

So, we we've got a small enough group here that I don't mind. I've got a presentation. I don't expect that we'll make it through it all. So, feel free to interrupt. I've got sample grasses here. We can go in any direction that you all want to. Um, but my name is Kenneth Clayton. I'm an extension associate in turf grass in the department of plant soil science at UK. So came down from Lexington today to join you all. Uh thank you Mary for inviting me and for bringing Harrison. If all else fails, you all get to see a cute baby that that makes it worth it. So I just wanted to open it up and thinking about lawn management is what are there benefits to turf grass? Um because I assume if y'all are here uh that you do care about your lawns, but I often get mixed groups and turf gets a bad rep. But can you all think of other uh or numerous benefits of lawns of turf grass and just say them out loud. It makes everything pretty and green as long as it's been watered and stuff. But then you don't have all these little areas that you know playing around. Yes. Yeah. But it also grows for

Yes. So we we'll focus on we'll focus on the benefits because I'm sure we'll have plenty of time to discuss the negatives of it. Um but here in the front row she has define turf grass. I would just define it as a a low growing grass that's used for either uh aesthetic value for playing sports on it used to you know for gardens in that way but it's as opposed to say like a forage which is grown it's taller growing used for uh livestock to eat to feed the animals. Um but grasses are ubiquitous. I mean corn is a grass, rice is a grass. Um I like all grasses but a focus on turf grass. So we heard uh beauty aesthetics. So yes. Well, it's a wonderful place for children and grandchildren to play ball and frisbee and pets. And I mean you need wide open spaces and I think turrest is really important to cover those spaces. Yes, absolutely. As much as I um love trees and you do, it makes it difficult to play a game of whistle ball or backyard baseball when all you have are trees. So, uh

recreation. There we go. I tried to go through them quick, so you might have got a sneak peek. Any others benefits to turf grass you all can think of? He's on it. Yes. So we see here erosion control uh no grass after so often you know laying sod on slopes planting grass hydro seeding uh to keep the soil where we want the soil to be dust control. Another one to think about with airports you know that that's pretty important. We don't want a lot of dust being sucked into those uh airplane turbines. And then when we got construction, you know, going down the interstate yesterday, I see one of these big water trucks there because they can't kick up all that dust when they're working on I64 going to Louisville there. Um because you're trying to drive, so they need to keep the dust down. So benefits is they have grass in the middle of those normally. uh cooling benefits uh this summer. We we would be happy to have a little bit more cooling, I think, than what we got. Uh and our grass

out there right now is not doing this as well because it's pretty I walked through the front lawn here and it sounded like, you know, crunch crunch crunch. Um so it's pretty crispy right now. But you can see here uh air temperature of this water surface here was 94 degrees. I mean sorry the air temperature was 94. When they did the water temperature on top of the pond it was also 94°. Uh on top of the lawn it was 104°. Went over to the just sand 132. Out to the parking lot is 136°. And then you go to the synthetic turf on the high school football field and it's 165°.

So when it is 95° in Paduka, um you're going to feel cooler when you walk out on a big lawn rather than when you walk out on this big black. You know, it's common sense, but we just often don't think about those things. Um and Even when it looks really pretty and green, when it's plastic with black rubber underneath of it, that's pretty hot.

Uh enjoyment. I know my brother works in an office all day u sitting in front of the computer. He gets a lot of um enjoyment out of going home and getting to work with his hands. Um so that's something else not not to take for granted. Uh this guy wrote a rap song and put it on YouTube about um mowing his lawn. So, another one is property value. Um there's a lot of talk about, you know, having wild lawns and getting rid of your lawns. Um but when it comes to buying a house, when it comes to selling a house, uh the realtor is going to say, "I recommend you mow your grass before you put your house for sale." So, there's going to be big benefits there. Uh, this was a more of a scientific paper by Dr. Ross Bronn out of Kansas State and he actually went through the literature and found different benefits of the lawn spectator entertainment, uh, carbon sequestration, um, oxygen production, reduce noise pollution. That's what we don't think about. The ones that I thought was really interesting is deter crime. Um, so when you go into a neighborhood and the lawns look nice. When you go to a shopping center and it's got nice landscaping, uh, the the grass around it looks nice. They actually found in research that it deterred crime. So, a lot of benefits to turf grass. Um, but we live in Kentucky and you all live in Paduka, Kentucky, where, as my predecessor used to say, we can grow both cool seasoned grasses and warm season grasses equally bad. It is a difficult proposition. Um, there there's no, and we can talk tonight about this, we will, but there's no silver bullet when it comes to growing Kentucky. If you move to South Florida, you know, St. Augustine grass makes perfect sense. It's going to grow great all year. If you move to, you know, Minnesota, you know, Kentucky bluegrass is a no-brainer. But where we live, it's going, you know, 87, I think I saw today, and then later this week, it's going to be in the 70s. Um, and this past winter, we had pretty cold winter. lots of snow cover. Uh, and a lot of folks across the state had damage to their warm season grasses. So, we get

cold enough in the winters that the warm seasons aren't perfect. We get hot enough in the summers that our cool seasons are difficult to manage. Um, so talking about lawn uh establishment, because I think a lot of folks have that on their mind right now is that my lawn doesn't look good. It's on life support and what do I need to do this fall? I think with our lawns, the mindset of I love having this class tonight because in the spring Lowe's and Home Depot and Menards, they're all going to have their, you know, lawn seed out, their lawnmowers, everything advertising, take care of your lawn. But we actually need to think about it in the fall. That's the time that we want to improve our lawns so that we can make it through that. the following year. Um the spring spring is better than summer, but fall is best of all. So keep that in mind. That is a general rule of thumb for um almost all lawn management in Kentucky. So when should you renovate your lawn? Uh benefits to doing it in the fall are that you're going to have two cool periods. So, if you were to go out and see right now, hopefully we get a little rain to come. Um, you the the days are getting shorter, the soil's getting cooler. Uh, and we're not going to have as many highs in the '90s, highs in the upper 80s. So, you're going to have one cool period to establish that grass. And then in the following spring, you're going to have a growth period there as well um before that grass has to go through the heat of the summer. And when I'm talking about establishing in fall, I'm talking about cool season grasses. So typically without knowing anything else, you know, somebody says, "I live in Kentucky. What grass should I plant? I'm going to recommend turf type tall fescue." Um we at this meeting in Paduka. Um I think we need to have a much bigger conversation around potential for warm season grasses. But if I go to Ashlin, Kentucky or northern Kentucky, turf type tall fescue is definitely the best option there. So cool season grasses establish in the fall. So you have that two cool period benefit. um the soil temperatures are still warm, so you're going to get quick germination in the fall, whereas in the spring, the soil temperatures are still cold, so that seed is going to be much slower to germinate. As well as you're going right into the heat of the summer, and you're going to have young seedlings that are going to have to compete with that brand new grass. um is going to have to compete with grassy annual weeds such as your goose grass and your crab grass. So, by planting in the fall, you're going to have a grass that is more mature when it comes to that following summer and hopefully be able to out compete those grassy weeds.

Um something that we don't often do with our lawns when if Mary was having a class on u planting a garden there would be a lot of talk about what do we need to do to amend the soil how you know or raised beds we don't just throw you know whatever soil in there we think about that a lot I think we also need to think about that with our lawns so you are you knowing up your lawn this fall. Think about using that as an opportunity to incorporate

some compost, incorporate some soil amendments in there. Um, bring a soil sample to the office, get a report, see if you need any additional nutrients beyond nitrogen for that. Um just because we often, you know, new I see new construction over here and they come in bulldo, you know, smooth the land out and then we're left with this type of soil right here. You got a half inch of top soil, you know, at most maybe if you're lucky, and then you throw your grass seed out there and you go, "Huh, I don't know why it didn't look very good." So just, you know, common sense, but for whatever reason with lawns, we don't typically think about that.

There we go. So, here's where I want to spend a lot of our time, and we can look at some of the samples here. Uh, but what what grass should I plant? Anybody planted re established their lawn in the past four or five years. What What did you plant? It was a blend of like ryass and Okay. Yeah. So, blend of ry grass, hopefully perennial ry grass, um tall fescue and Kentucky blue grass. Uh, what grass do you all think we should plant in McCracken County? Falcon fescue. Falcon fescue. Okay. So, a turf type called tall fescue. Any other thoughts?

Zoya Bermuda.

I hear the moans growing. takes over on on Bermuda grass. Yeah. So, if we walked out here right now, I was just looking the the predominant species growing in this lawn um were lepeda. It's green. It seems to be doing pretty well. So, if you want a broad leaf weed for your lawn, um you know, it'll be green come Labor Day. Um, but it's not going to look look uh, you know, really appealing to you. Um, the other species was crab grass and even it looked like it was crispy. Uh, and then Bermuda grass was out there and it was great. And so if we just look at what grass is growing in the stress periods, I like I like to look at that because to me that's an indicator of what am I I have to do the least amount of work on to keep it green uh when I want to use my lawn. So, I'm assuming most people are outside using their lawn between, you know, Memorial Day and Labor Day uh and on, you know, probably up to Thanksgiving. Um, so what what grass is going to look the best during that time and what are you going to have to do the least amount of work uh the least amount of inputs to keep it nice. So pennial ry grass is one if you just go to you know Lowe's down the street here and pick up a grass bag of grass seed uh it's likely going to have penny ryrass in it. Preory grass is a very quick germinating seed. Um, so you know, you put it out there today, if you watered it, you could get it germinated probably three or four days and seeing it

emerge coming up out of the ground. So it's extremely fast. So if you have an area that you just need ground cover quick, you want to prevent erosion, pennial ryrass may be a good option. Um, it is used a lot in athletic fields. So you can see here, this is the professional soccer field in Louisville. It looks really good when they striped it with their mowers. Um, but what they're using it for is Bermuda grass as an overseed. So as that Bermuda grass goes dormant in the fall, they will then sew perennial ryrass over that so that they have green playing surface for the athletes to play soccer on. Um, but in the heat of our summers, it is very uh prone to a number of diseases and it's also not well suited for heat and drought tolerance. So, perennial ryrass, although the name says perennial, uh, if you plant it, you should consider it more of an annual. So, it's often mixed in with grass seed blends because you go out, you put it out right now, you you come back in two weeks, you think, "Oh, this is phenomenal." You know, I'm a hero. Um, but that that is just not going to hold up in the heat of Kentucky summers. So, we don't generally recommend perennial ry grass. Yes, ma'am. What do you recommend along the Tennessee River? We have a sort of a steep backyard, but it erodess a lot. river level going up and down. So, I don't know. We have a lot of shade, too.

Yeah, that's difficult because I mean it essentially has to survive the flooding and then the water going down. Um, I would probably try do a turf type tall uh because it does pretty well in flood areas. But it's not going to creep like other grasses would. You have to add more soil like the road so bad. I mean, yeah, if it's washed away the the soil you are on some Yeah. Yeah. That's just a as much as I love good grasses, some area like that may benefit from a different ground cover rather than just grass. So, and I'm sure Mary can can recommend Beyond Grasses options there. Uh, fine fescues. This is a picture of lawn in Kentucky. Fine fescues in the spring will look very nice. Um, they're very fine leaf blade. I don't have I didn't bring one with me. Um, but if you feel the leaf blade, it it feels more like the diameter of a pine needle than it does grass. So, it's very thin, but it's it doesn't not as pokey like a pine needle leaf. But again, in the heat, it will survive. It's very drought tolerant grass, but it is going to look it's going to go dormant to survive. It's going to be brown uh in the heat of the summer and and I say it will survive, but as we get farther south and west like we are here, uh it's going to do better in, you know, northern Kentucky than it is in western Kentucky, um and you get a hot summer, it it can die. Um and it's going to be very clumpy grass. So, this is another one that is often in seed mixtures that you buy, but unless you sew it very very dense at a high seeding rate, uh, and keep it mowed very very low, it's going to end up forming clumpy patches. So, a lot of times it's advertised as a shade tolerant uh grass, which it is more shade tolerant, but just be aware that it is not going to be a dense carpet like grass. It's just going to be clumps, individual clumps.

Kentucky bluegrass. Uh, ironically, the Kentucky bluegrass named um, you know, our state's namesake is not one that we recommend planting. So, it is a very nice grass. A lot of the horse farms in Lexington like it particularly because of um worries about endites and tall fescues, but again it's it doesn't stand up well in the heat of the summers. Uh it is also more prone to disease than a turf type tall fescue would be. Um and so you're going to have a higher level of maintenance. It's going to need more irrigation potentially fungicides. It's hungrier. You're going to a little more fertilizer uh to maintain that good color. Um that being said is that if you all want to you can pass it. This is a a 4 in type Kentucky blue grass, but you can you can see just you know the blades feel it. Another way thing to look at with these is as you pass it around is you can identify Kentucky bluegrass because if you look at the tip of that leaf blade, it's a boat shaped or prowshaped leaf blade. Uh and that's a good way to identify blue grass species. So when you're walking your lawn, you're not sure what it is, look at that leaf blade. And then also if you look flat part of that leaf blade. Up close, you'll see it has two parallel like train track lines going down the middle of it. Um, so Kentucky bluegrass if you want. It's soft. It is it's a very soft grass. Um, but it's going to require more inputs to look good in the summer. Uh, that being said is that there are some newer cultivars available. For instance, this is UK softball field and it is um Mountain View C 365S. So, a mouthful. Um but it looks really good in the summer. We've got a sod farm in Lexington growing Baron Brews um HGT blend and it looks without irrigation and it looks really good. Um so cultivar dependent generally not recommended but if somebody's really sold on one Kentucky bluegrass be sure to investigate newer cultivars that are going to have better heat and drought tolerance.

So, turf type tall fescue um there are dozens of varieties uh cultivars that are available. Uh my my general recommendation is to avoid Kentucky 31. So, this is named again after our state and again we don't recommend it. uh Kentucky 31 tall fescue was found in Meny County, Kentucky. A professor from UK was going to Mini County to judge a sorghum syrup uh festival and he's they said, "Did you see Mr. Sudter's farm in the hillside there in that green grass?" He no, I'm interested. You can pass this around, too. And u he he went over and it's, you know, the winter time everything was looking brown and he sees some nice green grass on the hillside there collected some samples sat there for seven or eight years another professor from UK uh went to Meny County and saw the grass he collected some and came back and told the other professor said hey I found this great green grass and he said oh yeah I collected some you know seven years ago and so anyways that's a whole interesting story. Um, but they developed what we now know as Kentucky 31 tall fescue

and it was selected predominantly because it stayed greener uh on the the hillsides in eastern Kentucky um maintain those slopes and you could see livestock later into the year. Um they eventually found that there's problems with individes in those fescues um which are good for us in turf because it helps protect that plant from insects. Um it can make livestock sick um but it also makes insects sick. So it's beneficial for lawns in that case. Um, but turf type tall fescue is going to have a much finer blade than that Kentucky 31 will and it's going to really look closer to a Kentucky bluegrass. Um, and it's going to have improved drought and heat tolerance over the Kentucky 31. Additional problem with Kentucky 31 is it's very difficult to get certified blue tag Kentucky 31 grass seed. So, your kind of uh you know going by whoever your salesman saying here's what's in the bag but nobody's checked it. Um so which you know that happens all the time. Um but Kentucky 31 is one that you can often get some lesser quality grass seed in there. So we recommend turf type fescue. Uh you said you falcon that's that's one. Which what did you say you playing? Falcon 5. Falcon 5. So yes, the popular opinion is the Falcons. Uh apparently available in this area, but there are several other um varieties available. Basically, choose a newer variety. All these companies breed to improve the turf grass varieties. they don't come out with a new one that's, you know, worse than the one that came out 10 years before. Um, so I generally don't have a here's some variety everybody needs to get. See what you can find locally and then do some research and see where it falls. Um, the other thing is is making sure that when you do buy your grass seed, if you're going to plant turf type tall fescue, is you want 100% turf type tall fescue. So that can be difficult to find. Um there's online retailers available, but usually you can go to a southern states or another distributor like that can get you 100% turf type fescue. You don't want the perennial ry grass mixed in there or even worse uh annual ry grass or wheat. I've seen all of those um come up in the spring and you know I said did you seed last fall? Yeah, I seen it last fall and why does my lawn look like this? And it's you know orchard grass, annual ry grass and some wheat and a little bit of tall fescue mixed in there. So seed is one of those things that you unfortunately you you kind of get what you pay with for that. So warm season grasses Um we have two warm season grasses that are grown predominantly in the state of Kentucky. That is Bermuda grass. Key the groans again and Zoya grass. So Bermuda grass is what you all are typically used to seeing is just common Bermuda grass that is probably the only thing that's really green right now. And it it just looks bad. It'll grow out onto your driveway, into your mulch beds, up your shrubs. Uh, it's very, very aggressive grass. It is very heat and drought tolerant. So, that is a good characteristic of it as it's green this time of year. You can pass this one around.

So, there is publication that you can get in the back there on controlling Bermuda grass. Um, but if you are spending all of your time and money controlling Bermuda grass, then maybe you just embrace it and you say, "How can I have the best Bermuda grass possible?" Um, so again, these are all pots grown in a greenhouse and sometimes the irrigation doesn't kick on, you know, it's sometimes it's too hot, too cold. So, they're not uh exactly what you should expect when you're planting your lawn, but this is an improved variety of Bermuda grass. Uh this is North Bridge, but there's Toma 31, there's uh Iron Cutter, there's Rio, there's Riviera, there's a whole slew of grasses that are grown on golf courses, home lawns, sports fields that are much finer leaf blade, more dense, and low growing than our common types. This one's a little heavy, but just none of those green.

Yeah, great point. So, pass around if you want. Yeah, that one's a little heavy, so be care grab it from the bottom. Um, warm season grasses are going to go dormant. So, like I said, we can grow them really well. They'll look really good right now, but do keep that in mind that when we get that first frost, they're going to start going dormant at that point. So in Paduka, it may be green from, you know, say April up till October in, you know, mid October. Um, and it's it's going to start turning brown. But you can see here, this picture on the right, u, this actually your grass lawn, but when it's maintained weed free, it can look, I think, pretty good when it's dormant. Um, and it's a cultural thing. I've talked was teaching another class like this and the lady uh was from Texas and you know, for her, everybody's lawn goes dormant in in the winter um because everybody has a warm season grass. Um, so where we're used to seeing more green in the winter like that Kentucky 31 on Mr. Suther's hillside in Miny County, uh, it can be a cultural thing. Um, so there there's no silver bullet in the state of Kentucky. Um, this is also another Bermuda grass here. This variety is called tiff eagle and it's used on putting greens predominantly. Uh most golf courses say from bowling green south and west of here are soilally transitioning to this on their putting greens versus cool season grasses. Uh it is very very fine, very very dense and a beautiful grass, but an issue with it is it is not winter hardy. So on the golf courses, they're they're out on the lake in the summertime, the superintendent, because the grass is growing good, but in the winter time, if it gets about 25° and below, they have to pull blankets out over those pigs to keep it from dying in the win. So, not uh you know, tiff Eagle is not something we would recommend necessarily for a home, but something like the North Bridge or to 31 would do quite well in the Paduka area. Other option anybody have Bermuda grass lawn? It's all mixed in. Sure. Sure.



Yeah. So, sounds like most folks have some Bermuda grass in their lawns. Yeah. And even the common Bermuda grass can do really well if you mow it low enough and you fertilize it enough. But Bermuda's going to be very hungry. So, you know, fertilizing not in the fall, but say, you know, May, June, July, August is when you're going to want to fertilize the Bermuda grass to promote that. Um, but you can start putting in some of these newer varieties. And nice thing about Bermuda grass is very aggressive growing. Um, so you could even you know say I don't want to buy a whole uh, you know, acres worth of sod because that price would be through the roof insane. But you start a small area in your backyard and you make your own nursery. Now you can pull plugs. You can take the roat tiller over it and make just lightly till it and make your own sprigs and spread that in your lawn. So there's options to to do that. Um and I understand you know some of you always like get to the point let's how do we kill it? But but just just keep that in mind. The other warm season grass, which is my favorite grass, is zoya grass. This one I'm not going to pass around because it's sand based and it is very heavy. So, but this is the same grass. This is um what I get I can't even tell them apart now. Zeon zoya grass. So very fine blade um zoya and the one that's just a hair darker is called innovation zoya. So both of those are grown in Kentucky um and and are suitable towards home lawns. Pass that around. This is zoya grass that has not been buffed. So, I probably had this in the greenhouse for a year and a half. What is that? This is Zoya grass. Z O Y S I A. And so even in the worst case scenario where you did nothing at all to your lawn, um it's not going to get that tall, you know. So, a benefit to the warm season grasses like Zoe and Bermuda is anybody know what these are called? Stolins. Stolen. Yeah. So, a stolen is an above ground stem that runs parallel on the ground. And at each of these inner nodes where you see these grass blades coming out, that'll actually root into the ground and spread that way. So you can see these are pretty long, but you got to remember this has been growing for about a year and a half in a greenhouse that's, you know, 75°. So it's growing 12 months out of the year. If you start thinking Kentucky ducky, uh the zoya grass is going to really start slowing down here in the next couple weeks. So again, like bermuta grass, it will go dormant. Um and and you want to manage this by fertilizing in the summer. You can pass that around, too. Feels very like a carpet, you know, especially when they're shorter. Um the the difference in Bermuda grass and zoya grass is bermuda grass is very aggressive. Uh zoya grass is very very slow growing. So once it is established the zoya grass is phenomenal. Everybody you know wants that once the grass I can plant and I don't have to mow it and it looks really good. Uh unfortunately that that is not a thing because if plants are not growing uh they can look really good but event then they become dead you know they uh I I my background is working on golf courses uh and some of the very best putting greens that you'll ever play golf on is where somebody sprayed the wrong thing and has killed the green. uh for that first two weeks when that grass is not growing it. They're phenomenal. They'll be the fastest playing grid you ever play on, but then that guy's

going to get fired because they killed the grass. So, it is not a perfect solution. Um but Zoya is kind of in that situation where it is growing so slowly that you you're going to have to mow that just throwing numbers out there probably twice as much with grass as you are with zoa grass. And then you take a cool season grasses and you're going to be mowing from probably March up until you you could probably be mowing the first week of December and still get grass. Um so that whole time and whereas with the warm season grasses they do go dormant but you're going to reduce those total mow over the year. So especially like cemeteries are always looking for what's a grass that can look good. Um, but we don't have to be out here weed eating around, you know, a million tombstones every day. Um, so Zoya grass fits that bill. The the downside of these grasses are there's very limited seeded varieties available. um most of them are vegetatively established. So that makes them a little bit more expensive um and there just not as many cultivars available. And with zoya grass in particular, uh because it is such a slow growing grass, the sod farmer who sells it to you or sells it to the the sto distributor uh has to charge more for that grass because if he can get, you know, cut the bermuda grass and it's grown back in in two months. Um versus if he cuts that zoya grass, he's got another 12 months before he could potentially sell it again. So everything you know comes with a cost. Um so I I highly recommend for you all and after the summer consider warm season grasses if not uh falcon five tall fescue but I'm sorry again. Mike Mike and I were talking before uh he planted their lawn in uh Falcon Tall Fescue last fall. It looks phenomenal. It got all the resources simply can throw at it and it it struggled this summer. So even when you're, you know, doing everything by the book, sometimes the weather just doesn't cooperate. Um so so keep that in mind. Uh warm season grass is a great option then turf type tall fescue. Uh and you know the next next summer might be great. We get timely rains if not 100° but I anticipate that we're going to continue to have some stressful summers to come. I know this isn't a turf grass, but I know some people who are trying to see clover um because less mowing and stays green easier and nourishes the bee population and you know what are your thoughts on mixing clover in with your turf grass or just doing clover lawn that have any experience with that? Sure. Um I I I am always telling people it's what what do you want to use the lawn for? You know, if it's your grandkids or your kids are out there playing barefoot all day, that clover could be an issue just because you don't want them stepping on these. And I did that enough as a kid and it hurts. But especially, you know, if you if you've got a family member that's highly allergic, you know, that but if you your goal is pollinators, then then that that could be a good option. Uh there are some um Dutch dwarf type clovers that are much lower growing, smaller leaves. So, they're going to look more similar to a lawn. Um, I have talked to Dr. Dan Potter at UK. If you Google Dan Potter and Clover Lawns, uh, he did some research on that. And if I remember correctly, don't quote me on this, they struggled with the clover dying in the winter time. So it and it's not a bad option because clover can fix

nitrogen. Um so atmospheric nitrogen. You don't have to apply fertilizer. Those leaves die. It fertilizes itself. The lawn itself. Um but when I think about what makes a lawn aesthetically pleasing is usually uniformity. you know, if you have a 100% crab grass lawn right now, it probably looks, you know, the best in the neighborhood. It's more green than anybody's lawn, um, but you're going to have to be out there and mowing it three times a week because it's growing so fast. Uh, and it's not very dense. Uh, and then it's all going to die because it's an annual. So the the uniformity usually is what you know if you somebody doesn't know anything about a lawn they just stand back say yes that one looks really good this one doesn't. That's that's that driving factor. So I would say find something that blends well with the grass you have or go 100% clover. Um the Other thing on Bermuda grass I will say is be aware because you can get so much online now. Um and I know I'm pro probably this county. Everybody in here from Kentucky originally. Anybody moved here? Oh, I moved here a long time ago. Like from from where? What state? West Virginia. West Virginia. Okay. Wisconsin. Texas. Wisconsin. Texas. Okay. So I mean 40% of the room just raised their hands that they were not born and raised in Kentucky. Uh, and so I'm learning that because I was born and raised Kentucky. I think of weather as Kentucky, but if you're from Texas or you're from Wisconsin, it the climate here is is different. Um, and so it it can be, you know, more or less depending on where you're from. But with online resources, you can buy really, really nice Bermuda grass that would do phenomenal in Florida, but it's going to die here in Kentucky. Um, so talk to your extension agents and say, "Hey, I'm interested in this grass. What can you find out for me about it?"

This is a unique Zoya grass lawn. This is one of my very best best friend's lawn and he lives in Portsmouth, Ohio in southern Ohio. And this is his lawn in the early spring. Um, and these spring Virginia beauties are flowering across his entire lawn. The bees are all over it early in the spring and that grass isn't growing at all. As those flowers start to fade and and they've lived their life cycle, that grass is starting to green up. He mows it like a normal lawn. It looks the flowers uh clatonia virginicus. Um spring beauties. Spring beauty. Yes. What color? They're like a purpleish white purple. Um, so there there you can do some unique things thinking about pollinators like the clover, uh, you know, planting bulbs in your dormant lawn. Uh, it's it's not for everybody, but I love it. I think that's like the perfect he especially, you know, that far north. He doesn't start mowing until, you know, probably May and he's probably done mowing here in the next week or so. And he's got a, you know, all year round. So,

so is that spring beauty annual or perennial flower? It's a perennial. So, it's going to seed then if it and it's going to return it. Yeah. I mean, you know what I'm saying? I dig it out because it's sort of aggressive.

Yeah. Yeah. That's that's the the question is what is a weed if it's the plant that you don't want in your water landscape. I mean it wouldn't recede and it grass wouldn't come. Well, I guess it it it does it comes up every year. So he has in the early spring it's dense enough you know it's pretty flowers and the honey bees and all the pollinators like it so it's desirable for him

wild

and people that come and spray your yard it doesn't touch them Yes. Hold on to that. I want I'm How much sh we got married? 10 minutes. Okay. I want to tell you I want to touch on just a couple things and then I'll open the questions and I don't have to go anywhere. So, we'll let everybody go and I'll stick around if anybody has any questions. Just when it comes to lawn maintenance, uh I like to think of it, I'm a simple guy. How can we, you know, affect the growth of the grass? And so there's four main factors that affect the growth of the grass. And that is light, that's temperature, that's water, and that's fertility. Uh we can't do anything about the light. The sun comes up when it's going to come up, goes down with goes down. Uh we are we can't do anything about the temperature. Um, you know, it's it's going to be what it is. And the main two things that we can control for the health of our lawns is that water and that fertility. So, we can get in to a lot of technical stuff. You can get on YouTube and watch videos all night till your heart's content on everybody's special lawn care program treatments that they have. Um, but when I go out and see grass that doesn't look good, 99% of the time it is related to water. Um, it either has too much water like we saw up until about three weeks ago when it shut off and or it doesn't have enough water. Um, so sprinkler irrigation systems can help with that. Um, but also that grass species selection, selecting a grass grass that is, you know, if it's a river bank, one that's adapted more to flooding soils. uh if it's hot, dry, something that's adapted more to the heat and stress

this fall. Mulch your leaves. If you can handle the confetti leaf all along, uh that that's much better than than backing them and no no issues with disease or anything like that. soil

fertility. Uh how what's it cost to it just went up? So for county they can have five free soil tests a year though. Okay. You just need one and you got five free ones and you don't even need it every year. So I'd take go around your lawn, your front lawn, and collect maybe 10 samples, you know, at at random um in the lawn. get another sample from your back lawn. If you have a unique area that stands out, you could submit three samples there and submit that to Mary. She can send to me if there's anything funny, but I get agents all across the state send me soil samples and 99% of the time I just say all you need is nitrogen. Um, we grass grows really, really well. Um, And it's if you are returning your clippings to the lawn, those nutrients are going back into the soil. If you get a soil sample for corn or rice or wheat or soybeans, all of those nutrients are being taken off of the soil. It's going to be much more detrimental if you do not add fertilizer to it. So 99% of the time uh just applying nitrogen to your lawn is going to be the main thing to do.

This is a a map a colleague of mine put together of phosphorus probability of seeing a response uh applying phosphorus to your lawn improving the turf grass. So we are down here McCracken County. Uh looks like we got somewhere between a zero and 15% chance. And that's based upon 65,000 soil samples um that have been submitted over the past I forget how many years to the University of Kentucky. Uh he looked at those and used the u a number of 10 parts per million. And so if it was that or above then you would not expect to see a response from phosphorus. So just use as an example of for turf grass we typically just need nitrogen. Uh here is what it looks like if you have a phosphorus deficiency is it'll turn purple like that and it's like a light switch with turf grass. when you get beneath that that threshold um it it's going to turn purple. Uh this is up in Dr. Doug sold at in Wisconsin and he sprayed put out a stencil, sprayed phosphorus there. The grass turned green again. It was fine. Um,

pH, I don't worry a lot about pH. This is grass growing at on a five. What was it? 5.1 look phenomenal. I see grass growing up 7.8 7.9. So let your grass read your grass before you read your soil report. Uh you'll get a soil report to see oh no, you know, it says it's low in this deficient in this nutrient and you go out to your lawn and it looks great, it's green and you're mowing it twice a week. Then your soil test is wrong. your grass is telling you I'm mowing twice a week. Um, and we don't, you know, have to worry. We, if we do have a deficiency, it's easy enough to apply NPK to the lawn, uh, to get it back to where it needs to be.

I I think I'll finish there and just open up for we got maybe two more minutes. Any questions? What about having bowls in the yard? How do you control that? Yeah, I'm sorry. What

mos uh I like the mole trap is still the best. I think it's mostly the grubs and something that they eat. Yeah. Yeah, the the mole trap should work on on the vos as well. Um I heard that complaint as much, but I know we have a lot of moles and just they make a spike trap, make a scissor trap, but main thing on that is if you don't catch them within a couple days, it won't bother cats and stuff.

No, not the center trap special because it's all underground. The spikes are up. Um, but my cat kills the most. She She killed four in the past month. Your cat

one permanently, but I'd take one kill. Let's exchange contacts. I got six kittens that I didn't Well, I kind of believe Let the moles are killing off the grubs, which you don't want either. So yeah, great great point. The mo the moles do eat grubs. Um the issue is that they also eat earthworms. So sometimes the populations can get so bad. Uh it can really cause significant damage. Yeah. I seen one where the spiky with all the fills and holes in it. Oh yeah.

Well, I really appreciate y'all's time and I wish we had covered more, but there's a lot there's a lot to do. So, thank you all.