



Q3 update: Oct-Dec 2023

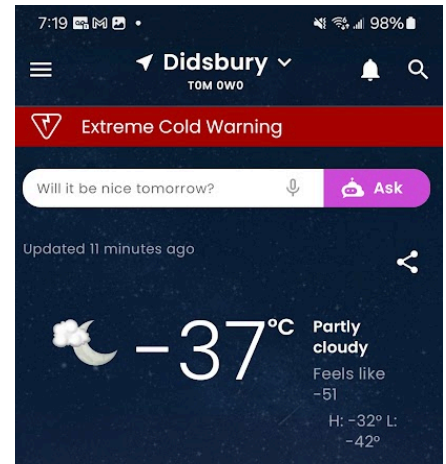
With course closures and snowfall, the ATRF closed for the season. A welcomed shift into conference season, we appreciated invitations from Saskatchewan Turfgrass Association, Landscape Alberta, and the Alberta Golf Superintendents Association, and several more through the winter. For the first time, the ATRF will soon address the Atlantic Golf Superintendents in Halifax, followed by the MGSA, covering CEU topics, Legislation and regulation, business management, research advances & updates.



Extended Fall turns Polar Vortex - Turf Impacts:

Our third quarter saw a flurry of activity with several late product trial entries, evaluating products and rates for Microdochium, Gray and Pink snow mold from Belchim, BASF, and Syngenta. We were happy to see our plots covered with winter trials, the late fall also gave us the opportunity to get all the trials down without incident.

However, the extended fall in 2023 left most properties open, and few clubs had snow cover through December. This raises concern as extreme cold temperatures in early January now pose a risk of direct low temperature kill having suffered from the -37°C and -51°C temperatures in Alberta. Especially concerning for those managing populations of poa annua, the cold extended into central BC with reports of -10°C. Past research at the PTRC has proven that despite the unique evolution of poa annua, its survivability beyond -15°C is virtually nil. The environmental requirement for adaptation and evolution are selection forces being applied repeatedly, over a long period of time. In the case of low temperature kill, the species is denied repeated selection force - and subsequently unable to adapt to temperatures below -15°C. For many clubs out there who did not use insulating covers, or those without 4-6" snow, the -20' to extreme -51°C temperatures will undoubtedly result in loss of your poa annua. You may want to extract a plug and move it to the window - assess the turf loss.



Membership update:

Trends in membership at the ATRF are positive - reflective of the gradual change from individual membership to corporate and association support. We are very proud to report all turf associations in western Canada, are now members of your association! Extending the foundation benefits through these associations, we ensure assistance is received by all in our field. The next billing cycle begins in April, thanking you all in advance for your renewed support.



Alberta Turfgrass Research 2024

In 2024, the ATRF and the Prairie Turfgrass Research Foundation at Olds College will be engaging several key turfgrass areas:



The premier project in drought avoidance, a partnership between the Sod Growers Commodity Group and City of Calgary will commence 2024. The project aims to determine minimum sustainable

levels of irrigation to recover from primary wilt, comparing Calgary's perennial "Yard Smart" formula with 28 varieties of sod produced by eight of the leading sod producers in Western Canada. The three year trial hopes to ultimately produce a functional formula for landscape architects and city planners to adequately design residential and commercial infrastructure to provide appropriate planting plans with pipelines of adequate size to provide sufficient water for irrigation. We hope this model will prove as a foundation for future city planners and architects.

The ATRF will be sowing 36 ryegrass varieties at the PTRC this spring 2024 for A-List sustainable turf. We join contributors Purdue University, UCRiverside, NCState, Rutgers, Utah State, University of Wisconsin-Madison, UConn, Virginia Tech, Ohio State, Oregon State U, and Iowa State in perennial ryegrass evaluations applicable to Northern Canadian climates



Once again our Olds College degree students will be competing in GCSAA's turf bowl this Feb in Phoenix. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of Syngenta Canada and Jason Steadwell, who continues to invest in tomorrow's turf managers. With two teams this year in Phoenix, we are hopeful to represent Olds

College, Syngenta, and the Canadian turf professionals among up to 77 American turf schools such as Purdue, Texas A&M, with a goal to de-throne Penn State! We also cheer for the University of Guelph, supporting all Canadian turf students at this premier event.

Turf Program update:

The Olds College Online Turfgrass Certificate began this fall with 42 students, our Turf Management Diploma maxed at 32 students and was oversubscribed again this year. With a full section on the waiting list, 2024 marks the 10th straight year Olds College turf program has maintained a waiting list into its full time program. With scheduled start Jan 8, 2024, the college continues to capitalize on its compressed block system, with 13 day courses and just 4 months on campus, it utilizes internships to round out student education while they work full time. With some room to grow in the applied degree, we will welcome degree students back on Campus in January 2025 for the Bachelor of Applied Science in Golf Course Management.

For more information regarding Turf research, past projects or future opportunities, check our website [Alberta Turfgrass Research Foundation](https://www.albertaturfgrassresearchfoundation.ca). For program information in Olds College Turf Management Certificate, Diploma or Applied Science Degree in Golf Course management, visit: [Oldscollege.ca](https://www.oldscollege.ca), or contact Jason Pick, 403-556-8243

