

research areas, and offices for coaches and administrators associated with the N.C. State golf teams.

The most significant need in the future will be continued development and expansion of the Turfgrass Field Laboratory located at University Field Labs on Lake Wheeler Road. Space requirements for laboratory programs funded by the Center appear adequate at this time, as individual faculty use space and equipment allocated within their home departments.

The Turfgrass Field Laboratory is an essential part of the applied research being funded by the Center. The Laboratory has ~ 7 acres of managed turfgrass under irrigation, and another 10 acres without irrigation. New irrigated plots are continually being developed as new research objectives evolve. One large equipment storage building has been constructed and a second maintenance/office building is being planned. Funding for Field Laboratory construction and operations is being supplied by the Turfgrass Center and CALS.

Relationship to Instructional Programs

The Center has an intense focus on graduate and undergraduate education. Graduate students are involved in virtually all research projects funded by the Center. For the 2004-2005 funding cycle, the Center was funding stipends and tuition for 12 graduate students. Also, the Center is contributing funding to the Field Research Laboratory with state of the art environmental assessment equipment, and much of the graduate student research will be conducted there.

The Turfgrass Field Laboratory also provides an important resource for education and outreach. Numerous demonstrations, field days, and workshops are held throughout the year. And, it allows hands-on experiments in undergraduate teaching programs and is a key element of the turfgrass internship program for students in the 2- and 4-year degree programs.

A main goal of the Center is to increase the environmental awareness of students. It is hoped that an expanded population of trained, environmentally conscious graduates will carry the ideal of sustainability into the workforce.

The Center is funding development and operations of the web site 'Turffiles', which has an important role in outreach and in education. The site is the main electronic conduit for information transfer to industry and the public, and it currently receives approximately 2 million inquiries per year. 'Turffiles' also contains information and lecture material for turfgrass courses offered to undergraduate and graduate students.

Administrative Structure

As stated above, four individuals are responsible for the organization, planning and operations of the Turfgrass Center. Drs. Thomas Rufty, Fred Yelverton, and Rick Brandenburg serve as Co-Directors and Ms. Emily Erickson, the Coordinator of Turfgrass Educational Programs, serves as the Associate Director. The Directors are accountable to the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. While not administratively associated with Departments at N.C. State, the success of the Turfgrass Center is dependent on close relations with Department Heads. Every effort is made to keep key Department Heads informed about Center activities as they evolve.