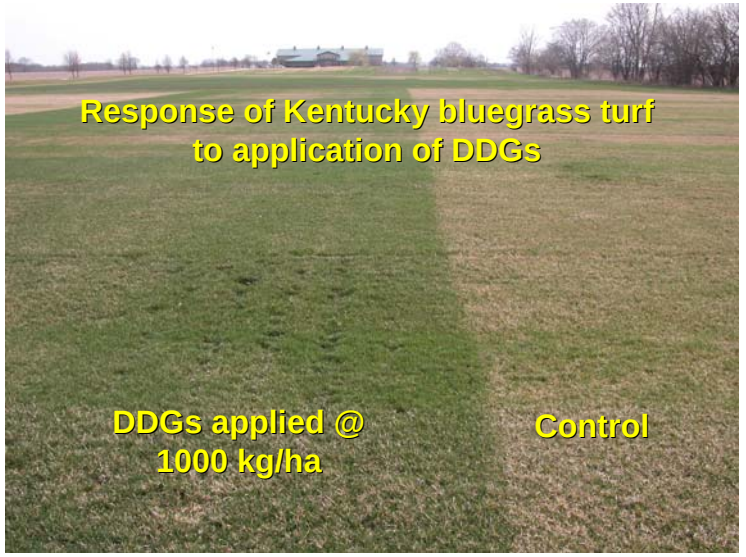
DDGs for horticultural applications



A.What is this technology?

Dried distillers grains (DDGs) are a coproduct of the dry-grind ethanol fermentation process. Most DDGs are currently being sold for animal feed at prices generally less than $150/ton. We have found that DDGs have excellent potential as an organic fertilizer for high-value horticultural crops such as turf, ornamentals and vegetables. In addition, DDGs have herbicidal activity against many weeds in established turfgrasses without causing injury to the turf.

B. What problem does it address?

The increased production of DDGs and their relatively low value as animal feeds necessitates higher value utilization.

C. What is the significance of this solution?

Increased profits for the ethanol industry as well as another option for the horticultural industry in the U.S.

D. Who could use this technology?

All dry-grind ethanol plants, the horticultural crops industry, turf, bedding plants and organic growers, municipalities, park boards, golf courses, homeowners, etc.

E. How is this technology unique?

DDGs appear to be more effective than other organic fertilizers with similar nutritional value. In addition, the ability to simultaneously function as an organic herbicide is an advantage, especially in turf applications.

Control tomato plants on July 13, 2007

Tomato plants with added DDGs, July 13, 2007

Stage of Development

Currently, we have a CRADA with Summit Seed, Inc. of Manteno, Illinois for development of this technology, and we have received a Small Business Initiative Research (SBIR) grant for this research.

Researchers

Steven Vaughn, ARS, Peoria, IL
Mark Berhow, ARS, Peoria, IL
Brent Tisserat, ARS, Peoria, IL
Ed Lee, Summit Seed, Inc.

Contact Information

Steven F. Vaughn, New Crops Processing And Technology Research Unit
National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research
(309) 681-6344; steven.vaughn@ars.usda.gov

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