

# The Cornell University IPM Program

## IPM Corner

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Nineteen eighty-nine marked the fourth year of the New York State Statewide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program at Cornell University. In 1985, legislation for a Statewide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program was signed into law. The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets contracted with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University to address pest management in ornamentals, vegetables, fruits, and dairy and field crops. This legislation authorized funds from the State of New York through the Department of Agriculture and Markets to Cornell University for the Statewide IPM Program.

Ag and Market funds provide the resources necessary to develop, demonstrate, and implement IPM concepts with pest managers throughout the state. Specifically, state funding is used for, but not limited to, research and development grants; implementation grants; and support for Regional IPM Specialists. For Annual reports contact the IPM House, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, NY 14456 (315/787-2353).

The program has made great progress towards its goal: reducing the level of chemical pesticides to the minimum level necessary to produce food and agricultural products that will be competitive in the marketplace, while protecting human health and the environment.

### Ornamentals IPM Program

Ornamental horticulture in New York State is a vigorous and diverse industry that comprises

a variety of commodities and services. In each commodity area there is an enormous list of plant species and varieties grown under all types of conditions. The complex of arthropods (insects and mites), plant diseases, and weeds attacking these crops is staggering. The Ornamental Program is divided into three commodity areas; turf, floriculture, and nursery.

The development of a sound IPM program for turfgrass managers responsible for producing sod, maintaining turfgrass on golf courses, in residential or commercial landscapes, athletic fields and school grounds is based on research developed at Cornell and throughout the United States. The Turfgrass IPM program is lead by the Cornell Faculty including Drs. Norm Hummel [Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture (F&OH)], Marty Petrovic (F&OH), Eric Nelson (Plant Pathology), Michael Villani (Entomology), Joe Neal (Weed Science, F&OH, and Rod Ferrentino (IPM Support Group). This group of researchers is a model interdisciplinary approach to developing basic pest management information. The information is then transferred to turfgrass managers via the normal Cornell Cooperative Extension system.

### Future IPM Articles

Future articles in the IPM Corner will focus on the basic IPM methods and techniques for all aspect of turfgrass production and maintenance. Special emphasis will be placed on practical field information, applicable to real turfgrass situations.

Gerard W. Ferrentino, Ornamentals IPM Coordinator  
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cues. Balan, Team and Ronstar may injure fine fescues if applied at the higher labeled rates. Pendimethalin is safe on fine fescues but may injure bentgrass. Team is labeled for bentgrass fairways but not on tees and greens. Betasan and Tupersan are safe on all cool season turfgrass species including closely cut bentgrass. Check the herbicide label carefully for species, variety, and overseeding restrictions.

The last criteria for selecting the appropriate herbicide is cost. Granular formulations of herbicides will generally cost more than sprayable formulations; but, prices will vary, so check with your distributors for the best price available.

Remember that the first line of defense against weeds is a well maintained, dense sod. But when conditions warrant the use of a preemergent herbicide, compare the efficacy, longevity, weed control spectrum, formulation, turfgrass safety, and cost, so you can choose the best herbicide for your situation. Also remember that no herbicide controls all weeds, and that sometimes weather conditions are unfavorable for weed control. Where escapes occur, postemergent herbicides are available for "clean-up" operations.

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