

## **Dr. David R. Chalmers**

**Current Title:** Associate Professor & State Extension Turfgrass Specialist

**Appointment:** 100% Texas Cooperative Extension

**Physical Address:**

233-A Heep Center, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-2474

**Email Address:** dchalmers@tamu.edu

**Education:**

Ph.D., Horticulture, University of Illinois, 1983

M.S., Agronomy, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, 1978

B.S., Crop Science, Michigan State University, 1974

**Academic Positions:**

2002-present Associate Professor & State Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Soil and Crop Sciences Department, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

1987-2002 Associate Professor and Extension Agronomist, Turf, Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences, Virginia Tech.

1981-1987 Assistant Professor and Extension Agronomist, Turf, Agronomy Department, Virginia Tech.

**Teaching Focus:**

Served as faculty in the Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences Department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in Blacksburg, Virginia from 1981-2002. Formal "classroom" teaching experience spanned 18 years and included undergraduate student advising; graduate student advising; and teaching in both two and four-year turf curriculum. Served as major advisor for 7 M.S. students and co-advisor to 1 Ph.D. student. From 2002 till present serves as Academic Advisor to the Texas A&M Turfgrass Club.

**Research & Extension Focus:**

As the State Extension Turfgrass Specialist, my primary objective is to increase the use and understanding of agronomic information related to turfgrass production by all segments of the Texas turfgrass industry. The industry comprises a diverse clientele whose livelihood depends on managing grasses to enhance the aesthetics of the environment, provide for safe and usable outdoor recreation by use of best management practices. It not only includes turf culture but also the commerce generated by producing quality turf. The clientele represents a broad range of educational background and practical experience; from the uninformed home consumer to the college-trained professional. Included in this diverse clientele are growers (sod farmers, golf course superintendents, grounds managers, and home consumers), service related individuals

and companies (professional lawn services, Extension Agents, consulting agronomists, horticulturists, manufacturers and suppliers) and governmental agencies (water authorities and regulatory agencies). It is an industry that often experiences workers entering the industry without much, if any, formal instruction in the plant sciences or turf management.

Extension program is structured to handle the need for immediate problem solving information, encourage and support the turfgrass professional's involvement in continuing education and educationally oriented associations, and provide formal training opportunities. The program seeks to enable individuals to effectively contribute to the improvement of turfgrass quality and performance while enhancing their professional growth. This is accomplished by being actively involved in turfgrass-related professional associations, extension agent programs, research field days, and the annual Texas Turfgrass Association conference. By being so involved I am able to provide assistance and guidance to the turfgrass industry as well as sense the need for new educational programs. Other equally important components of my program include short courses, publications, test demonstration research, mass media releases and individual consultation. Research activity has been in the areas of turfgrass variety evaluation; bermudagrass spring transition from perennial ryegrass winter overseeding; and nutrient management in turfgrass systems.

Grants and Contracts as principal or co-principal investigator of \$610,000 from private, and state/regional agencies such as the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program, State Agricultural Council, State Department of Transportation,  
Publications. Refereed journal publications – 4, Extension publications 28, Other publications – 92

#### **Professional Memberships, Leadership Roles and Honors:**

1. Member - Crop Science Society, American Society of Agronomy and International Turfgrass Society
2. SERA – Information Exchange Group – 25 Turfgrass
3. Technical Advisor to the Texas Turfgrass Association and Turfgrass Producers of Texas