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Crops & Soils/Horticulture
Demonstration Plot Tour – August 23, 2016

Yield monitors and data management will be the program for this year's Meadowlark Extension District Demonstration Plot Tour. This year's tour will be Tuesday, August 23rd at the Domann Farms shop located one and a half miles north of Winchester on Saline Road.

Breakfast will be served starting at 8:00 a.m. courtesy of Murrfield Farms Supply, Inc, of McLouth, J.B. Pearl Sales & Service, St. Marys and Perry, and Dailey Ag, Inc., of Oskaloosa.

The program will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a discussion of the corn row spacing plot and results. We'll also share information on last year's N loss plots.

The morning's featured speakers will be KSU Precision Agriculture Specialist Dr. Ajay Sharda and Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti, KSU Cropping Systems Specialist. Dr. Sharda will discuss best management practices for yield monitor calibration for collection of usable data on your farm. Dr. Ciampitti will share information about using your data and how yield monitor data is being used in on farm research trials in Kansas.

Plan to attend for a cup of coffee, breakfast, and a rapid fire discussion about collecting and using your farm's data – all before 10:00 a.m.!

RSVP for breakfast is requested - but not required! Call (785) 863-2212 or e-mail dhallaue@ksu.edu to RSVP or for further information! Special thanks to our sponsors for making this meeting possible. Hope to see you there!

Tall Fescue Cultivar Recommendations

Because of it is so well adapted to our area, tall fescue is the turf of choice for most northeast Kansas lawns. For years, cultivar K-31 has been the 'standard'. It held up well to summer heat and drought stress and even our less than stellar mowing practices! Now, it has some competition! In the past decade, research has been conducted on a myriad of newer cultivars that feature improved color, density and a finer leaf texture. In other words, we can get a nicer look, with many of the same features K-31 offered!

The National Turfgrass Evaluation Trials annually rate tall fescue varieties for color, greenup, quality and texture on a monthly basis from March through October. An average of the 2013 and 2014 ratings shows a couple of things. First: there are some really nice fescue turfgrass varieties available! Second: K-31 consistently rates towards the bottom.

The following cultivars all averaged a rating of 6.0 or higher in the trials: Thor, Michelangelo, GTO, Traverse 2, Technique, Maestro, Firebird 2, 4th Millennium SRP, Reflection, Black Tail, Avenger II, Falcon V, Terrano, Rowdy, Rockwell, Rhambler 2, Hot Rod, Firewall, Bizem, Titanium 2LS, Hemi, Firecracker, Leonardo and Grande 3. For more information on these cultivars as well as others that maybe didn't make the list but should perform well here as well, check out http://www.ntep.org/states/ks2/ks2_tf.htm.

Remember – you don't have to settle for just one! Blends or mixes allow you to take advantage of differing strengths. Remember as well that a mix that contains a variety not listed above doesn't mean it's a bad mix. Just try and select one that has one or two of those above in it for best results. K-31 still has its place (large, open areas come to mind...), but new cultivars will give better performance if you desire a higher-quality turf.