

ence and an instructor at the Cornell Turfgrass Management Short Course. He will serve as the primary resource person for questions involving cultural aspects of turfgrass establishment and maintenance for professional turfgrass managers. Of course, your first line of defense is your local county Cooperative Extension agent (with turfgrass responsibilities). If they are not able to help you, you may contact Dave at 607-255-1629. Joann Gruttadaurio will continue to coordinate the Cornell Turfgrass Management Short Course and the Field Diagnostic Summer Course and will serve as the editor of *CUTT*. Any questions regarding these educational programs, call her at 607-255-1792.

Cornell Turfgrass Field Day

On June 27 more than 400 turfgrass professionals endured the scorching heat of Ithaca to see current research in action. The morning program included reports on projects which focused on:

- the impact of turfgrass culture on water use
- leaching properties of various nitrogen sources
- Pythium root rot control
- biological control of Brown patch
- organic amendments for greens
- golf course and lawn IPM demonstrations
- biological control of *Poa annua*
- crabgrass, veronica and broadleaf weed control studies

The afternoon tours and discussions highlighted the sampling techniques for turf insects and an update on biocontrol options; weed control studies on bentgrass; compost microbiology and how it influences disease suppressive activity of a compost; variety trial results for bentgrass, bluegrass, fine fescues, tall fescue, ryegrass, buffalograss, and zoysiagrass; and fertilizer and pesticide leaching studies.

The results of these studies have been published in the 1989-90 Cornell University Turfgrass Research Report. A limited number of copies are available for \$6 from: Cheryl Koroluck, Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, 20 Plant Science Building, Ithaca, NY 14853.

Cornell's Matching Fund Program Grows

Stephen Smith, President of the New York State Turfgrass Association, presented Dean David Call with a \$35,000 donation during the opening ceremony of the Cornell Turfgrass Field Day. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will match this grant and all funds will be designated in support of turfgrass research.

continued on page 6

Disease Control

Early to mid-autumn is the best time to apply preventive fungicide treatments to control Pythium root rot. For sites with a history of Pythium root rot problems, applications of either Banol, Aliette, Koban, or Subdue (or any other Pythium fungicide with active ingredients contained in the above fungicides) should be made in mid-October to mid-November prior to turf dormancy. To get the most effective control, fungicides should be thoroughly watered-in usually with 3/4 inches of water. Immediately after turf resumes growth in the spring, another follow-up application of a Pythium fungicide should be made. As always, be sure to avoid repeated and continuous applications of the same fungicide on sites with known Pythium root rot problems.

Our research has shown that covering golf course putting greens with composts after turf dormancy will protect playing surfaces from gray snow mold and possibly freezing injury. Only composts that are well-decomposed and mature should be used and can be applied at rates of 200 pounds/1000 sq. ft. It is important that the excess compost remaining in the spring be removed from green surfaces prior to new turf growth, otherwise some turf damage may occur.

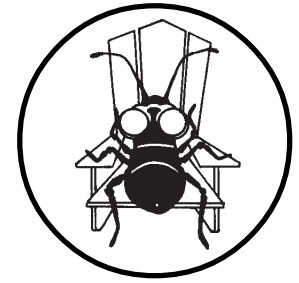
ERIC NELSON, DEPT. OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

Fall is for Broadleaf Weed Control

Autumn is the recommended time to apply postemergent herbicides for broadleaf weed control in turf. Compared to spring treatments, winter annual broadleaves are easier to control, perennials are more effectively controlled, and the turf has more time to fill-in the gaps before new weed germination. In the Fall 1990 issue of *CUTT*, we discussed this subject in some detail; however, one recurring question is, "How late can I spray?" The best time in upstate New York is from mid-September to mid-October. However, in our research plots we have sprayed as late as mid-November (in a mild Fall) with excellent results. Keep in mind that when you apply your herbicides later in the fall, do not expect to see results until next spring.

In October and November the weeds are not growing vigorously and therefore do not rapidly respond to the herbicides. Have faith! The herbicides are absorbed and translocated to the roots and rhizomes where they begin working on the growing points. The next spring, the weeds will either not grow at all, or may produce one twisted shoot and then die. For more information see the Fall 1990 issue of *CUTT*.

JOSEPH C. NEAL, DEPT. OF FLOR. & ORN. HORT.



Pest Watch

Early to mid autumn is the best time to apply preventive fungicide treatments to control Pythium root rot.

The best time to apply postemergent herbicides for broadleaf weed control in turf in upstate New York is from mid-September to mid-October.

3