Water-Wise Tour

Forage and Range Research Laboratory

Vernon, Utah

July 14-17, 2015

Yi Jin and Guo Jianmei visited Utah State University and the Forage and Range Research Laboratory (FRRL) to learn about the research and education being conducted on the water-wise usage management strategies and plant materials for low-input horticultural landscape applications in semi-arid climates. The represented the turf and oriental Chinese company MonSod whose administrative headquarters are in Beijing. Their production facility resides in Hohot, Inner Mongolia (hence the name MonSod). They were particularly interested in the grass materials being developed for native turf and oriental grasses for urban landscapes. They meet with FRRL scientists in Logan and the administration of BioGrass Sod Farms in Vernon Utah to discuss these FRRL plant materials and their integration into their future low input management practices.

The Chinese MonSod, Beijing visitors (left; Yi Jin and Guo Jianmei) are being instructed by management of Biograss Sod Farms in Vernon, Utah (right; Warren Bell, Clark Bell, Don Heslop, and Landon Bunderson) on their efforts for water-wise use and development of turf grass.

**Beijing Office, Meng Cao Company (Water-saving Garden Technology Co.)**
**Visiting Schedule in Logan, UT (July 14-17, 2015)**

Meng Cao (pronounced mung sow) is a company working with the collection, evaluation, and propagation of plants native to the grasslands of Inner Mongolia and designing water-saving landscapes

**Visit Objective:**
Learn about turfgrass, horticultural plants, drought-resistance research, and water-saving garden designs in the western USA and discuss possible collaborations

**Visitors:**
**1) Guo Jian-mei:** General Manager, Beijing--Meng Cao Co., Specialty: Landscape design
**2) Yi Jin:** Technical Director, Beijing Meng Cao Co., Beijing Meng Cao Co., Specialty: Plant physiological ecology (Retired Professor, Inner Mongolia Agricultural University)
**3) Yang Zhi-min:** Associate Professor, Nanjing Agricultural University, Grass Industry College, Institute of Turfgrass

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**July 14 (Tues.)**
Lv. New York JFK 11:30 am Delta Airlines 459, Ar. Salt Lake City, 2:27 pm, pickup Alamo car rental (phone: 801-575-2211) and drive to Logan; lodging at Best Western Baugh Motel, 153 South Main Street(phone: 435-752-5220); Confirmation 41659, 41660 for two deluxe rooms with two queen beds ($93.46 per night)
6:00 pm: Dinner at Doug and Kathy Johnson home

**July 15 (Wed.)**
8:30-10:30 am: Shaun Bushman and Joe Robins pickup at Baugh Motel, visit low-input turfgrass research at Evans Farm and FRRL
10:30-12 noon: Paul Johnson, Roger Kjelgren, Larry Rupp, Kelly Kopp, facilities tour and introduction to turfgrass and water-wise research in USU Department of Plants, Soils, and Climate (PSC)
12 noon–1:00 pm: Lunch with PSC faculty
1:00-3:00 pm: Visit turfgrass and water-wise research at Greenville Farm with PSC faculty
3:00-4:00 pm: Tour of FRRL facilities with Jack Staub

**July 16 (Thur.)**
9:00-11:30 am: Sean Michael, facilities tour and discussion of landscape planning work in USU Department of Landscape Design and Environmental Planning (LAEP)
11:30 am – 1:00 pm: Discussions and lunch with Shujuan Li (LAEP) related to landscape ecology and land-use dynamics in China
1:30-4:00 pm: Lab visit and discussions with Bruce Bugbee (PSC) related to research involving hydroponics, drought resistance, precision irrigation, and photobiology

**July 17 (Fri.)**
8:30-11:00 am: Drive to and visit the Utah Botanical Center at Kaysville, UT (Jack Staub)
11:00-1:00 pm: Lunch and drive to Vernon, UT
1:00-3:00 pm: Visit Biograss Sod Farm (Warren Bell, Don Heslop, Landon Bunderson)
Drive to Cedar City, UT