

A New Addition to Field Day 2023

Bruce Schweiger, Superintendent, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility

The growing season is in full swing, and Mother Nature has reminded us who is really in charge. 80 degrees for a few days, then snow for a couple of days! Summer will arrive along with the WTA Summer Field Day and golf outing. You read that right, a golf outing. Field Day will be held at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Educational Facility on Tuesday August 1st. Put that date on your calendar and for us old timers with a paper calendar, circle it in RED!

This year there will be the first ever nine-hole golf outing at Pioneer Pointe Golf Course, Neil Radatz, superintendent. That is right, you can play nine holes of golf at the new Pioneer Pointe GC in the morning. After golf you can head over to the O.J. Noer Facility, have lunch, and attend the afternoon research sessions. Golf will be a two-person scramble and limited to the first 52 registrants. You **MUST** be a paid registrant for Field Day to participate in the golf outing. Golf is **NOT** included in the Field Day registration cost.

Discussions with past summer Field Day attendees mention they consider the day as two separate events in one. The morning session is for general turf, landscape, lawncare and sports fields. The afternoon session is the golf program. The “golf” attendees have let me know how note-worthy the morning sessions are and they contain valuable information for everyone in the turfgrass industry. On the other side I have the “general turf” participants that have stayed after lunch tell me they learned useful information in the “golf” tour as well. I encourage you to fight the stereo types and come for as much of the day and education as possible! Not every research topic is significant to all attendees but there are nuggets of valuable information everywhere, you just need to look, listen, and ask questions. The research tours are beneficial to everyone in the green industry. It doesn't matter if it is in the matter morning or afternoon.

This year's event will again be information packed. Summer Field Day has been developing a reputation as one of the best in the business and one you should not miss. We hope to drive those attendance numbers back into the mid to upper two hundred attendees. All proceeds from the Summer Field Day are put back in the UW-Madison turf program.