



JACKLIN[®] S E E D

by **Simplot**

Research Newsletter

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My Holiday Lawn™ Maintains Quality under Traffic and Infrequent Mowing



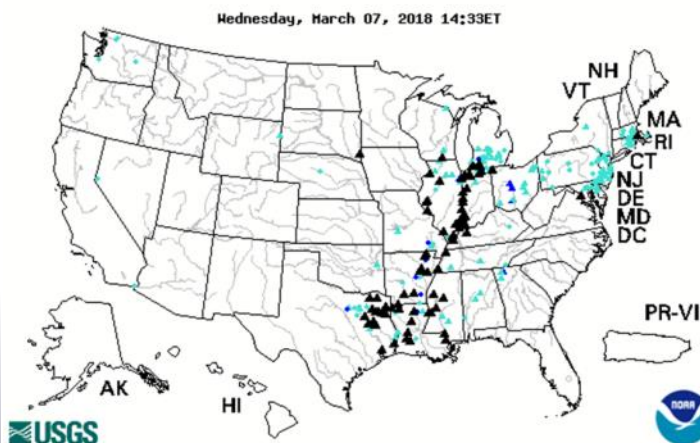
My Holiday Lawn™ brand turfgrass in a study at the OJ Noer facility at the University of Wisconsin. The left side of these plots received traffic treatments, and the right side received no traffic.

“My Holiday Lawn can produce a very high quality turf with infrequent mowing and can withstand traffic.” This was the conclusion of a recent study performed at the University of Wisconsin, Madison under the direction of Doug Soldat, Ph.D., and Nick Bero, M.S.

The My Holiday Lawn study area was established in the spring of 2016 at the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Facility, and was maintained similarly to a home lawn. The researchers utilized a split-plot design and randomly assigned 4 mowing treatments within each block: mown weekly, mown every other week, mown monthly, and mown on holidays (Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day). The researchers randomly assigned traffic and no traffic treatments to half of each block in a strip, and applied wear by driving a Brinkman traffic simulator (Cockerham and Brinkman, 1989) *(continued, p. 2)*

Turf Recovery after Flooding

Reports of extreme weather and flooding continue to make the news as we transition from February to March in 2018. The recent storm to hit the Northeast was so unique that many of us learned a new meteorological term, “bomb cyclone,” to describe it. As of March 7, US Geological Survey maps show a dense mass of moderate to extreme flooding from northern Wisconsin all the way to the Gulf of Mexico in Texas, in addition to areas along the East Coast.



USGS Map of river and stream flooding in the United States. Black indicates rivers above flood stage, blue indicates rivers at 99th percentile, and purple at 95-98th percentile. Water.usgs.gov/floods

What effect will the flooding have on areas covered in turfgrass? Michigan State University Extension published a bulletin in October 2005 with helpful information about assessing and mitigating turfgrass damage from flooding, and the following information is a summary from that bulletin.

Turfgrass species have different tolerance levels to submersion: *(continued, p. 2)*

My Holiday Lawn, continued

across the plots six times per week. Data collected included quality ratings taken every other week, and clipping yields.

The researchers found that although the weekly and biweekly mowing frequencies had the highest quality ratings, the monthly mowed plots maintained acceptable or better turf quality for the majority of the season (June through September). The plots that were only mowed on the holidays also had acceptable or better quality on many individual dates, something the researchers called “quite impressive.”

The traffic treatment had a negative effect on the turf quality of the weekly mowed plots, but it did not have a significant effect on the plots that were mowed less frequently. Traffic treatment also had a significant effect on clipping yield, with the trafficked plots showing significantly lower clipping yields than the non-trafficked plots. You can read the full results of the trial on our newsletter website at <http://www.simplot.com/jacklin-research-newsletter>.

Turf trials are important, but how does My Holiday Lawn™ brand turf perform in the real world? We asked that to some of the customers who currently grow My Holiday Lawn including sod farmers and homeowners. DG Turf Farm in Greenleaf, Idaho was one of the early adopters of Jacklin's unique turf innovation, and since 2016 they have continued to increase acres of My Holiday Lawn. James Gibson of DG Turf said, “I'm pleased by the fast establishment and strong rooting. It shows added rust tolerance as well.” In June 2017 we caught up with Gary Laney of Boise, Idaho, a customer who purchased My Holiday Lawn sod from DG. His My Holiday Lawn installation was one year old and when asked if he had noticed a difference in mowing frequency with My Holiday Lawn, he enthusiastically replied, “...I LOVE IT! I mow much less frequently than my prior lawn.” Gary went on to say, “Depending on weather and fertilization, I can go 2 1/2 to 4 weeks between mowing. So far this year I have mowed the lawn only three times, and my neighbors started mowing weekly in early April.” 🌱

my Holiday
lawn 

Flooding, continued

Creeping bentgrass – excellent
Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue – medium
Poa annua and perennial ryegrass – fair
Red fescue – poor

The depth of submersion affects likelihood of survival. If the grass blades are above the water line, then the turf is likely to survive. Water temperature and light intensity also play a factor, with turf injury increasing as both factors increase. Turf has a better chance of surviving the flooding at this time of year than in the summer and fall.

After floodwaters recede the turf may be yellow or brown, but it may not be dead. You can check to find out if the turf has survived the flood by taking several samples from the flooded areas and cutting a cross section through the crown of the plants. If the crown is still white and firm, the plants survived. If the crown is brown and mushy, it is time to re-plant. Turf that is still alive may have suffered root damage due to lack of oxygen and could benefit from a light fertilizer application.

Areas flooded by overflowing rivers and streams will suffer from silt and soil deposits which can be difficult to remove. You can provide relief to the buried turf through cultivation with core aeration or slicing. 🌱

Reference: Michigan State University Extension Bulletin E-0020TURF, October 2005, www.turf.msu.edu



Flooding at the newly renovated Drakpoi Golf Course in Bhutan. Monsoon rains are an annual occurrence in Bhutan, and make flood damage a constant concern.



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