Midwest Regional Turf Foundation

MIDWEST Memo

Issue: 10: Midwest Memo

In This Issue

2025 Turf & Landscape Field Day – Registration Open!

(Ashley Ryan Breed, ashbreed@purdue.edu)

The Purdue Turf and Landscape Field Day is an annual one-day event with the objective of providing professional turf and landscape managers with exposure and education to the latest research and technical resources. Field Day features research tours, talks on current topics, and a tradeshow with over 40 exhibitors displaying equipment, turf, and landscape products.

This year's Field Day will be held *in person* at the William H. Daniel Turfgrass Research and Diagnostic Center on Tuesday, July 8th!

Registration is NOW OPEN for attendees and exhibitors. Click here to start a new registration.

CCHS REQUESTED FROM THE OISC: 4.0 CREDITS IN THE 3A/3B/6/RT CATEGORIES | 3.0 CREDITS IN THE 2 CATEGORY | 0.5 CREDIT IN THE 5/7A CATEGORIES

ARBORIST AND GCSAA EDUCATION CREDITS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE. SURROUNDING STATE CREDITS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. LET ASHLEY KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE OUT-OF-STATE CREDITS AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE EVENT.

The cost to attend is as follows:

Large Exhibitor Booth 20'x20' (includes one free registration) = $350

Small Exhibitor Booth 10'x10' (includes one free registration) = $225

Attendee – MRTF/INLA Member = $60 (pre-registration) / $70 (on-site registration)

Attendee – Non-Member = $90 (pre-registration) / $100 (on-site registration)

If you have any questions or need help getting registered, please contact Ashley Breed at admin@mrtf.org or 765-494-8039. We hope to see you all there!

Research Spotlight: Understanding and Controlling Wild Violet in Lawns

(Aaron J Patton, ajpatton@purdue.edu)

Understanding and Controlling Wild Violet in Lawns

Wild violet (*Viola sororia*) is a widespread perennial broadleaf weed that can be particularly challenging to control in lawns. It is often found in shaded residential areas with established trees and thinner turf swards, and its presence in moist habitats suggests it may prefer irrigated sites. While some know it as a popular garden flower and it is the state flower of several states, it is considered a persistent weed, especially in high-quality turf areas. Turf managers frequently refer to wild violet and similar species as wild violets. Wild violet can spread both by seeds and asexually through ramet-forming rhizomes, which makes manual removal difficult unless the rhizomes are also removed.

Controlling wild violet is difficult for several reasons:

1. Cultural practices like regular mowing or reducing shade can reduce weed density, but their effect on complete control is limited.
2. Increasing nitrogen fertilization does not help reduce violets.
3. **Common three-way herbicide mixtures (e.g., 2,4-D + MCPP + dicamba) do not control wild violet well**.

Past research on the efficacy of other synthetic auxin herbicides has shown inconsistent results.

We conducted research at Purdue aimed at evaluating various synthetic auxin herbicides and their mixtures for wild violet control and to determine the optimal rate of triclopyr for control.

Key Research Findings

The experiments compared several synthetic auxin herbicides and mixtures and also tested a range of triclopyr rates.

Herbicide Comparison:

- Among the tested synthetic auxin herbicides, **triclopyr was the most effective for controlling wild violet**.
- Other common synthetic auxins like 2,4-D, 2,4-DP (dichlorprop), MCPP (mecoprop-p), and MCPA, either alone or in simple mixtures, showed little to no effectiveness; their results were comparable to the nontreated control.
- Quinclorac alone also provided poor control.
- Mixtures containing triclopyr (such as 2,4-D ester + triclopyr ester; triclopyr ester + quinclorac; and 2,4-D ester + 2,4-DP ester + triclopyr ester) were effective in reducing plant mass and regrowth.

Interestingly, adding quinclorac or phenoxy herbicides like 2,4-D did not significantly improve wild violet control beyond what triclopyr achieved on its own in most tested mixtures. The exception was the three-way mix (2,4-D ester + 2,4-DP ester + triclopyr ester), which resulted in the highest level of epinasty (stem twisting and leaf curling) observed at 99% 21 days after application. While not boosting wild violet control, mixtures can be useful for controlling a broader range of weed species and potentially delaying herbicide resistance.

Triclopyr Dose-Response:

This part of the study specifically looked at how different rates of triclopyr affected wild violet control. As the amount of triclopyr applied increased, visual symptoms (epinasty) became more severe, while plant health indicators like chlorophyll content and plant mass decreased. Regrowth measured after harvesting the treated plants provided the best indication of long-term control. Based on the regrowth data, the triclopyr dose needed to achieve different levels of control was determined:

- "Good" control (≥ 75% reduction in regrowth) required a triclopyr dose of ≥ 0.72 lbs ae/acre. This is equivalent to about 23 fl oz/acre rate of Turflon Ester Ultra.
- "Excellent" control (≥ 90% reduction in regrowth) required a triclopyr dose of ≥ 0.90 lbs ae/acre. This is equivalent to about 28 fl oz/acre rate of Turflon Ester Ultra.

Implications for Lawn Care Professionals

Wild violet is a tough weed that often escapes control from standard herbicide applications. This research confirms that **triclopyr is the most effective synthetic auxin herbicide for its control**.

A critical finding for your practice is that **the amount of triclopyr applied directly impacts the level of control achieved**. Many turf herbicide products containing triclopyr apply less than the required rate for effective wild violet control when used at their maximum label rates.

Therefore, to achieve good (≥ 75%) wild violet control, turf managers should:

- Select herbicide products that contain triclopyr.
- Ensure the application dose of triclopyr is at least ≥ 0.72 lbs ae/acre when used according to the label.

To maximize control, use the high label rate of triclopyr containing herbicides or tank mix triclopyr at its maximum allowable rate (e.g., 1 pint/acre when tank mixing with another broadleaf herbicide).

If the maximum label rate of a product containing triclopyr is below 0.72 lbs ae/acre, **multiple applications may be necessary to reach acceptable control levels**.

In summary, effectively controlling wild violet requires using a product containing triclopyr and applying it at a sufficient rate.

Dr. Aaron Patton

Purdue University

MRTF Financial Update

(Aaron J Patton, ajpatton@purdue.edu)

Have you ever wondered how the MRTF operates—or where your membership dues, event registrations, or generous donations go? I'd like to share our FY26 budget with you to show how your involvement directly fuels our mission and makes a lasting impact.

The MRTF is guided by a dedicated and diverse board of

directors—your industry peers from lawn care, golf, sports turf, distribution, and more. This board provides strategic direction to the executive committee and helps steer the Purdue Turf Program. Since 1945, our core mission has remained the same: to support turf research and education at Purdue University, driving progress in the turfgrass industry.

To advance this mission, the MRTF board carefully directs funding to several key areas:

- Turf research at Purdue University
- Operating support for the W.H. Daniel Turfgrass Research and Diagnostic Center
- Endowments sustaining long-term research
- Scholarships and student travel
- Educational and networking opportunities
- Member engagement and communication
- Industry advocacy and professional recognition

That's a lot to accomplish—but every initiative is powered by you. Your membership dues, registration fees, and donations are the foundation of all that we do. And we make every effort to be wise stewards of those funds.

Let's take a look at the FY25–26 budget:

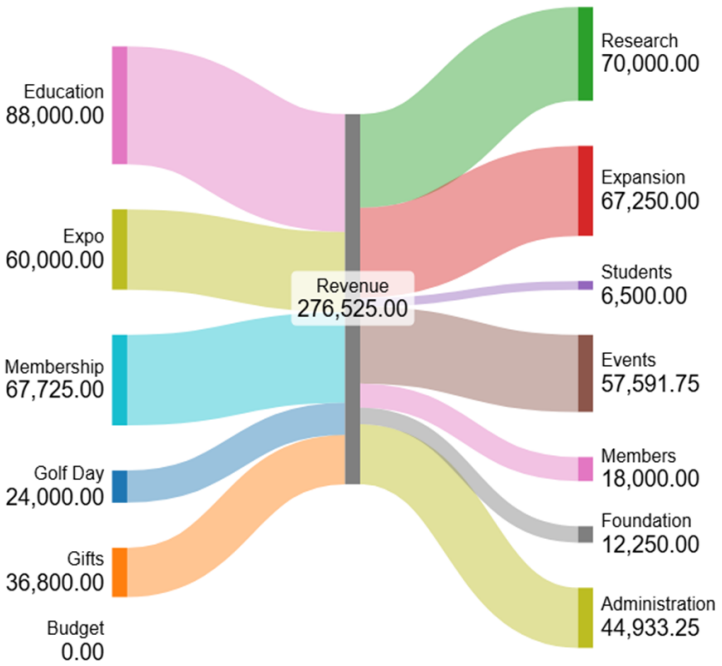
- **6% of revenue** is allocated directly to research—**$137,500** for the Daniel Turf Center, research projects, and expansion planning.
- We've **reduced event costs** by 3% (from 24% to 21%) since last year through smarter spending, while still delivering high-quality education and outreach.
- **Administrative costs are lean—just 16%** of our budget. Except for our Executive Secretary, all MRTF board positions, including mine as Executive Director, are volunteer roles. This keeps overhead low and impact high.
- We've invested **$6,500 in student initiatives** and an additional **$9,000 in scholarships** through our endowments.
- Our spending on **member services** has increased from **$11,250 (4%) to $18,000 (6.5%)** to support items like membership renewals, member recognition through awards, and lobbying efforts.
- We also budgeted **$12,250** for essential foundation operations like accounting, insurance, and compliance—expenses required to maintain our 501(c)(3) status.

All of this is made possible by your support—and I hope this financial overview gives you a clearer picture of how your contributions are used and appreciated. We are committed to transparency and accountability, and we take pride in the impact we make together.

Thank you for being a part of the MRTF. Each time you renew your membership, register for an event, or make a donation, you're helping us shape the future of the turfgrass industry.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Aaron Patton, MRTF Executive Director



Help Your Community with the MRTF Day of Service

(Ashley Ryan Breed, ashbreed@purdue.edu)

2025-2026 MRTF Calendar of Events

(Ashley Ryan Breed, ashbreed@purdue.edu)

February 10-12, 2025

Indiana Green Expo; Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN

July 8, 2025

Turf & Landscape Field Day; Daniel Turf Center, W Lafayette, IN

August 14, 2025

Lawncare Diagnostic Training; Daniel Turf Center, W Lafayette, IN

September 23, 2025

MRTF Day of Service; Delphi, IN

October 13, 2025

MRTF Golf Day-Fundraiser; Warren Course, Notre Dame, IN

November 1 – December 31, 2025 (tentative start date…)

Herbicide Workshop, ONLINE

November 19-20, 2025

Turf & Landscape Seminar; Daniel Turf Center, West Lafayette, IN

November 25, 2025

Herbicide Workshop, Shelbyville, KY

December 16, 2025

Herbicide Workshop; Daniel Turf Center, West Lafayette, IN

February 8-11, 2026

Indiana Green Expo; Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN

Other

Day of Service, TBA

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