDS ● SOD PRODUCTION

2ND ANNUAL GOATLEY RULES GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, August 26th

- **GOATLEY RULES GOLF ~ Virginia Tech Golf Course**

- 9 Holes of "NOT YOUR NORMAL GOLF GAME" fun!
- A FUN focus on your golfing TECHNIQUE, STRATEGY & TEMPERAMENT.
- SHOTGUN START AT @3:00PM
- Awards @6:30PM ~ Holtzman Alumni Cntr.
- **GOLF: \$50 per person (Space is limited)**

- **NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR & DINNER ~ Holtzman Alumni Cntr.**

- 6:30PM Start
- **FREE to all registered attendees & sponsors**

2024 ANNUAL VT TURFGRASS FIELD DAY

Tuesday, August 27th

- **FIELD DAY SCHEDULE**

- Registration, Breakfast and Vendor Engagement @7:00AM
- Research Field Day Tours @9:00AM
 - Three concurrent tracks: Lawn, Golf & Sports
- Turfgrass Research Center 50th Anniversary Lunch 1:00PM
- **\$20 Pre-Registration (\$25 at event)**



TURFGRASS SCIENCE



2024 BLACKSBURG FIELD DAY SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

DIAMOND SPONSORSHIP \$3000 (2 AVAILABLE)

- Prominent company logo featured on all sponsor signage, VTF website and full-page ad in event brochure. Sponsorship Includes: Goatley Rules Golf team of 4, Monday, August 26th evening dinner networking and awards, up to 10 attendees to the Tuesday, August 27th Field Day event with a vendor table.
 - **DINNER SPONSORSHIP**
 - **LUNCH SPONSORSHIP**

PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP \$1500 (2 AVAILABLE)

- 2nd most prominent company logo featured on all sponsor signage, VTF website, and Half-Page ad in event brochure. Sponsorship includes: Goatley Rules Golf play for 2, Monday, August 26th evening dinner networking and awards, up to 6 attendees to the Tuesday, August 27th Field Day event with a vendor table.
 - **HAPPY HOUR SPONSORSHIP**
 - **GOATLEY RULES GOLF TOURNAMENT**

GOLD SPONSOR \$1000 (3 AVAILABLE)

- 3rd most prominent company logo featured on all sponsor signage, VTF website, and Half-Page ad in event brochure. Sponsorship includes: Goatley Rules Golf play for 1, Monday, August 26th evening dinner networking and awards, up to 4 attendees to the Tuesday, August 27th Field Day event with a vendor table.
 - **LANYARD SPONSOR**
 - **GOLF CART SPONSOR**
 - **HOLTZMAN ALUMNI CENTER SPONSOR**

BRONZE SPONSOR \$500

4th most prominent company logo will be featured on all sponsor signage, VTF website, Logo in event brochure. Sponsorship includes: Goatley Rules Golf for 1 player, Monday, Monday, August 26th evening dinner networking and awards, up to 2 attendees to the Tuesday, August 27th Field Day event with a vendor table.

- **BREAKFAST SPONSORSHIP**
- **HYDRATION SPONSORSHIP**

ORANGE SPONSOR \$250

Company name on all sponsor signage. VTF website, Company name listed in event brochure, Vendor Table, Hole Sponsor and Field Day Welcome signage, Monday, August 26th evening dinner networking and awards, 1 attendee to the Tuesday, August 27th Field Day event.

MAROON SPONSOR \$150

Name on all sponsor signage. VTF website, Company name listed in event brochure. Hole Sponsor and Field Day Welcome signage, Monday, August 26th evening dinner networking and awards, 1 attendee to the Tuesday, August 27th Field Day event.

IN KIND DONATIONS

In-kind donation opportunities are always welcome and appreciated as we continue to upgrade and renovate the Turfgrass Research Center.

100% of Proceeds support ongoing research programs and operations of the Turfgrass Research Center.