

NTGCSA North Texas Golf Course Superintendent's Association Recertification

Scottish Rite
Meeting Room
2222 Welborn Street Dallas, TX 75219

Agenda September 10, 2026

9:30am to 10:20am	A Review of TDA Pesticide Laws and Regulations – Henry Krusekopf, Texas Department of Agriculture
10:30am to 11:20am	What's New in Turfgrass Disease Management – Joey Young, PhD, Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science, Texas Tech University
11:30am to 12:20pm	Update on Pre- and Post-emergent Herbicide Options, Label Restrictions and Resistance Issues for Grassy Weed Control in Warm-Season Tees, Fairways, Roughs and Putting Greens. – Steve Wilson, CGCS, USGA Agronomist – Central Region
12:30pm to 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm to 2:20pm	Identifying Common Insect Orders in the Landscape – Gary Brooks, Retired
2:30pm to 3:20pm	The Latest Tools, Technologies, and Strategies for Managing Golf Course Water – Ben Wherley, Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science, Texas A&M University

Expanded Course Descriptions

A Review of TDA Pesticide Laws and Regulations

Henry Krusekopf

The presentation will give an overview of state and federal pesticide regulations, including the role of the Texas Department of Agriculture in monitoring compliance of Ag and Structural pesticide applicators. The pesticide label, PPE, and the complaint investigation process will be reviewed. Updates to state and federal pesticide regulations will also be discussed.

What's New in Turfgrass Disease Management

Joey Young, PhD

This presentation will give an introduction to diseases and common management solutions to them. Discussion will include the disease triangle, that environment (especially moisture) is key for disease, and consideration that abiotic disorders that can appear to be diseased areas and traditional cultural controls for a variety of diseases.

The presentation will also cover newer cultivation practices (frazee mowing, deep slicing, compressed air like Air2G2), remote sensing disease populations to target areas with greater disease incidence as a means to reduce sprayed acres (saves money too).

Finally, discussion will be held over any newer fungicides or updated formulations or pre-packaged mixtures that can enhance disease control. The benefits of reviewing product labels, pre-packaged mixtures with multiple modes-of-action to reduce fungal resistance to key pesticides and fungicide rotations or plans that target specific diseases and success of those products from peer-review literature will also be covered.

Update on Pre- and Post-emergent Herbicide Options, Label Restrictions and Resistance Issues for Grassy Weed Control in Warm-Season Tees, Fairways, Roughs and Putting Greens.

Steve Wilson, CGCS

This presentation will cover new and existing best management practices for pre- and post-emergent control of goosegrass and crabgrass in warm-season grasses. Topics covered will include existing and new herbicide options and their modes of action, the importance of chemistry rotation to combat known resistance issues, recent changes by the EPA regarding restrictions to Ronstar and MSMA usage, and potential best management practices and examples of effective chemistry rotation and application timing

Identifying Common Insect Orders in the Landscape

Gary Brooks

This presentation will cover IPM principals and will include discussion of common landscape pests, insect mouthparts, insect and plant associations, types of plant damage, identifying insects to order based on key characters, successes in Biological Control, common beneficial insects, genetic variability in insects, biology and control of white grubs, and biology and control of fire ants.

The Latest Tools, Technologies, and Strategies for Managing Golf Course Water

Ben Wherley

Efficient irrigation and water quality management are more important than ever as environmental conditions shift and regulatory scrutiny increases. In this session, we'll explore the connection between irrigation practices, turfgrass health, and pest pressure in warm-season turf systems common throughout Texas. Attendees will learn how poor irrigation can contribute to increased disease and weed incidence,

and how proper scheduling, soil moisture monitoring, and water quality adjustments can improve pesticide efficacy and reduce unnecessary applications. The session will emphasize the role of irrigation management in promoting healthier turf that is more resilient to pests and less reliant on chemical controls. Findings from ongoing GCSAA and USGA-funded research at Texas A&M will also be presented including precision soil moisture monitoring technology, evaluation of salt/sodium/bicarbonate remediation products, linear decompaction, and optimal forecasted reference ET amounts needed to maximize grow-in of warm-season putting greens.

Speaker Bios

Henry Krusekopf

Texas Department of Agriculture

Henry Krusekopf has been employed by the Texas Department of Agriculture since 2006. He served as a Pesticide Inspector for a 17-county area in North Texas for 11 years and is now the Assistant Regional Director supervising both Ag and Structural pesticide inspectors in the Dallas Region. Henry grew up in Midland, Texas and earned a master's degree in Horticulture from the University of California at Davis.

Joseph (Joey) Young, PhD

Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science

Texas Tech University

Dr. Joey Young is an Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science at Texas Tech University. Dr. Young and his graduate students have worked on carbon sequestration quantification, effective plant growth regulator reapplication, and water conservation and quality efforts in turfgrass systems. Dr. Young teaches three courses on turf physiology, management, and pests at Texas Tech and has given over 125 presentations to turf professionals on a wide array of materials over his time at Texas Tech University.

Ben Wherley

Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

Oklahoma State University

Dr. Ben Wherley is Professor of Turfgrass Science & Ecology in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. He earned his PhD in Crop Science from N.C. State University and holds both MS and BS degrees in Agronomy from The Ohio State University. Wherley oversees an active research and teaching program focused on environmental stress physiology and sustainable turfgrass management. He collaborates with faculty across a range of disciplines to solve problems facing the Texas Turf Industry. He and his wife Amy, and their two boys reside in College Station.

Gary Brooks

Retired, Bayer

Gary Brooks earned BS and MS degrees from Texas A&M in Entomology. He worked for both the Texas A&M Extension Service in Colorado City, Texas and the Texas A&M Experiment Station in Weslaco, Texas. His career also includes working as an Entomology and Agronomy Field Consultant on the High Plains and Rolling Hills of Texas. Gary is currently retired from Bayer and live in Weatherford, Texas.

Steve Wilson

Agronomist, USGA Central Section

Steve Wilson is an agronomist in the Central Region for the USGA Green Section, based out of Shawnee, Kansas. He brings nearly 30 years of turf management and golf course maintenance experience to his role providing agronomic consulting for golf facilities. Steve earned his B.S. in Horticulture with an emphasis in Turf Management from Kansas State University.