

Project/Activity Number: SERA25 Turf: EIG16

Project/Activity Title: **Multistate Research Coordinating Committee and Information Exchange Group – Turf**

Period Covered: 10/01/2013 to 09/30/2018

Date of This Report: October 1, 2018

Participants: See Appendix A – Attendance list by year

Brief overview of Meetings Over this Period:

This group meets 3 out of every 4 years as it does not meet in years in which the International Turfgrass Society (ITS) meets. In this period, ITS meet in 2013 and 2017 so SERA25 did not meet in those years. SERA 25 met in Greenville, SC (Clemson University host) in 2014, Oklahoma City (Oklahoma State University, host) in 2015, Perdido Beach, Alabama (Auburn University, host) in ~~2015-2016~~ and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida (University of Florida, Host) in 2018.

Impacts (these are objectives not impacts; impacts list what changed as a result of programs conducted by the group or was accomplished as result of the committee's existence)

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1. Foster the exchange of information concerning current research, teaching and extension activities and discuss future directions and needs for turf programs throughout the Region
2. Encourage information exchange regarding research/teaching/extension methodologies and technologies
3. Promote cooperative effort among researchers, teachers and extension professionals in the Region.

Activities

~~One of the overarching goals of the group's goal is to facilitate information exchange among the participants allowed strategizing among states in addressing during this period several challenges that arose in the turf industry. and this group The members greatly benefitted from presentations on these topical items. For example during this period, the nematicide NemaCur was taken off this the market and replaced by 3 new products. This group The members benefitted greatly from work done and presentations from researchers at the University of Florida and other sites on these new products.~~

~~The herbicide resistance Another topic was addressed by SERA 25 was herbicide resistance. Reports of herbicidal weed resistance in turf came early in the south. Research Talks at information these meetings shared outlined the problem as well some ways of best management practices in reducing herbicide resistance. This information became the backbone in herbicide resistance turf Extension programs among the dealing with resistance and these ideas were carried back to the participating Universities to become the backbone in there programs on herbicide resistance in turf.~~

Another weed issue that has been addressed is the replacement of MSMA, the participants in SERA25 all made contact with EPA and organized their clients in communicating the importance of this herbicide in the region ~~and probably had some impact as the~~ which resulted in MSMA not being herbicide was not totally banned. Presentations on herbicides to replace MSMA, particularly for dallisgrass (*Paspalum dilatatum*) have been very helpful for turf Extension specialists.

Many ~~SERA 25 participants in the group~~ have teaching appointments. Turf student recruitment became an important issue after the collapse of the housing market. Student enrollments in all land grants in SERA 25 declined expect for the University of Tennessee. Participants from UT and this period showed a leveling out to continued decline in turf undergrad enrollment throughout the region. This decline began after the housing bubble in 2008 and has continued in most programs. One exception has been the University of Tennessee and they shared ideas that they have used to grow their enrollment in this period.

Environmental activism has increase in the region but perhaps the most has occurred in Florida where a fertilize law that includes blackout dates has been put in place in many jurisdictions. The Florida experience has spurred many the southern turfgrass ~~aligned groups to try~~ industry to be ~~more~~ proactive. An example is the GCSAA (Golf Course Superintendents Association of America) who has encouraged its state chapters to develop BMP (Best Management Practices) publications for fertilizer use on golf courses. According the GCSAA, the southernis region is on schedule for having BMP publications in place by 2020~~7~~. SERA25 member institutions are the groups who develop these documents.

A workshop was conducted at the 2016 meeting ~~in Perdido Beach to teach the group how to~~ enhance SERA 25 member's impact writing skills. write better impact and outcome statements. This workshop may change the way the ~~As a result, members report being more comfortable preparing impact statements for their University's annual reports. group writes reports but we have yet to see much feedback to know if we are being effective.~~

~~Member institutions~~ Mississippi State University, Auburn University and the University of Florida have partnered with ~~several~~ GCSAA chapters and state turfgrass associations to put on the Deep South Turf Expo in 2015-2017. The Expo brings together turf industry leaders, golf course superintendents, landscapers, and university faculty. at the request of several vendors and others allied with the turf industry. This conference has replaced annual state conferences in Mississippi and Alabama.

~~The other goal of the committee~~ SERA 25 has been less successful in coordinating multistate research among its members. has been to coordinate research in region and we have not been very successful at that. Part of the problem may be that SERA25 has been mainly and information exchange group. At the 2018 meeting there did seem to be some interest in using the group to write some NIFA proposals.

Some of the turf breeding members of the group (Florida, NC State, Georgia, Oklahoma State and Texas A and M) have been successful in securing SCRI funding to improve the drought and salinity tolerance of warm season species. This group has piggybacked their group meetings

with the SERA25 meetings ~~and SERA25 has benefitted from this~~. The ~~outputs-plant selections from this effort~~ are being tested at those Universities as well as at other Universities.

Another recently awarded SCRI project will look at herbicide resistance, and several SERA25 member institutions are participating (Mississippi State, Florida, Texas A and M, Virginia Tech).

Outcomes

~~Although not developed directly through SERA25 there are multistate research projects being done in the region.~~—The SCRI turf breeding project is now yielding products that are being tested at other universities providing additional research opportunities. The ~~end result~~ result will be turfgrasses better adapted to the conditions of the region that use ~~few inputs~~ less resources.

The information exchanged has led to timely dissemination of information on new pest management products and replacements for retired products

~~to research and extension clients throughout the region.~~—The turf community is better informed and ~~able to~~ better equipped to help ~~practioners-industry professionals and land manager~~ to make informed-wise decisions as a result of SERA coordinated information.

The management of turfgrass, particularly on golf courses, have improved as the SERA 25 developed BMPs have been implemented across the southern region. - ~~By having these practices in place~~ These research-based BMPs help the turf community ~~is prepared to be~~ environmental stewards and to stand the scrutiny of environmentalists.

Publications See Appendix B Publications by year