



**BILL CARRAWAY AT LSA'S RESEARCH FACILITY**

# A Titan of Turf Certification Tours Australia

**BILL CARRAWAY OF THE TURFGRASS GROUP AND ITGAP**

The Australian turf industry recently welcomed a titan of global turf certification, Bill Carraway of The Turfgrass Group (USA), for a comprehensive two week inspection and collaboration tour. As a representative of the International Turfgrass Genetic Assurance Program (ITGAP), Bill's visit was more than just a tour. It was a high level audit of the systems that ensure Australian turf producers remain world leaders in genetic purity.

Bill's work with ITGAP is central to the success of AusGAP, Australia's leading turf certification program. Because AusGAP operates under the ITGAP system, Bill's presence provides a direct link to the rigorous standards used globally.

During his visit, Bill toured various Lawn Solutions Australia (LSA) member farms, conducting inspections of foundation and registered production fields. These

inspections are central to the certification process, ensuring that varieties like TifTuf Hybrid Bermuda, Sir Grange Zoysia, and Zoysia Australis are grown free from weeds, pests, and, most importantly, genetic contaminants.

## **From Cairns to the South Coast**

The tour kicked off in Cairns at Harden Park Lawns, where Bill inspected research and development plots and the planting of



**VISITING HARDEN PARK LAWNS**



**MICHAEL DENNEY**

the soon to be released Stampede Hybrid Buffalo. In Brisbane, he visited Daleys Turf, Go Turf, Twin View Turf, and Jimboomba Turf, focusing on the foundation stocks of Zoysia Australis and TifTuf.

The audit continued through the Hawkesbury region at Active Turf, Greenlife Turf, Grech's Turf, Lukes Turf, and J&B Buffalo. Here, Bill evaluated the progress of Stampede, with production currently ramping up as

producers prepare supply for the release to the Australian market later this year.

The tour then headed down the NSW coast with inspections at Cobbitty Lawn Turf and Turfco, before finishing with training and presentations at LSA Headquarters in Berry.

Bill shared insights into the massive scale of TifTuf production in the US. He provided a competitive analysis of the US market, discussing how TifTuf measures up against

newer competitors in their market. Bill's takeaway was clear that while the market is evolving, the genetic integrity and water efficiency of TifTuf, backed by ITGAP and AusGAP protocols, continue to set the benchmark for high performance turf, both in the US and here in Australia.

For suppliers of AusGAP Certified turf varieties, Bill Carraway's visit reinforces the industry's ongoing commitment to turf certification.