

08/01/2022: ATRF update 2nd quarter report

#### Research Update: CTRF release

As you may know, the Alberta Turfgrass Research Foundation invests \$4,000 each year to maintain membership to the Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation (CTRF). This national body collects all allied projects submitted, and assists by choosing (and funding) the most relevant research for our industry. Last fall the CTRF invested in Guillaume Gregoire's Laval University project: **"Understanding and Predicting Pesticide Use on Golf Courses using Deep Machine Learning"**. As members and contributors, all ATRF members can access the **final report** free of charge [LINK](#). Every October, we/ATRF are further invited by the CTRF to submit our project ideas during the annual "Call of Proposals". Partner investments are leveraged at the national level, sharing the pool of resources. As Dr. Gregoire's project was funded last year, we are optimistic some Alberta based research will be funded this year!

#### Member services:

This spring the ATRF was busy with industry presentations, a Canadian Golf Superintendents presentation in May, in June we attended the interior chapters meeting in Vernon BC, and presented to the Canadian Prairie Irrigation Association. If you weren't aware, each industry association approached for membership affords up to \$5K/yr. This significant investment provides complimentary CEU speaking engagements upon request, anywhere in Canada. Thank you to the AGSA who once again exceeded the annual sponsorship request.

#### Diagnostic Lab

Thankfully for our golf superintendents, the diagnostic lab has seen very little pythium compared to last year's hot, smoky season. With rain nearly every day, (11.25" in July) our soils are saturated - but no severe outbreaks recorded! That said, be on the look-out for anthracnose, the combination of saturated soils, humidity, and heat! Relatively easy to diagnose with a hand lens; see the black fruiting bodies, acervuli, of the fungus (right.-cited <https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/lawn-turf-anthrachnose>). Disease pressure doesn't always reflect the compendium's disease temperature modeling. If you are unsure, submit a sample to the lab for analysis. Link to diagnostic submission form. [LINK](#). We maintain a 24hr turnaround for disease diagnosis, and full page report within 7 days for \$189.

#### Service Work:

Although not all service contracts are available for dissemination, they help pay the bills at the research center. These contracts may include product testing, new pesticide registration work required by PMRA, and always some snow mold trial testing. To date we have 4 active service contracts and are soon to begin our winter snow mold trials. Service work has been steadily increasing since 2021, and we're happy to report confidence in the ATRF by our industry distributors and suppliers.

**Challenge Cup!** (right) This July we hosted a hospitality tent at the annual AGSA's Challenge Cup. Thanks to Terri and the directors of the Alberta Golf Superintendents Association for another outstanding event at Copper Point in Invermere!



#### Olds College Turf Program Update

All our turf education programs are at capacity once again. Our certificate, diploma, 3rd and 4th yr degree educates approximately 150 students per year, graduating roughly 100 annually. The continued success has been due in part to our unique timing, falling outside the typical semester Jan-April, students are never pulled off the golf course during growing season. We are soon to expand the online turf science certificate, thereby acknowledging full credit into the full time diploma program. We remain committed to our diploma student providing hands-on learning on campus Jan-April, however overwhelming demand has dictate our Bachelor or Applied Science in Golf Course management will proceed 100% online in November for the next intake. For more info, check our Olds College [website!](#)

Should anyone have any questions, please check the website for your sector representative, or reach out to Jason, [jpick@oldscollge.ca](mailto:jpick@oldscollge.ca), or 403-556-8243