



MLSN newsletter #25

A modern method for soil test interpretation

Hello,

Here are three new explanations of MLSN. Two are by people, and one is a rather impressive effort by AI.

I was a guest on The Grass Factor last week and much of our discussion was about MLSN –the background of it, how MLSN compares with SLAN, and how MLSN is used today. You can [listen or watch here](#).

How about [an audio summary of MLSN](#), including a retelling of the beer analogy, from Google's NotebookLM? This is an AI-generated summary of MLSN.

[Listen here: MLSN audio summary from Google's NotebookLM](#)

You can get more information about the creation of that summary in [this blog post](#) and in [this short ATC Doublecut Episode](#).

As you know, MLSN was developed as a collaborative project between [PACE Turf](#) and ATC. Even before that collaboration, however, was my research into soil testing and nutrient availability with Dr. Frank Rossi at Cornell University. That research had something to do with MLSN, because what I learned at Cornell was that soil testing for turfgrass was “broken.”

When something is broken, it's more useful to come up with a solution than it is to go around pointing out that it is broken. I was doing a good job with the pointing out it was broken part, but it took a few years to come up with a good solution. That was provided through the insight and inspiration of Dr. Larry Stowell, who realized that we could fix the problem by developing MLSN. Frank and I talked about this in [an early December ATC Doublecut episode](#).

Calculators

I recently updated the [OM246 calculator](#). This calculator finds the organic matter accumulation rate, the amount of sand required to reach a specific OM level in the soil at a specific date, and even has a table with conversions between sand amounts in different common measuring units.

The [sustainability index \(SI\) calculator](#) compares a soil test value to the distribution of that element in thousands of soils that are producing good turf. If you want to find out exactly how your soil test result compares to the MLSN dataset, you can use that calculator. Or, if

you want to find, for example, the value at which 50% of soils are higher and 50% lower, you can do that too.

The [MLSN K calculator](#) is designed to show how calculations of a fertilizer recommendation depend on both N rate (growth) and on species in addition to soil nutrient content.

Upcoming events

Come see me at one of these upcoming conferences. Some even have seminars about MLSN.

- [Royal Turf Family Seminar 2025](#), January 7 at Tokyo, January 9 in Fukuoka
- [BIGGA's Continue to Learn 2025](#), January 19–22 in Harrogate, England
- [GCSAA Conference and Trade Show](#), February 3–6 in San Diego, California
- [The Canadian Golf Course Management Conference](#), February 25–27 in Niagara Falls, Ontario
- [15th International Turfgrass Research Conference](#), July 12–16 at Karuizawa, Japan

More info

As usual, the [PACE Turf](#) and [ATC](#) websites are the place to get the latest updates, recommendations, and resources about MLSN and a wide range of other turf management topics.

I keep a [“What’s the best way to keep up with all you’re doing?”](#) page that provides a comprehensive answer to that question.

Thanks for reading.

Micah Woods, Ph.D.
President & Chief Scientist
Asian Turfgrass Center
www.asianturfgrass.com

and

Director
PACE Turf Information Service
www.paceturf.org

Asian Turfgrass Center

3199/366 Sukhumvit 101/2 Bangna 10260,
Bangkok Thailand

You received this email because you signed
up on our website or made purchase from
us.



[Unsubscribe](#)