

Wayne W. Hanna

Wayne W. Hanna retired from the University of Georgia and the USDA Coastal Plain Experiment Station in Tifton, Georgia, in 2008 after 37 years conducting research on grasses for use as forage and turf in the southern U.S. and similar regions worldwide.¹

Hanna developed 'Tifeagle' bermudagrass, one of the first cultivars to withstand low mowing heights and provide the high quality putting surface required by today's golf courses.² 'Tifeagle' is an important water-saving turf for putting greens at many golf courses in the southern U.S. Many courses have switched from creeping bentgrass (a cool-season grass that suffers from heat stress and disease in transitional and southern climates), to 'Tifeagle' over the last decade, saving water and reducing pesticide use.³



Wayne W. Hanna
Image source:
<http://www.grassfednetwork.com/>

Hanna also developed 'Tifsport' bermudagrass, which has been an important sports field turfgrass, and 'Tifgrand' bermudagrass, which has improved shade tolerance.⁴

In addition, Hanna developed and released 'Tifblair', the first patented centipedegrass cultivar. Centipedegrass is a low maintenance species that is ideal for home lawns and roadsides in the southeast U.S. However, the cold tolerance of currently available centipedegrasses led Hanna to release 'Tifblair', which is improved for that trait.⁵

Among his many awards, Hanna was inducted into the ARS Science Hall of Fame in 2006,⁶ the Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2011, and was honored with the USGA Green Section Award in 2012.⁷

For more on Wayne W. Hanna:

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/alumni/fame/hanna.html>

<http://www.usga.org/news/2011/December/Hanna-2012-Green-Section-Award-Recipient/>

¹ Clint Thompson, "UGA scientist researching coneless pine trees," 3 June 2014, The University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, 4 November 2014,

http://www.caes.uga.edu/applications/gafaces/?public=viewStory&pk_id=5152

² "Hanna to Receive 2012 USGA Green Section Award," 14 December 2011, USGA, 4 November 2014,

<http://www.usga.org/news/2011/December/Hanna-2012-Green-Section-Award-Recipient/>

³ Kevin Morris, President, National Turfgrass Federation, E-mail message. 7 October 2014.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ "Agricultural Research Service Hall of Fame," 11 July 2013, Agricultural Research Service, 4 November 2014,

<http://www.usga.org/news/2011/December/Hanna-2012-Green-Section-Award-Recipient/>

⁷ "Hanna to Receive 2012 USGA Green Section Award."