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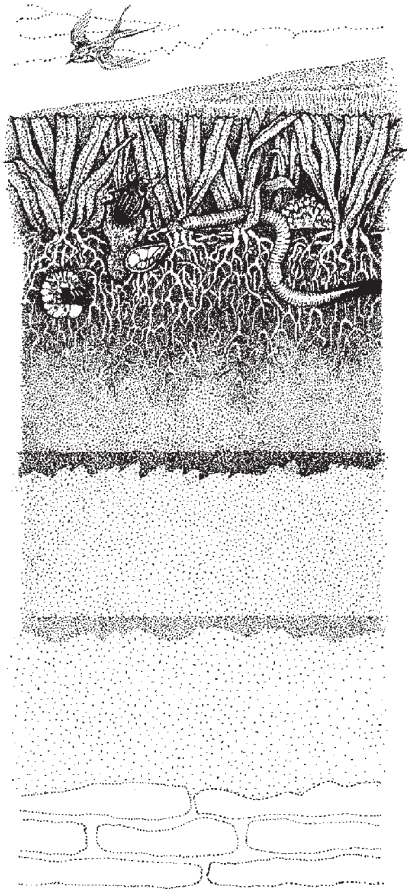

Research in Review

In conjunction with the 1993 Turfgrass Research Field Day, this expanded issue of CUTT was written to provide you with a synopsis of results from some of the turfgrass research projects on-going at Cornell. This report is not all inclusive. There are many other projects not reported here. It should, however, give you a taste of the direction the various programs have taken in turfgrass management, pathology, entomology, and weed science. ■

Turfgrass Research

Turfgrass research conducted at Cornell is under the direction of the five faculty members. The Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture is home for Norm Hummel, Marty Petrovic, and Joe Neal. Eric Nelson is housed in the Department of Plant Pathology, while Mike Villani is in the Department of Entomology at the Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva.

Support for research projects comes almost exclusively from gifts and grants. Other than the salaries and benefits of the five faculty members and a couple of support staff, direct funding from New York State for Turfgrass Research is negligible. So, much of our time is spent scrambling for dollars to support our programs, and specific projects.

The New York State Turfgrass Association has long been an important source of programmatic dollars—discretionary money used to help support the research facility, as well as to hire technical staff. Equipment vendors such as S. V. Moffett, Eaton Equipment, and Lesco have also been major players by providing us with nearly all of our maintenance equipment. Likewise, we have never had to purchase seed, fertilizer, and chemicals due to the generosity of many suppliers.

Searching for Support

Most of our other monies are obtained through competitive grants and are earmarked for specific projects. Many days a year are spent writing proposals to various granting agencies in hopes of securing funding for research projects. Some of the more significant funding sources for the turf program have been the USGA, the USDA, and the NYS IPM Program. Technical staff are normally hired on this "soft money" for two or three years to work on these specific projects.

Research is expensive—beyond the comprehension of most lay people. Some of the data you see in this report may have required several hundred man hours to obtain—often from tedious and repetitive tasks. Besides having to pay for these staff salaries and their benefits, we also pay overhead costs to the University.

Equipment and supplies are also expensive. Dr. Nelson pays several hundred dollars per gram of antibiotic he needs to maintain some of his disease cultures. A good analytical balance alone costs over $5,000. No equipment donations here! This list goes on.

continued on page 3

This Times