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Congratulations to Our 2025 Distinguished Service Award Winner: Jim Held

(Ashley Ryan Breed, ashbreed@purdue.edu)



Be on the Lookout: Indiana Green Expo

(Ashley Ryan Breed, ashbreed@purdue.edu)

The Indiana Green Expo will be held at the Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis on February 10-12 this year. Attendee registration will open soon so keep an eye on your email for that notification or visit IndianaGreenExpo.com to stay up-to-date with details as they become available.

Booking a room in the IGE room block at the Westin is now available. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to book today or visit the IGE website above anytime to find the link on the home page.

This year promises to be a huge success and we hope to see everyone there!

Fourteen Education Tracks at the Indiana Green Expo



The Midwest Regional Turf Foundation would like to congratulate the 2025 Distinguished Service Award Winner, Jim Held! His high level of support combined with his contribution of time and effort to advancing the turfgrass industry has earned him this incredible award and we are so proud to have had him as a past president of the foundation.

Jim will be honored and given his award at the DSA reception during the Indiana Green Expo on February 11th from 5:00-7:00 pm (EST). We invite ALL to join us in celebrating such an esteemed industry professional. There will be food and drinks available as well as other updates and exciting news from the MRTF. No RSVP necessary.

Bio:

Jim Held is the Golf Division Manager at Automatic Supply. He has worked in the Indiana Turfgrass industry for 35 years. He focuses on golf irrigation design, sales, and service in Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan. He is a Certified Irrigation Designer (CID) and Certified Golf Irrigation Auditor (CGIA). Jim served on the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation from 2016-2024 and was President in 2020. He also chaired the MRTF governance committee and served in local education programs such as the GCSAA First Green program. He annually guest lectures at Purdue University teaching students about irrigation design and operation.

2024 Herbicide Workshops

(Ashley Ryan Breed, ashbreed@purdue.edu)

The Herbicide Workshop will be held in person and online this year. This workshop is designed for beginners and more experienced professionals who want more information on herbicide use principles and a discussion of how to control common green industry weeds. This workshop offers training in weed identification, integrated weed management, selecting the right herbicides, enhancing weed control, and updates on the latest weed research findings.

There will be **three in-person locations** this year. Each is one-day only and will be held at the following dates and locations:

- December 3rd in Fort Wayne at Holiday Inn Purdue Fort Wayne
4111 Paul Shaffer Drive Ft. Wayne, IN 46825

- December 5th in Indianapolis at The Fort Harrison Golf & Conference Center
5830 N Post Road Indianapolis, IN 46216

- *NEW* December 12th in Shelbyville, KENTUCKY at the Shelby Country Extension Office
1117 Frankfort, Rd. Shelbyville, KY 40065

Spaces are LIMITED for the in-person workshops. To pre-register please use the appropriate link provided below.

[FORT WAYNE](#)

[INDIANAPOLIS](#)

[SHELBYVILLE, KENTUCKY](#)

The **virtual** program begins on December 1st and lasts until December 31st. During this time, you will have access to multiple videos that will assist you in earning CCHs (7 credits for categories 3a, 3b, and 6 & 4 credits for RT).

For more information or to pre-register, click [HERE](#).

DID YOU KNOW...?

- **98% described Dr. Patton's instruction as very good or excellent.**
- **>94% noted that the workshop was very good or excellent.**
- **93% learned something new with 88% using the information to change their weed control program.**

- **65% were able to save money with the new knowledge they gained.**
- **96% would recommend this program to YOU!**

Feel free to visit www.mrtg.org/upcoming-events to review details (including CCHs awarded, costs, print registration forms, see other upcoming events, and more)!

We hope to see you at one of these events this year!

Behind the Scenes of Turfgrass Research: An Opportunity to Grow our Partnership

(Aaron J Patton, ajpatton@purdue.edu)

You may know that Purdue University is home to one of the top turfgrass science programs in the world. What you may not know is that the Purdue Turf Program started with a push from the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, which was organized in 1945 with a mission to support the research and education needs of golf courses in the region. The MRTF advocated with the



Dean of the College of Agriculture to add a dedicated turf scientist. Later in 1950, William (Bill) Daniel was hired by Purdue University as its first turfgrass scientist. He served in that position from 1950 to 1985 and was affectionately known as "Doc" Daniel by his students. Throughout his career, he conducted his turfgrass

management research on a small, 5-acre parcel of land in Tippecanoe County. Since then, the Purdue Turf Program has grown and their research facility is now located close to campus between the two 18-hole Pete Dye designed golf courses.



In recognition of Doc Daniel's impact, the current 30-acre turf center in West Lafayette was dedicated in 1998 in his honor. With an operational budget supported by the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation (MRTF), this center houses over 100 turfgrass research projects in any given year. The facility has over ten different turfgrass species, research plots managed as golf course putting greens, fairways, lawns, and sports fields and has provided the Purdue Turf Program an opportunity to increase its research, Extension, and teaching impact.

Opportunities for Improvement

The facility has served the turfgrass industry and the Purdue Turfgrass Program well since it was opened in 1998, but the program has grown since it first opened and *changes are needed to maximize the impact of the program and the facility moving forward.*

The Purdue Turf Program in partnership with the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation has a vision to build new and innovative facilities to prepare the next generation of leaders in the turf industry. These improvements will allow the program to attract the best faculty and students, enhance research to improve golf course playing conditions and sustainability, increase teaching capacity for tomorrow's golf course superintendents, improve facilities for continuing education, and strengthen workplace safety for its employees. A new dual-use endowment called the "Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Enhancement Endowment" was created in

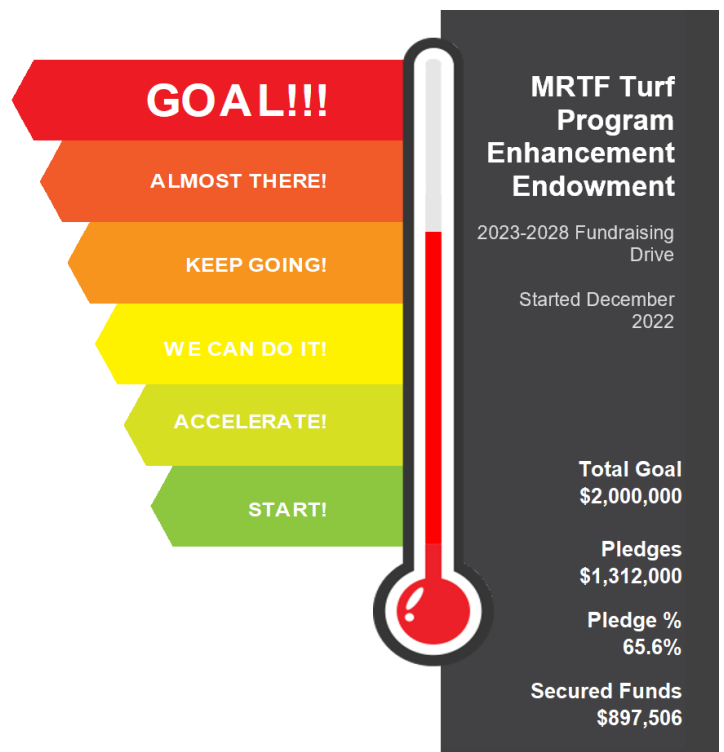


PU TURFGRASS CENTER STUDY | RENDERED AERIAL
VERS ON 1.0 | MARCH 8, 2022



December 2022 to house gifts and, ultimately, support a \$2M building expansion initiative. The Midwest Regional Turf Foundation is pledging \$500,000 to advance the Purdue Turf Program.

Today and I am writing to update on the status of this fundraising effort and also encourage you to get involved to help push us towards the finish line. I am encouraged to report that this effort which began about 24 months ago is gaining momentum. We now have pledges meeting 65.6% of our \$2M fundraising goal. Further, we have \$897,506 already "in-hand." Not only are we making progress towards our pledge target, but we are making progress towards having \$1.95M in a Purdue University account, which is a requirement before we can break ground on this project.



Consider how you can come alongside the MRTF as an individual or a company and give a gift towards this Purdue Endowment to help grow the Purdue Turf Program. Contact Aaron Patton (ajpatton@purdue.edu, 765-494-9737) if you have questions or want to connect us with potential interest in the project. Individuals interested in giving can give via this Purdue link with

Indiana taxpayers getting a credit as described below.

<https://giving.purdue.edu/MRTFbuild>

Tax information: *Indiana taxpayers may take a tax credit of half (50%) of their gift to Purdue. For a joint return, the maximum credit is \$200 (based on a gift of \$400 or more), and for a single return, the maximum credit is \$100 (for a gift of \$200 or more). The tax credit directly reduces the "bottom line" of your state income tax by reducing the amount you owe in taxes. All it takes is your gift to Purdue and one simple form: the Indiana CC-40.*
<https://www.purdueforlife.org/give/ways-to-give/>

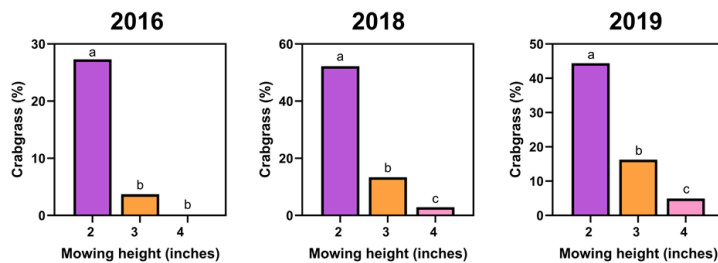
Research Spotlight: Keep Crabgrass Out of Turf by Shading It

(Aaron J Patton, ajpatton@purdue.edu)

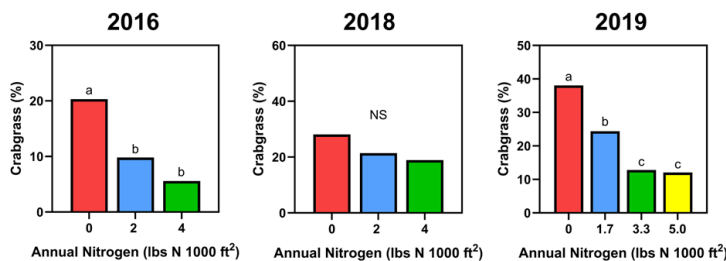
By Aaron Patton and Vera Vukovic

Smooth crabgrass is one of the most common weeds in lawns and probably the weed species we get the most questions about. We investigated the influence of mowing, fertilization, and light on the development of smooth crabgrass through a combination of field, greenhouse, and growth chamber experiments.

We learned that smooth crabgrass development in lawns depends on the amount of light reaching the soil surface. Nitrogen fertilization, and more importantly, increasing mowing heights, reduced the light penetrating the turfgrass canopy and minimized smooth crabgrass encroachment. In fact, we could almost completely eliminate crabgrass by increasing the mowing height to 4.0 inches, whereas we often had close to 50% crabgrass by the end of the season when mowing at 2.0 inches.



Increasing fertilization in the Kentucky bluegrass turf we studied reduced crabgrass, but it didn't have the dramatic effect that mowing height had on crabgrass.



Our tests revealed that smooth crabgrass germination is not affected by light quality or quantity. In fact, smooth crabgrass germinated in the dark. This is different than what we anticipated and it caused us to ask the simple question, "If crabgrass can germinate in the dark, why doesn't tall cut turf have crabgrass?"

What we learned in our greenhouse studies is that crabgrass germinates in shaded turf canopies, but increasing turf density (i.e., increasing shade at the soil surface) greatly diminishes the early development of smooth crabgrass. Numerous morphological and physiological consequences were noted in smooth crabgrass plants growing in dense shade that prevented their proper development and rooting.

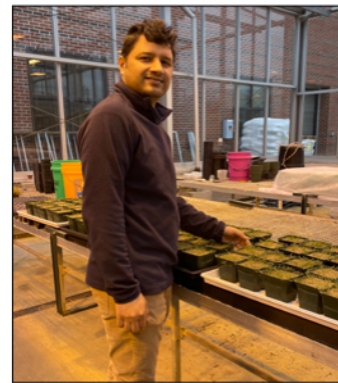
The results highlight the importance of using practices to promote healthy and dense lawns to increase competition against smooth crabgrass by excluding the light it needs to develop.

The above summary is a brief synopsis of the research we conducted. If you are interested in more details and the technical aspects of this research, read the entire published paper in *Crop Science* by clicking this link: <https://doi.org/10.1002/csc.2.21351>

News from Dr. Patton's Lab

(Ashley Ryan Breed, ashbreed@purdue.edu)

WELCOME DR. NABA AMGAIN!



Dr. Naba Amgain has recently joined Dr. Patton's research program as a postdoctoral associate. Naba was born and raised in Nepal. He moved to the United States for graduate school, where he revied a Master's degree in Horticulture and a Ph.D. in Crop Science from

Oklahoma State University. During his graduate degree he conducted research on warm- and cool-season turfgrasses including water use rate of bermudagrass, cultivation practices impact on soil physical properties of golf course putting greens, and the effect of shade stress on creeping bentgrass. Prior to joining as post-doctoral associate at Purdue University, he worked on the effects of cover crops and land management practices on soil health at the Ohio State University and at the University of Florida. In his free time, he enjoys traveling to new places and hiking.

YOUR MRTF Member Benefits

(Ashley Ryan Breed, ashbreed@purdue.edu)

In addition to receiving our quarterly newsletter, MRTF members enjoy many other benefits included with their membership each year. The [MRTF website](#) has a [Members-Only portal](#) that grants them access to downloadable logos for business cards or web pages, newsletter archives, an expanded directory with contact info, and hundreds of educational videos from past events. These videos have been a huge hit with our members and provide exclusive access to content that can be used for training

purposes, answer questions, or act as a refresher.

This portal is password-protected and changes every year. You receive the updated password with your email confirmation when you register your membership every year. If you cannot access this email, please email admin@mrtf.org about the current password.

To renew your membership for 2025, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Here is a sneak peek at our videos page:

MEMBER VIDEOS

Enter your Keyword — Select a Category — Select Tags Search Videos

108 videos found

A Practical Review of Herbicide Mode of Action: Part 1
Posted By: [Aaron J Patton](#)
Tags: Sports, Lawn, Landscape, Golf
weeds, pesticide

A Practical Review of Herbicide Mode of Action: Part 2
Posted By: [Aaron J Patton](#)
Tags: Sports, Lawn, Landscape, Golf
weeds, pesticide

Avoiding Herbicide Injury to Your Turf
Posted By: [Aaron J Patton](#)
Tags: Lawn
weeds

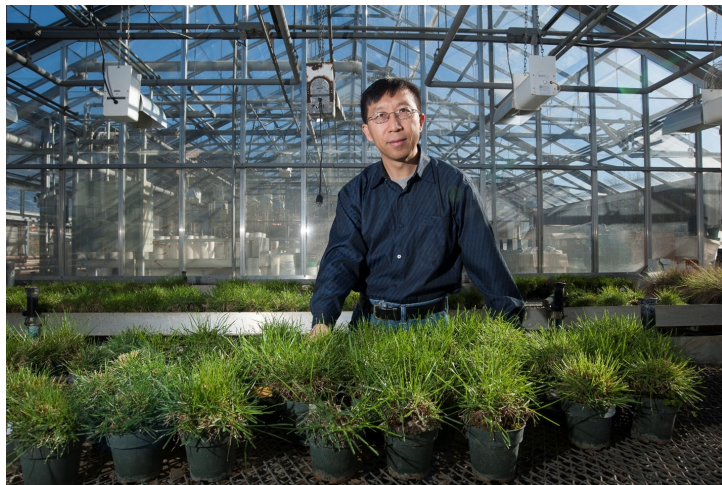
Bad Foliar Diseases
Posted By: [Janna Beckerman](#)
Tags: Landscape
diseases

Battling Annual Bluegrass (Poa annua)
Posted By: [Aaron J Patton](#)
Tags: Sports, Lawn, Golf
weeds, pesticide

Bentgrass and Poa trivialis Control in Lawns
Posted By: [Bruce Branham](#)
Tags: Sports, Lawn
weeds

Campus Spotlight: Dr. Yiwei Jiang of Purdue Retires

(Aaron J Patton, ajpatton@purdue.edu)



Dr. Yiwei Jiang Retires

After a 20-year career at Purdue University studying the physiology of grasses, Dr. Yiwei Jiang retired from Purdue University. This summer, he moved back to China where he can be closer to his family. He will continue to study grasses for the next several years, but now at the School of Grassland Sciences at Beijing Forestry University. You may not have been that familiar with Dr. Jiang. He did basic plant science work related to grass molecular and physiological responses to stress. This type of research is important but not always immediately applicable. His primary research goal was to better understand how grasses respond to stress. The new knowledge gained through his research can then be built upon by plant breeders to develop new cultivars and also provide new insights on how common management practices can alleviate or cause plant stress. We wish him the best in his new position.

Purdue Turf Team

2024-2025 MRTF Upcoming Events

(Ashley Ryan Breed, ashbreed@purdue.edu)

December 1-31, 2024

Herbicide Workshop; ONLINE

December 3, 2024

Herbicide Workshop; Holiday Inn Purdue Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, IN

December 5, 2024

Herbicide Workshop; Fort Harrison State Park & Garrison Conf. Center, Indianapolis, IN

December 12, 2024

Herbicide Workshop; Shelby County Extension Office, Shelbyville, KY

February 10-12, 2025

Indiana Green Expo; Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN