Faculty, Student, and Staff Update

There have been a few face and title changes in the Turfgrass Science Program at Cornell in recent months. Norm Hummel has been recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

Bob Vavrek, a Ph.D. candidate with Marty Petrovic, has been working as a North Central agronomist for the USGA since April. Bob expects to complete his degree this fall.

Allen Maloney is working in Eric Nelson’s program as a post-doctoral assistant. Eric was recently awarded a USDA competitive grant for $100,000 over two years to support Allen’s project. The title of the project is “Role of Bacterial Adherents to Fungal Cell Surfaces in the Biological Control Properties of the Bacterium Enterobacter cloacae”.

John Gowan has joined the program as a technician in Norm Hummel’s program. John brings into the program 22 years of experience as a technician in both the Ecology and Entomology departments. John’s position is partially funded by the New York State Turfgrass Association through the matching funds program.

Speaking of grants, the New York State Turfgrass Association recently awarded Cornell $30,000 in support of research through the matching funds program. This represents a very important contribution to our program. Besides John Gowan’s position, matching funds donations partially support technicians in the programs of Joe Neal, Eric Nelson, and Mike Villani. The funds are also used for maintenance of the research facilities as well as pesticide analysis costs in Marty Petrovic’s leaching studies.

NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition


Featured speakers this year include Ken Kaiser, American League Umpire; Steve Whitemen, San Diego Stadium, and several others. Featured topics include pest management, greens construction, and alternative landscapes.

A trade show with over 300 exhibits will display the latest in turfgrass and landscape maintenance equipment and supplies. Conference brochures and additional information can be obtained from NYSTA by calling 800-873-TURF.

The Use of Cornell’s Name

It has been brought to my attention several times in the past few months that companies selling products or services have been using Cornell’s name to promote their product. Products have included everything from topdressing to seed mixtures, to maintenance programs. A couple of companies who have products included in Cornell tests are taking the liberty of saying that Cornell “is using our product” sometimes “with great results”.

Maybe we should be flattered, but we are not. Cornell University, because of our position as a land grant institution, cannot endorse any product. We would appreciate it if you brought these claims or products to our attention. Also, we would be happy to comment on any product we have experience using. -Editor

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