

# International Turfgrass

The Newsletter of the International Turfgrass Society

January 2022

## 14<sup>th</sup> International Turfgrass Research Conference, ITRC 2022, Quickly Approaching

By Maria Strandberg, ITS President

STERF Director, Sweden

The 14<sup>th</sup> International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC2022) that will be held in the Marmorhallen building at the University of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg Campus (Thorvaldsensvej 40) from 10-15 July 2022 is quickly approaching. [www.ITRC2022.org](http://www.ITRC2022.org)



### Conference and Hotel Registration is Open

Conference and Hotel Registration is now open at <https://itrc2022.org/registration>. Discounts for conference registration are available until 15 April; however, many of the technical tours and special events have limited capacity so register early to ensure that you receive your first choices.

### Conference Highlights at a Glance

#### Turfgrass Industry Session

There will be a special Turfgrass Industry Session in the afternoon on Sunday, 10 July. The industry seminar will deal with possibilities and problems in connection with a sustainable turf sector

## ITRC 2022 14<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS RESEARCH CONFERENCE

for the future. The focus is research, competence building and innovation.

Leading enterprises from the sector will present and give their views on:

- Future development trends
- Their priorities on research and development
- Demands on the scientific community and scientists
- Technology transfer
- Projects and innovations of importance for the sector

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Happy New Year to everyone and I hope your Holiday Season was safe and enjoyable. Time moves too quickly and now it is hard to believe that, yes, in a few months we will all be meeting in Copenhagen. Start planning ahead (but remember we should be attending all of the meeting): I suggest that you take a riverboat tour, and take the opportunity to do church tours. I tried, but did not make it up to the top of the Church of Our Saviour (restored baroque church) external spiral winding staircase. I think reaching the top might be a possibility in 2022 for me, but if you see a pale person, possibly hugging the wall, that will likely be me.

If you have any newsworthy stories or other information such as employment opportunities for readers of International Turfgrass, I hope you will consider submitting an article for the next newsletter in April 15, 2022.

I hope you enjoy the very good articles in this edition.

Sincerely,  
Nathan R. Walker

### In this Edition

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The University of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg Campus.

A discussion will follow the presentations with a synthesis of important steps and actions to take for the future.

### Opening Reception

The Conference itself will kick off with a Welcome reception on Sunday night. The reception takes place in Copenhagen Plant Science Center, connected with the Marmorhallen campus building, and is something that the entire family will enjoy. This is an opportunity to socialize and to enjoy the Nordic midsummer light with a walk in the Garden of the Royal Danish Veterinarian and Agricultural College. This will be followed by a week packed with educational and social opportunities that will allow you to re-engage with old friends and network with new acquaintances from all over the world.



Opening reception in Copenhagen Plant Science Center

### Keynote presentations

Keynote addresses will be presented on Monday morning, 11 July by internationally renowned scientists, and turfgrass managers focusing on the conference theme “Development and

Sustainability” and the sustainability goals in the Agenda 2030. For example, Beth Guertal, (the Rowe Endowed Professor in the Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences Department at Auburn University, AL) will discuss The Turfgrass Challenge– Documenting the Value of a Crop that Doesn’t Feed the World, and John Ledwidge (Head of Sports Turf & Grounds, Leicester City Football Club) will present “The Leicester City Journey to a data driven approach” and “Developing and securing the next generation of Sports Turf students”.

### Oral paper sessions

A draft of the scientific program is available at the conference website however, the final program with the actual date and time of each presentation will not be released until the majority of manuscripts, including technical papers, have been accepted. The current plan is to have oral sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (11, 12, 24 and 15 July). Every effort will be made to limit the number of concurrent sessions. Each oral session will include volunteered presentations that fit within the session theme/ category.

### Poster Sessions

Posters will be displayed on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (11, 12 and 14 July) and one-minute, rapid (oral) summaries will most likely be presented by poster authors prior to each poster session (to be finally decided by the program committee). To entice meeting attendees to meet poster authors and discuss their latest findings, light refreshments and hors d’oeuvres will be provided at each poster session.

### Student Oral and Poster Competition and Travel Awards

A Student Competition will be held at the ITRC2022 to showcase some of the exciting and cutting-edge research that students are conducting. By the deadline, 31 December 2021, Dr. Paul Koch, chairman of the ITS I Student Contest & Travel Award committee, had received nine applications from students planning to participate in the conference. Decisions about travel grants can be expected well before the early registration deadline 15 April. Students who missed the deadline 31 December are still encouraged to participate at the conference with a strongly reduced registration fee (€325). (<https://itrc2022.org/registration>)

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## Dr. James Beard Celebration

ITS will host an evening program on Monday, 11 July highlighting the many contributions of Dr. James Beard, one of early leaders of ITS and a pioneer in the turfgrass industry. A presentation about this extraordinary scientist has been prepared by a group of long-lasting ITS members under the leadership the ITS Board member, Dr. Gwen K. Stahnke.

## Technical Tours and a BBQ Dinner

A full day of technical tours is planned for Wednesday, 13 July highlighting the extraordinary range of turf venues in the Öresund region (Denmark and Sweden).

1. **University of Aarhus – Flakkebjerg** - seed production of lawn grass including optimization of seed yield and modeling of growth, and Tystofte, Scanturf testing site - testing of new agricultural plants and the Scan turf testing site.
2. **Rosenborg castle garden** - Maintenance strategies for lawns in public areas, and Hørsholm golf course - a GEO certified course with pesticide free management.



Technical tour, University of Aarhus – Flakkebjerg



Technical tour, Rosenborg castle garden

3. **Furesø golf course** - the First Danish course awarded with the Golf sports Environmental price and with a scientific approach to lawn maintenance, and Parken, the Danish national football stadium - Used for football and other events (speedway, concerts etc.).



Technical tour, Ljunghusen golf course

4. **CopenHill** - Copenhagen's epicenter for urban mountain sports. Inside is a power plant and outside is a ski slope and other areas with natural grass, and Copenhagen golf course - a multifunctional, pesticide free golf course and a unique place close to the capital.
5. **Brøndby stadium and training facilities** - with hybrid turf. Home stadium for one of the top clubs in Denmark, and Smørum golf course - a golf course that practices red fescue maintenance with special focus on maintenance of rough areas.
6. **Ljunghusen golf course** - a Swedish perspective on low-input golf course maintenance. A links course with salt challenges, and Malmö IF stadium – stadium for one of the top clubs in Sweden. Capillary Concrete AB - The Capillary Hydroponics System is a new system that automatically regulates the water levels and increases gas-exchange to produce deeper roots and higher-quality turfgrass.



Technical tour, Malmö IF stadium

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## Visit and BBQ at DLF

All technical tours will end at the DLF Seeds and Science Research Center in Store Heddinge where we will get an introduction to their breeding program and a tour to experimental facilities, field trials and demonstration plots. The day will conclude by a BBQ dinner at the turf fields hosted by DLF Seeds and Science.



## Visit and BBQ at the DLF Seeds and Science Research Center

### Congress Dinner at Axelborg

Immediately following the ITS Quadrennial Business Meeting on Thursday, 14 July, attendees will board buses for the Congress Dinner at Axelborg centrally located just opposite the main entrance to the Tivoli Gardens. With its former use as a bank evident throughout, this magnificent classic hall is clad with high wooden paneling, features two impressive staircases and is bathed in natural light from the towering glass ceiling. The Nimb restaurant with its highly acclaimed chefs will provide a Nordic cuisine menu accompanied by selected wines/beer/soft drinks.



### Congress Dinner at Axelborg

## Modern Sports Turf Management, Tuesday July 12

New for this conference is The One-Day Practitioner Seminar, a meeting arena for practitioners and turfgrass researchers. We have chosen a number of top scientists and some upcoming stars to bring highlights from their field of expertise directly to practical turfgrass managers. This seminar will be the most important event for golf course and stadium managers in 2022.



## Modern Sports Turf Management, Visit at Furesø golf club

Five main topics for this seminar are:

- Low input management
- Stress management
- New technological tool
- Turfgrass ecosystem services
- Pesticide-free future

The seminar will conclude with a dinner party at Furesø golf club where you will mingle with the seminar lecturers and colleagues from many countries. A good portion of the menu for this dinner will be sourced from local golf courses (Eat your Golf Course), showing a perspective of multifunctionality of Danish golf courses.

Groundsmen and golf course superintendents are encouraged to save the date and come to Copenhagen to update their qualifications and expand their professional network at this seminar. The seminar is arranged as a part of the ITRC2022, and is open to ITRC2022 conference delegates. The number of participants will be limited so register as early as possible. Information about the seminar is available at <https://itrc2022.org/one-day-practitioner-seminar>



## Modern Sports Turf Management dinner party at Furesø golf club

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## Two special symposia

On the last conference day, Friday 15 July, delegates are invited to attend two parallel symposia of approximately four hours duration highlighting challenges for turfgrass management in two contrasting climatic zones:

- **Winter cold zones:** This symposium will be organized by a group of ITS members from North America and Scandinavia under the leadership of Dr. Eric Watkins, University of Minnesota. Topics include turfgrass selection and management in a changing winter climate, winter stress physiology, breeding of winter-hardy turfgrasses etc.
- **Transition zone:** This symposium will be set up by ITS members from Italy, Spain, USA and Japan under the leadership of Dr. Alessandro De Luca, Italian Golf Federation.

## Bring the Family

Copenhagen is a very easy city to discover on your own. A number of enjoyable activities will be suggested by the conference organizer for example, the more than 100-year-old amusement park Tivoli, the Freetown of Christiania, the Louisiana art museum, and of course the famous Little Mermaid

Statue at the Langelinie Promenade. A trip to Malmö in Sweden only takes 45 minutes by train. More information will be available on the website closer to the conference.

## Excellent Sponsorship Opportunities are Still Available

A number of important organizations including Syngenta, Bayer, DLF, Husqvarna AB, the R&A, Copenhagen University, TORO, Aquatrols, E.MARKER A/S, pbi Gordon, Nufarm, Capillary Hydroponics, the USGA, AMVAC, Rutgers University, the Nordic Golf Federations, have already become major supporters of the ITRC2022 and plenty of excellent sponsorship opportunities are still available. So, show your organization's support of turfgrass research and become an ITRC2022 Sponsor today! Especially we want to encourage companies to become Student Award Sponsors. It is crucial for the sector that we attract young scientists to participate in the conference. The ITRC2022 sponsor manual is available at <https://itrc2022.org/partnership>

For booking feel free to contact Sandy Ma, [sm@cap-partner.eu](mailto:sm@cap-partner.eu), she will provide you with additional information.

## Status for Submissions to ITRC 2022

**By Trygve S. Aamlid, ITSJRJ Editor in Chief and Leader of ITRC 2022 Program Committee**

*Norwegian Institute for Bioeconomy Research*

- 77 full papers and 30 short communications accepted after peer-review
- 19 technical papers received by 1 January

With 107 papers accepted after peer-review and 19 technical papers submitted to ITSJRJ Assistant Editor Doug Soldat by the deadline 1 January, I am confident that all participants will have a significant scientific outcome of International Turfgrass Research Conference in Copenhagen 10-15 July. Revised versions of 11 papers are still under their second review, but if they are all accepted, we will end up with close to 180 voluntary papers to be presented orally or as posters. By comparison, there were 148 presentations at the previous very successful conference in New Jersey in 2017.

After a long pause due to Covid 19 and waiting for contributions to come in after the second call for papers and the opening for technical submissions, the ITRC program committee will soon, resume its work on setting up and assigning presentations to the parallel thematic and interdisciplinary sessions during the conference week. This is a challenging task as

all presentations have to take place in less three day, but with good venue facilities and 20 experienced members in the program committee, I am sure we will arrive at good solutions that allow for exchange, discussions and networking among all conference delegates. However, as a friendly warning, some of the authors who at an early stage indicated a preference for an oral presentation must not be surprised if they - over the next couple of months - receive an E-mail from the program committee with a request to switch to a poster presentation.

I would also like to remind contributors that all papers have been accepted in the ITSJRJ or the special issues of Crop Science or Agronomy Journal on the conditions that at least one of the authors is an ITS member in good standing. This will be checked by the committee when setting up the program, so please follow the instructions at <https://turfgrassociety.com/membership.html> if you need to renew your membership.

I look very forward to seeing you in Copenhagen in less than six months. Meanwhile stay safe and don't miss the early conference registration deadline 15 April !