

Benjamin Wherley, PhD

Professor- Turfgrass Science & Ecology

Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University

Phone: 979-845-1591; Fax: 979-845-0456; E-mail: b-herley@tamu.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2008 North Carolina State University, Crop Science

M.S. 2003 The Ohio State University, Horticulture & Crop Science

B.S. 1999 The Ohio State University, Agronomy

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF SOIL AND CROP SCIENCES Oct 2011 – present

Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Associate Professor- Turfgrass Science & Ecology

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH July 2009 – Sept 2011

Texas AgriLife Urban Solutions Center, Dallas, TX

Assistant Research Scientist- Turfgrass Management & Physiology

DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY Jan. 2008 – June 2009

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Postdoctoral Research Associate- Turfgrass Management

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Dr. Wherley holds a 70% research/ 30% teaching appointment. His research program addresses basic and applied research issues related to warm-season turfgrass management and ecology. Research focuses on developing sustainable approaches to irrigation, nutrient management, and construction of turfgrass systems. His program collaborates with faculty across a variety of disciplines to address problems of interest to turf industry stakeholders. He currently teaches undergraduate courses in Advanced Turfgrass Ecology and Physiology (SCSC 428), Professional Development in Turfgrass Science (SCSC 489), and Sports Field Construction (SCSC 427).

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Research: Since 2011, Wherley has been PI or co-PI on projects totaling \$19.7 million, with over \$2.75 million accredited to his research program. Authored/co-authored 50 peer-reviewed publications, 4 book chapters, 73 scientific abstracts, and 50 popular press articles. Lead author on 1 patent and co-author on 3 turfgrass cultivar registrations. PI on multi-disciplinary team of scientists from A&M AgriLife and Texas Engineering Experiment Station developing a patented landscape irrigation runoff mitigation system capable of significantly reducing irrigation runoff and improving soil wetting efficiency during lawn/landscape irrigation events. Co-PI on a multi-state USDA-SCRI collaborative research project aimed at developing drought/salinity tolerant turfgrasses for southern landscapes. Advanced lines of 4 species with excellent salinity and drought tolerance have been identified and will be nearing final release stage in the next 1-2 years. Conducted research demonstrating water management techniques that can allow golf courses to reduce irrigation by 25-50% during water conservation periods while still maintaining good playability and turf health. Conducted multi-year landscape runoff research that has shed light on to role of nitrogen fertilizer source, timing, and irrigation amounts on nutrient retention/losses from managed turf systems. These data are being used to develop improved establishment and managed turf fertilization/irrigation recommendations for Texas. **Teaching:** Instructed 7 semesters of Advanced Turfgrass Ecology and Physiology (SCSC 428), 8 semesters of Professional Development in Turfgrass Science (SCSC 489), and 4 semesters of Sports Field Construction (SCSC 427). Co-teach an irrigation management workshop to golf course superintendents from around the world annually at the Golf Industry Show. Have served on 28 graduate committees (20 MS students, 8 PhD students), and mentored 30 undergraduate student research projects. Student evaluations have consistently been above departmental average (~4.8 out of 5) **Service:** Have served as Faculty Advisor for the Aggie Turfgrass Management Club, a TAMU recognized Student Activities Club, since 2012. We have taken nearly 75 students to compete in the annual Sports Turf Managers Association and Golf Course Superintendents Association Turf Bowl Competitions (typically placing in the upper 70-85% of all teams), travel for which is supported largely through club fund raising activities.

RECENT PEER REVIEW PUBLICATIONS (50 Total Career) * Denotes my student

1. *Z. Chen, B. Wherley, and C. Reynolds. 2021. Daily light integral requirements for bermudagrass and zoysiagrass cultivars: Influence of mowing height and growth regulators. *In Press Crop Science*.
2. H.D.R. Carvalho, *B. Chang, K. J. McInnes, J. L. Heilman, B. Wherley, J. Aitkenhead-Peterson. 2021. Energy balance and temperature regime of different materials used in urban landscaping. *In Press Urban Climate*.
3. *B. Chang, B. Wherley, J. Aitkenhead-Peterson, and K. McInnes. 2021. Environmental impacts and runoff dynamics associated with turfgrass removal and urban landscape conversions. *In Press Journal of the Total Environment*.
4. *M. Chavarria, B. Wherley, R. Jessup, and A. Chandra. 2021. Physiological Responses to Salinity among Warm-Season Turfgrasses of Contrasting Salinity Tolerance. *In Press Journal of Agronomy & Crop Science*.
5. C. Fontanier, R. White, J. Aitkenhead-Peterson, J. Thomas, and B. Wherley. 2020. Effective rainfall estimates for St. Augustinegrass lawns under varying irrigation programs. *In Press Agronomy Journal*.
6. *D. Dyer, B. Wherley, K. McInnes, *R. Hejl, and C. Reynolds. 2020. Sand-Capping Depth and Subsoil Influences on Tifway Bermudagrass Response to Irrigation Frequency and Drought. *In Press Agronomy Journal*.
7. *B. Chang, B. Wherley, J. Aitkenhead-Peterson, and J. West. 2020. Water chemistry and nitrogen source effect foliar uptake efficiency in ‘Champion’ bermudagrass. *Journal of Plant Nutrition*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01904167.2020.1783310>
8. *M. Chavarria, B. Wherley, R. Jessup, and A. Chandra. 2020. Leaf anatomical responses and chemical composition of warm-season turfgrasses to increasing salinity. *Current Plant Biology* 22: 100147

PROFESSIONAL HONORS & AWARDS

2020- Present	Associate Editor- International Turfgrass Society Section- Agronomy Journal
2020	TAMU Technology Commercialization Patent Award
2019	TAMU Technology Commercialization Patent Award
2019- Present	Associate Editor- Agrosystems, Geosciences, and Environment
2018	TAMU Student Veterans Association Faculty Recognition Award
2017	TAMU Technology Commercialization Patent Award
2015- Present	Associate Editor- Crop Science
2019	President of NIMMS SERA 025 Southern Region Turf IEG
2018	Vice President of NIMMS SERA 025 Southern Region Turf IEG
2017	Secretary of NIMMS SERA 025 Southern Region Turf IEG
2015- Present	Advisor to National Turfgrass Evaluation Program Drought & Water Use Committee
2014- 2016	Appointed to the Fred Grau Turfgrass Science Award Committee
2013- Present	Advisor to the Texas Turfgrass Association Board
2014	Soil & Crop Sciences Dept. Faculty Teaching Award
2014	ASHS Southern Region Extension Communications Award
2007	Turfgrass Council of North Carolina Eagle’s Award Recipient
2007	Crop Science Society C5 Poster Competition- 1 st place
2005	GCSAA Watson Fellowship Recipient
2002	Pi Alpha Xi, National Horticulture Honor Society
1999	Great Lakes Turfgrass Invitational- 1 st place team
1998	Gamma Sigma Delta, National Agriculture Honor Society

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

European Turfgrass Society, 2020- present
Crop Science Society of America, 2001- present
Turfgrass Producers International, 2018 - present
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, 1999- present
Texas Turfgrass Association, 2009- present
Texas Sports Turf Managers Association, 2014- present