

# THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL RUTGERS TURFGRASS SYMPOSIUM

School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers University

March 20, 2025

Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health Building, Room 101

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM      Registration**
- 9:00 – 9:10 AM      Welcome – Laura Lawson** (*Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources*)
- 9:10 - 10:30 AM      SESSION I: Turf Biotic Pests** (Moderator: Ming Yi Chou)
- 9:10 - 9:30      **Doug Richmond** (*Department of Entomology, Purdue University*)  
    Billbugs: The Cryptic Culprits That Kill Your Turf
- 9:30 - 9:50      **Dominic Petrella** (*Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences – Plant Science Engineering Technologies, Ohio State University*) The Influence of Light Quality on Turfgrass Biology and Stress Responses
- 9:50 - 10:10      **Salma Mukhtar** (*Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University*)  
    Examination of Antifungal Metabolites and Biocontrol Potential of Bacterial Isolates from Dollar Spot Disease Suppressive Soil
- 10:10 – 10:30      **Ning Zhang** (*Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University*) New Fungal Species Discovery and Culture Preservation
- 10:30 - 10:50 AM      Discussion and Break**
- 10:50 - 11:50 AM      SESSION II: History and Future of Turfgrass Breeding and Management** (Moderator: Stacy Bonos)
- 10:50 – 11:10      **Eric MacPherson** (*Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University*)  
    Bandon Dunes: 25 Years Later (2024 Sean M Pattwell Scholarship)
- 11:10 – 11:50      **KEYNOTE: Leah Brilman** (*Director of Product Management and Technical Services, DLF-Pickseed*) 40 Years of Cool-Season Turfgrass Improvement and Goals for the Future – The Importance of Rutgers – Industry Cooperation
- 11:50 – 1:10 PM      Lunch Break and Poster Session**

- 1:10 – 2:10 PM**      **SESSION III: Turf Evaluation/Improvement** (Moderator: James Murphy)
- 1:10 – 1:30      **James Baird** (*Botany and Plant Sciences Department, University of California – Riverside*) Breeding Bermudagrass for California and the Southwest
- 1:30 – 1:50      **Rong Di** (*Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University*) CRISPR-Gene Editing to Improve Turfgrass Disease Resistance and Stress Tolerance
- 1:50 – 2:10      **Bradley Park** (*Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University*) Assessing Establishment of the 2023 NTEP Kentucky Bluegrass Test with Remote Sensing
- 2:10 – 2:30 PM**      **Discussion and Break**
- **2:30 – 3:30 PM**      **SESSION IV: Remote Sensing** (Moderator: Stephanie Rossi)
- 2:30 – 2:50      **Chris Kahn** (*Alpha RTK*) Leveraging GIS for Extraction and Visualization of Multispectral Statistics from Drone Data
- 2:50 – 3:10      **Juan Gonzalez** (*Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University*) Using Computer Vision to Phenotype Turfgrass at Scale
- 3:10 – 3:30      **Haoguang Yang** (*Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University*) Remote-Sensing Evaluation of Creeping Bentgrass Responses to Variable Drought Stress Levels in a Linear Gradient Irrigation System
- 3:30 – 4:00 PM**      **Discussion Session and Closing Remarks**
- 4:00 PM**      **Poster Session**

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