



The Redlands Research Station turf collection, developed in 2000, represents the largest turfgrass reference collection in the Southern Hemisphere

# Redlands turf reference collection

library' to turfgrass descriptors and associated R&D information on the website by utilising Quick Reference (QR) codes (see photo below).

The new website aims to fast track the dissemination of information from R&D projects and the like to industry in a timely manner. HAL milestones and other reports, magazine articles, digital photographs and videos, scientific papers, information kits etc... that hold no commercial-in-confidence will also be made available for downloading from the website.

The website also aims to house a portal to inform consumers where they can purchase commercially available varieties located in the Redlands 'living library' from accredited suppliers through an advanced search engine (e.g. local (post code), state, variety, genus). The latter will provide useful for homeowners and turf professionals wanting a one stop shop for independent turf information.

The HAL project extension aims to:

- Assist in the improvement and maintenance of the DEEDI turfgrass collection;
- Provide an independent education source of information through plot inspections/tours and the distribution of varietal information pertaining to the plots for the turf industry, students and general public;
- Direct consumers to accredited turf suppliers;
- Benefit the Australian turf production industry through increased sales.

The Redlands turf research staff would like to thank HAL and the Australian turfgrass industry for their support in funding TU09002 and providing security to a reference collection of this kind, the largest in the Southern Hemisphere.

Funding of this nature ensures the detailed collection will be maintained and made available to the wider turfgrass industry and general public for years to come. It also provides a great advertisement of the health and environmental benefits of choosing turf. 🌱



DEEDI research scientist Matt Roche provides an update on HAL Project TU09002 which focuses on the improvement and maintenance of the turf demonstration plots for national research and extension at Queensland's Redlands Research Station.



In 2000, the Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation (DEEDI) built a 'living library' of turfgrass selections made up of 138 different cultivars. Back-up material of all plus additional cultivars are also preserved in tubs (see above) in an attempt to limit encroachment or contamination and maintain genetic purity of the collection.

Between 2000 and 2009 DEEDI was solely responsible for the construction and maintenance of the entire collection. In 2009, a three-year Horticulture Australia Ltd application (HAL Project TU09002) was given the support of the turf industry, utilising levy funds, to share costs associated with the maintenance and resources required to maintain the integrity of the collection.

The establishment of the plots has assisted the turf industry by:

- Maintaining a reference point for warm-season turf material. This includes regular visits to inspect the plots by educational groups, members of the public and industry representatives from around Australia and internationally;
- Reducing research and development costs by allowing rapid and easy propagation of material for research, Plant Breeder's Rights and demonstration purposes; and
- Allowing greater access to new (international) material for R&D purposes (e.g. TU09001 – tropical turfgrass project).

Funding for the HAL Project TU09002 ends in May 2012. An extension to keep funds available to house and maintain the collection at Redlands was submitted to HAL in November 2011 seeking levy and matched funding from HAL until 2015.

A component of the much-needed HAL funding will be to grow the education and extension component of the turfgrass collection. Plant descriptors and varietal information will be made available on what will hopefully be a stand-alone (non-government), newly constructed website.

The independent website, which will be maintained by DEEDI research and extension staff, will link visitors of the Redlands 'living

