

P.O. BOX 2323 AUBURN, AL 36831

THE SOUTH'S PREMIER TURF EVENT TURNS 10!

Make this the year to join the celebration in Biloxi, Mississippi.

REGISTRATION DETAILS INSIDE!

OCTOBER 28 - 30, 2025 DEEPSOUTHTURFEXPO.ORG PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID

Birmingham, AL Permit # 1238

THIS REGIONAL SHOW is designed exclusively for the turf manager including Golf Course Super-intendents, Sports Field Managers (Institutions, Universities, Park and Recreation), Lawn Care Operators, Landscapers, Sod Producers, Grounds Managers and Right of Way Professionals

FEATURING

- Educational sessions for warm-season turf managers
- Networking opportunities / golf tournaments / tailgate celebration
- √ Tradeshow featuring industry suppliers
- CEU and pesticide recertification points

EXPO HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 20 Educational sessions on the latest Turfgrass management topics
- Tradeshow with over 100 exhibitors featuring products and services for the Turfgrass industry
- Business Meetings for ATA, ATRF, MTA, LMGCSA
- Networking opportunities with industry peers and friends
- CEUs and Pesticide Recertification Points



TAILGATE CELEBRATION

Kick off the Expo with your peers at Tailgate Celebration at The Preserve Golf Club, opening night, Tuesday, October 28th. Sponsors will be cooking up some tailgate favorites for you to enjoy while mingling and networking with attendees from all over the southeast. This event is free and open to all attendees, exhibitors, and guests. Pre-registration is required to help plan food. **Directions:** 8901 Highway 57, Vancleave, MS 39565. Just 17 miles from Biloxi, travel east on I-10 and take exit 57 / MS-57. Turn north and the golf club will be two miles on the left.



SCRAMBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Scramble Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday, October 28th at The Preserve Golf Club. The Preserve is an 18-hole course which has been integrated within an 1800-acre native preserve full of live oaks, cypress swamps, long leaf pines and native grass prairies and designed by Jerry Pate. Bring your clubs and prepare yourself for a wonderful afternoon of golf with your peers. Lunch, two drink tickets and two mulligans will be included in your registration (and the Tailgate Celebration will follow immediately after play). Pre-registration is required. **Directions:** 8901 Highway 57, Vancleave, MS 39565. Just 17 miles from Biloxi, travel east on I-10 and take exit 57 / MS-57. Turn north and the golf club will be two miles on the left.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

We are bringing back the Cornhole Tournament again this year. Register in advance for this fun competition on the tradeshow floor. Registration is \$25 per person and you can request to be paired with your favorite cornhole buddy. The tournament will be conducted on Wednesday, October 29th between $11\mathrm{am}-3\mathrm{pm}$ on the tradeshow floor in the MCCC.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Our host hotel is the **Beau Rivage**, a Four-Diamond development by MGM Resorts International that sits directly on the Gulf of Mexico in Biloxi. The Deep South Turf Expo has secured a discounted room rate of \$135 (+ \$15 resort tax) for Expo attendees. Make your reservations directly by using our exclusive link found by clicking the red button at **www.DeepSouthTurfExpo.org**. It is important that you DO NOT use a third party provider/discounter to make your reservation; only use our link. Don't delay—our room rate is only available until October 6, 2025.

The **Mississippi Coast Convention Center** is our home for the educational sessions and tradeshow at the Deep South Turf Expo. It is a multi-purpose, state-of-the-art facility that sits directly across the Gulf of Mexico just 5 miles west of The Beau Rivage at 2350 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, MS 39531.



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deep south

OCTOBER 28 — 30, 2025

MISSISSIPPI COAST CONVENTION CENTER, BILOXI, MS

STEP 1 – Attendee I	nformation					
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Company:						
Address:						
City:		State: Z	ip:		alles as an eleganismo a compression amplicant con the file of the	
INDUSTRY SEGMENT:						
Golf	Landscaper	Sod Producer	Sports Fields	Lawn Care		
Landscape Contractor	Landscape Architect / Designer	Right of Way / DOT	Research / Ex	tension		
Institution / University	nstitution / University					
STEP 2 - Conferenc	e Registration		Early-Bird (by 8/15)	Registration	On-Site	
☐ Complete Expo Registration			\$300	\$350	\$400	
50 NO 6 TO	ions, tradeshow, tailgate celebration, trades	how lunch and continental brea	akfasts.			
STEP 3 — Ticketed E	vents					
Alabama Ornamental & Turf Exam Review — Oct. 28			\$65	\$65	N/A	
Scramble Golf Tournament — Oct. 28			\$170	\$170	N/A	
Handicap:	Pairing Requests					
Tailgate Celebration — Oc	t. 28 — FREE, BUT LET US KNOW YOU ARE	COMING				
Cornhole Tournament — Oct. 29 in Tradeshow			\$25	\$25	N/A	
Pairing Request Tradeshow Only — FOR NON-CONFERENCE ATTENDEES ONLY			¢75	\$75	\$100	
Tradeshow Only — FOR NO	DN-CONFERENCE ATTENDEE'S ONLY		\$75	\$13	\$100	
STEP 4 – Payment						
Total from Step 2 — Conference Registration:						
Total from Step 3 — Ticketed Events: Total Due:						
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PAYMENT METHOD:						
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Signature: Billin			Zip Code:			

If paying by check, please make out to DSTE and include with registration form. Refund request must be received in writing to the registrar no later than October 17, 2025. Refunds will be issued minus a \$75 administrative fee. No refunds will be issued for requests after October 17, 2025.

Remit registration form to: Deep South Turf Expo, P.O. Box 2323, Auburn, AL 36831 For assistance with registration, please call 334-821-3000 or email: info@DeepSouthTurfExpo.org Please complete one form per person. Registration is available online at www.DeepSouthTurfExpo.org

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

4 pm - 6 pm Large Equipment Move-In

Mississippi Coast Convention Center (MCCC) - E4

MCCC - Foyer

MCCC - E4

MCCC - D3

MCCC - Fover

MCCC - Foyer

MCCC - D5-8

The Preserve Golf Club

The Preserve Golf Club

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

8 am - 4 pm Registration Open

Registration Open & Exhibitor Move-In

9 am - 3:30 pm Alabama Ornamental & Turf Exam Review

11 am Scramble Golf Tournament

Tailgate Celebration — All attendees & exhibitors welcome!

5 pm Shuttle Schedule to Tailgate:

Bus leaves The Beau Rivage (from the bus lobby) to The Preserve at 3:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 6:30 pm Bus leaves The Preserve (from the front loop) to The Beau Rivage at 5:00 pm, 6:00pm, 7:00 pm, 8:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

7 am - 4 pm

8 am - 4 pm

Registration Open

7 am Continental Breakfast

8-11 am General Session: Keynote Speakers

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GENERAL SESSION

Disease Detection and Control: Best Practices for Southern Turfgrass Systems Dr. Wendell Hutchins, University of Arkansas

8 am

Accurate disease diagnosis and timely intervention are essential for maintaining healthy, high-quality turf in the south's challenging climate. In this session, we'll present current strategies for identifying and managing major turfgrass diseases affecting warm-season grasses, including large patch, spring dead spot, and more. Attendees will learn how to distinguish between similar symptoms, select effective fungicides, optimize application timing, and implement sustainable disease management practices. The session emphasizes integrating chemical and cultural controls into a comprehensive integrated pest management approach to reduce reliance on pesticides while maintaining effective disease suppression.

We Thought You Was a Nematode! Understanding and Managing Turfgrass Nematodes Dr. Joe Roberts, Clemson University

9 am

Nematodes are often the hidden culprits behind turf decline, mimicking symptoms of other pests, nutrient issues, or disease. In this session, we'll demystify turfgrass nematodes by covering their identification, biology, and economic impact on warm-season grasses common across the south. Attendees will learn how to accurately diagnose nematode damage, interpret soil assay results, and select appropriate chemical and cultural control strategies. The session emphasizes responsible nematicide use, label compliance, and integrating nematode management by offering practical guidance for turf managers looking to detect and manage nematodes before they cause serious damage.

irrigation Management and Water Quality in a Changing Environment Dr. Ben Wherley, Texas A&M University

10 am

Efficient irrigation and water quality management are more important than ever as environmental conditions shift and regulatory scrutiny increases. In this session, we'll explore the connection between irrigation practices, turfgrass health, and pest pressure in warm-season turf systems common throughout the Deep South. Attendees will learn how poor irrigation can contribute to increased disease and weed incidence, and how proper scheduling, soil moisture monitoring, and water quality adjustments can improve pesticide efficacy and reduce unnecessary applications. The session will emphasis the role of irrigation management in promoting healthier turf that is more resilient to pests and less reliant on chemical controls.

Surviving the Shade: Managing Warm-Season Turfgrass in Low-Light Conditions Dr. Eric DeBoer, Louisiana State University

11 am

Shade stress is a major challenge in warm-season turfgrass management, often leading to thinning turf, increased disease pressure, and higher reliance on chemical controls. In this session, we'll discuss how limited light availability affects turf health, pest susceptibility, and pesticide performance. Topics will include cultivar selection for shade tolerance, mowing and fertility adjustments, and disease prevention strategies tailored to low-light environments. Attendees will gain practical guidance on how to maintain playable, healthy turf under shade while minimizing pesticide inputs through improved cultural practices.

Tradeshow Open Opening

MGGG - E4

MCCC - D3

MCCC - D3

MCCC - D4

MCCC - D4

MCCC - D5-8

Be sure to take advantage of all activities offered during the tradeshow

11 am – 2:30 pm Silent Auction (must pay and pick-up items by Thursday morning)
11 am – 4 pm Hole Challenge Contest – visiting all participating sponsors

11 am - 4 pm Weed ID Contest

12 pm

Lunch

12 pm - 4 pm

12 – 3pm Corn Hole Tournament 12 – 3pm Beer & Wine Cash Bar

Association Business Meetings

12 pm Alabama Turfgrass Research Foundation Business Meeting
1 pm Alabama Turfgrass Association Business Meeting
1 pm Mississippi Turfgrass Association Business Meeting
2 pm Louisiana-Mississippi GCSA Business Meeting

3 pm - 5 pm General Session: Keynote Speakers

GENERAL SESSION

Battle of the Bots: Integrating Robotics and Technology for Smarter Turf Management Dr. Scott McElroy, Auburn University

3 pm

4 nm

Emerging robotic technologies are revolutionizing turf management by improving precision in pesticide applications, monitoring pest populations, and reducing labor demands. In this session, we'll explore how autonomous and semi-autonomous "bots" can be effectively integrated into pest and disease management programs on golf courses, sports fields, and commercial turf. Attendees will learn about the capabilities of robotic sprayers, sensor-guided weed control, and data-driven decision-making tools that enhance pesticide efficacy while minimizing environmental impact. The session emphasizes best practices for calibration, application timing, and adherence to label requirements within an IPM framework, offering practical insights for turf managers seeking innovative solutions to optimize pest control and reduce chemical inputs.

Developing and Training Tomorrow's Turfgrass Professionals: Building a Skilled and Safe Workforce Will Arnett, Larry Cagle, Keair Edwards, L.J. Robinson and Moderator: Dr. Dave Han The future of turfgrass management depends on a well-trained, knowledgeable workforce. Join this dynamic discussion led by moderator Dave Han and industry leaders as they explore effective strategies for recruiting, developing, and training the next generation of turfgrass professionals. Topics will include workforce development, cultivating a strong work ethic, career growth, skill-building and fostering pride in quality turf management. Attendees will learn how to build training programs that not only develop skills but also encourage loyalty and a deep commitment to craftsmanship that will sustain and strengthen the turf industry for years to come.

5 pm Alabama Pesticide Sign-out

Tradeshow Closing — exhibitors are not allowed to move out until 4pm

4 – 6 pm Dinner on your own

MCCC - E4

MCCC - E4

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

7 am - 8 am 7 am - 9 am Registration Open Exhibitor Move-out

7 am

Continental Breakfast

8 am - 12 pm

8 am

9 am

Breakout Sessions

Golf Sessions MCCC - D1 & 2

Diseases and Nematodes of Putting Greens

Dr. Aaron Tucker, Auburn University
This presentation provides an overview of key diseases and plant-parasitic nematodes affecting putting greens across diverse climates and turfgrass species. Emphasis will be placed on diagnosis, seasonal trends, and emerging threats, including fungicide resistance and nematode pressure under intensively managed conditions. Integrated management strategies will be discussed to support healthier playing surfaces and long-term turf performance.

New Technology for Weed Control

Dr. Jay McCurdy, Mississippi State University
Precision application tools and next-generation
herbicide formulations are transforming how superintendents manage weeds on the golf course.
This session highlights cutting-edge technologies, including site-specific, Al-enabled weed
detection and novel chemistry—that enhance
the accuracy, efficiency, and sustainability of
herbicide use. Attendees will learn how these
innovations can reduce chemical inputs, combat
herbicide resistance, and strengthen integrated
weed management strategies for today's turfgrass challenges.

Strategies for Successful Greens Establishment

Dr. Barry Stewart, Mississippi State University
Establishing new greens following new construction or renovation is a challenge. The goal is to
create a resilient turf system that supports longterm soil and turf with fewer inputs. This session
covers best practices for greens grow-in with a
focus on soil selection/preparation, cultivar selection, fertility programs, irrigation strategies, and
other inputs that improve overall turf vigor.

Smarter Irrigation for Healthier Turf

Dr. Ben Wherley, Texas A&M University
Efficient irrigation is the cornerstone of great
turf—and great water management starts with
strategy, not guesswork. This session dives into
modern irrigation practices that help superintendents optimize water use without compromising
playability or turf health. Learn how to integrate
weather data, soil moisture sensors, mapping
tools, and system audits to fine-tune your watering approach while placing an emphasis on the
role of irrigation in integrated pest management
colliding how proper moisture management can
reduce turfgrass disease incidence, limit weed
encroachment, and minimize pesticide inputs.

Sports Turf & Grounds Sessions MCCC - D9 & 10

Proactive Play: Integrated Disease Management for Bermudagrass and Overseeded Sports Fields

Dr. Wendell Hutchins, University of Arkansas
In the Southern U.S., managing disease in bermudagrass and overseeded sports fields requires a proactive, region-specific approach. This session focuses on key turfgrass diseases such as spring dead spot, leaf spot, and Pythium, with an emphasis on preventative strategies that align with integrated pest management principles. Attendees will learn how to monitor environmental conditions, optimize cultural practices like mowing, irrigation, and fertility, and time fungicide applications to reduce reliance on curative treatments. By implementing these science-based tactics, turf managers can maintain safer, healthier playing surfaces.

Natural vs. Synthetic: Choosing the Right Turf for the Game

Mark Langner, Pro Turf Serv
When it comes to sports fields, the choice between natural and synthetic turf isn't just about aesthetics—it's about performance, safety, long-term maintenance, and environmental impact. This session offers a balanced, in-depth look at both options. Attendees will explore how field surface decisions influence weed, insect, and disease pressures, and how natural grass fields require ongoing pest management strategies to maintain safe, playable conditions. Discussion will include how synthetic surfaces may reduce or shift pesticide use but come with their own

Fungicides & Field Health: Managing Turfgrass Diseases in Southern Sports Fields

environmental and maintenance considerations.

Dr. Aaron Tucker, Auburn University

Southern sports fields face intense disease pressure due to high heat, humidity, and extended growing seasons. This session focuses on identifying and managing common turfgrass diseases in the Southeast—including spring dead spot, large patch, and leaf spot in both bermudagrass and overseeded fields. We'll discuss effective fungicide selection, application timing, resistance management, and label compliance. The session emphasizes integrating fungicides into a broader Integrated Pest Management strategy that includes sound cultural practices such as irrigation management, mowing height adjustments, and fertility planning.

PGRs and Robotics for Improved Turfgrass Management

Dr. Scott McElroy and Lucas Nunes, Auburn University

This session highlights the combined use of plant growth regulators (PGRs) and autonomous mowers to enhance turfgrass management across a range of environments and management intensities. Observations from research trials and real-world implementations around the world will be presented, illustrating how robotic mowing platforms influence turfgrass quality, mowing frequency, and weed pressure. The role of PGRs in regulating growth, improving surface uniformity, and extending mowing intervals will be discussed in the context of automated maintenance. Emphasis will be placed on integrating these technologies as part of a sustainable, labor-efficient approach to turfgrass care.

Lawn Care & Landscape Sessions MCCC - D11 & 12

Know Your Enemy: Identifying and Managing Pathogens in Warm-Season Lawns

Dr. Joe Roberts, Clemson University Warm-season lawns are highly susceptible to a range of turfgrass pathogens that can quickly impact turf health, appearance, and client satisfaction. In this session, we'll guide lawn care professionals through the accurate identification of common fungal diseases such as large patch. take-all root rot, and dollar spot in warm-season grasses like bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, and St. Augustinegrass. The session will cover disease life cycles, environmental conditions that promote outbreaks, and best practices for selecting and applying fungicides. Emphasis will be placed on integrating these treatments into a broader Integrated Pest Management program that includes proper mowing, irrigation, fertility, and cultural practices.

Weeds Under Control: Herbicide Strategies and Solutions

Dr. Scott McElroy, Auburn University Weed management remains one of the most challenging and pesticide-reliant aspects of lawn care. In this interactive session, we'll tackle real-world weed control questions, covering everything from accurate weed identification to herbicide selection, resistance management. and seasonal application timing. The session will highlight best practices for label compliance, minimizing non-target impacts, and integrating cultural and chemical strategies within an IPM framework. Attendees will gain practical insights on reducing herbicide failures, managing hardto-control species, and making environmentally responsible application decisions emphasizing proper herbicide use and sustainable weed control strategies in warm-season turfgrass systems.

Grow Like a Pro: Turf Fertilization Tips that Deliver

Dr. Beth Guertal, Auburn University
Unlock the full potential of your turf with fertilization strategies that are proven to perform. This session dives into the science and timing behind effective nutrient applications, helping you deliver greener, healthier lawns that are more resilient to pest, weed, and disease pressures. Emphasis will be placed on how proper fertility supports integrated pest management by enhancing turf vigor and minimizing environmental conditions that favor pests.

BMPs in Action: Protecting Lawns, Landscapes, and the Environment

Dr. Bryan Unruh, University of Florida
Implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs)
is essential for sustainable lawn and landscape
care—and for meeting pesticide regulatory standards. In this session, we'll outline science-based
BMPs that directly support effective pest, weed,
and disease control while protecting water quality and non-target organisms. Topics will include
proper pesticide storage and handling, application
timing, equipment calibration, drift reduction, and
how fertility, irrigation, and mowing practices impact pest pressure. Attendees will also learn how
to incorporate these practices into an Integrated
Pest Management (IPM) strategy that promotes
healthier turf with fewer chemical inputs.

Sod Production Sessions MCCC — D3

MCCC - Fover

MCCC - Foyer

MCCC - E4

From Bare Fields to Better Sod: Can Cover Crops Boost Sod Farm Success?

Dr. Eric DeBoer, Louisiana State University
Cover crops are gaining traction as a sustainable
tool to improve soil health, reduce erosion, and
enhance nutrient cycling—but how do they fit into sod production systems? In this session, we'll
explore the latest research on using cover crops
during fallow periods to support more vigorous
sod establishment and long-term field productivity. This session offers practical insights for
producers interested in improving sod quality,
protecting soil resources, and enhancing overall
farm sustainability.

Seasonal Labor Solutions for Sod Producers

Zach and Merritt Harris, C.O.C. Placement Service

Finding and retaining a reliable seasonal work-force is a growing challenge for sod producers—and the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers Program offers both opportunities and complexities. This session breaks down what you need to know to successfully use H-2A, including application timelines, compliance requirements, housing and wage standards, and recent regulatory updates. Learn how to avoid common pitfalls and keep your operation running smoothly through peak demand seasons.

Farmer Roundtable: Markets, Equipment, and More

Moderator: Wayne Bassett

Join fellow sod producers for a candid, interactive roundtable discussion on the challenges and opportunities shaping today's turfgrass industry. This session will cover real-world insights on current market trends, pricing pressures, labor issues, and equipment innovations—from harvesters and spriggers to irrigation and cultivation tools. Participants are encouraged to share their experiences, ask questions, and exchange ideas about what's working (and what's not) on their farms. Whether you're looking to expand acreage, update your fleet, or navigate shifting customer demands, this session offers valuable peer-to-peer learning you can take straight back to the field.

Targeted Spraying Systems: Precision Tools for Smarter Sod Production

Amy Wilber, Mississippi State University
Precision matters—especially when it comes to
effective and responsible pesticide application.
In this session, we'll explore the latest advancements in targeted spraying systems designed to
improve accuracy, reduce chemical waste, and
increase operational efficiency on sod farms.
Learn how sensor-based and site-specific technologies can help detect and treat only affected areas, reducing overall pesticide use while
maintaining high-quality turf. The session will
cover calibration, system selection, and integration with existing farm equipment providing
practical tools and insights to modernize your
spray program.

11 am

10 am

Registration complete!

An email will be sent to elvinulmer@laurelms.com

A message from the organizer:

You have successfully registered for the Deep South Turf Expo; look for a confirmation email arriving shortly. Thanks for your participation!

2025 DSTE Attendee Registration

- 1 x DSTE Attendee Registration, 2 x Tailgate Celebration
 Order total: \$359.25 Paid with credit card via PayPal
- Tue, Oct 28, 2025 9:00 AM Thu, Oct 30, 2025 12:00 PM CT Add to Google • Outlook • iCal • Yahoo
- Mississippi Coast Convention Center
 2350 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, MS 39531
 View on map
- Amanda Miles (organizer)
 3348213000 info@deepsouthturfexpo.org

Powered by

The Beau Rivage

We are proud to partner once again with the Beau Rivage, a luxurious Four-Diamond resort by MGM Resorts International, located directly on the scenic Gulf of Mexico in Biloxi, Mississippi. Expo attendees can take advantage of an exclusive discounted room rate of \$135 (+\$15 resort tax) per night. To secure this special rate, you must book your reservation through our official link, which can be accessed using this link. Please do not use third-party booking sites or discount providers, as our group rate is only available through the dedicated link. Availability is limited, and the special rate is only guaranteed through September 26, 2025—so don't delay!

MAKE A HOTEL RESERVATION

October 26, 2025 - October 31, 2025

Your reservation is complete!

Thank you for booking!



Beau Rivage Resort & Casino

Phone: 228-386-7111 Phone 2: 888-567-6667 Fax: 228-386-7680 875 Beach Boulevard Biloxi , MS 39530 , United States of America

HOTEL REWARDS PROGRAM



WITH GREAT STATUS COMES GREAT PERKS, And more reasons to level up. Sign up today!

RUN OF HOUSE - GROUP RATES

Acknowledgment number: B5ZWW0PS

CHECKOUT

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 Thu, Oct 30, 2025

Guests

Elvin Ulmer, Lisa Ulmer

Edit

Cancel

Add to calendar

Deep South Turf Expo