



Eric Watkins

Turfgrass Breeding
Associate Professor

Education

- Ph.D. Rutgers University
- B.S. University of Minnesota

Research Interests

Dr. Watkins' research focuses on the development of low-input, winter-hardy turfgrass cultivars for use in cold climates. Research activities involve germplasm improvement of several cool-season

turfgrass species including perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, hard fescue, and sheep fescue. A major focus of his program is breeding native grasses such as prairie junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*) for use as low-input turf. He is also involved with turfgrass cultivar evaluation and other turfgrass science research.