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EUROPEAN TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

Turf solutions for the future, the 7th European turfgrass society research conference: *Agronomy Journal* special issue

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The European Turfgrass Society's (ETS) 7th Research Conference was scheduled to be held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 29 June to 1 July 2020. The meeting was intended to follow past conferences held in Italy (2008), France (2010), Norway (2012), Germany (2014), Portugal (2016), and United Kingdom (2018). The theme of this year's conference, "Turf Solutions for the Future", was selected to highlight a movement towards the sustainable management of all green spaces. However, the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 that led to a global pandemic has resulted in travel bans, quarantines, and social distancing that have required the postponement or cancellation of large meetings and gatherings. Consequently, the ETS board decided to cancel the 7th European Turfgrass Society Research Conference. However, manuscripts of presentations were already submitted and under review, therefore the ETS board has decided to proceed with the publication of the abstracts and research reports.

Modern turfgrass research is no longer aimed at investigating strategies to maintain golf courses and athletic fields at the highest quality level under the assumption that limitless resources are available. Research projects now focus on reducing inputs and studying sustainable approaches to manage public greenspaces, for which turfgrasses play a major role as groundcovers. Similar to our past conferences, the objective of this year's meeting is to promote a holistic view of turfgrass areas, particularly with respect to how they affect and enhance the living quality of urban and peri-urban dwellers. Other objectives include facilitating research collaborations, sharing knowledge, and providing a forum to disseminate relevant and science-based information to its members and the public at large.

The papers submitted for publication and for presentation at this year's conference covered a variety of topics from speakers representing several countries. Presentations are summarized either as short abstracts, which will be published in a special edition of the *European Journal of Turfgrass Science*, or are published in this special issue of *Agronomy Journal*. A total of 26 manuscripts were submitted to *Agronomy Journal*, of which 15 were accepted for publication after the peer review process. Topics covered in this issue include turfgrass morphology (Pease, Thoms, Arora, & Christians, 2020), sod production (Griffith et al., 2020), turfgrass performance affected by management approaches (Dalsgaard, Thoms, Christians, Mertz, & Horton, 2020; Miller & Brotherton, 2020; Schiavon, Mock, Stowell, & Baird, 2020), and carbon accumulation in rootzone layers (Evers, de Kroon, Visser, & de Caluwe, 2020). Topics also include the effect of fertilization on establishment (Lindsey, Thoms, & Christians, 2020; Øgaard & Aamlid, 2020) and maintenance strategies for disease control (Hempfling, Murphy, & Clarke, 2020; Mattox et al., 2020; Mattox, Kowalewski, & McDonald, 2020; Mattox, Kowalewski, McDonald, Lambrinos, & Pscheidt, 2020). Findings on turfgrass performance under different irrigation strategies are reported by Serena et al. (2020) and Dyer et al. (2020). We would like to thank Dr. John Stier, University of Tennessee, and Dr. Mike Richardson,

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