



Short Cutts

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Hummel Leaves Cornell Post For Industry

It is with mixed emotion that I announce the departure of Dr. Norman Hummel from the Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture and Cornell's respected team of faculty and staff who serve the turfgrass industry in New York State. Dr. Hummel, who joined the faculty at Cornell in 1984, established one of the premier turfgrass extension programs in the country. Because of the breadth and depth of his knowledge, Dr. Hummel was greatly respected by turfgrass professionals throughout New York, the Northeast and the United States. He was constantly in demand as a speaker and was consulted frequently by industry.

During his tenure at Cornell, Dr. Hummel provided outstanding leadership to the interdepartmental turfgrass program team consisting of Dr. A. Martin Petrovic, Dr. Joseph Neal and Joann Gruttadaurio, Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture; Dr. Eric Nelson, Department of Plant Pathology; Dr. Michael Villani, Department of Entomology; and Gerard Ferrentino and Jennifer Grant, Integrated Pest Management Program. The collective wisdom of this group helped establish a coordinated vision that has effectively guided the development and implementation of the extension, research and teaching programs associated with the turfgrass program within the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS). Dr. Hummel also served ably as CALS' official liaison with the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA). With the support of this organization, Dr. Hummel was a key figure in the establishment and/or the development of the Cornell University Turfgrass Short Course, the New York Turf and Grounds Management Exposition, *Cornell University Turfgrass Times* (CUTT), and the matching grants program between CALS and NYSTA.

Dr. Hummel also proved to be an able researcher. His work relative to the management of nutrients applied to turfgrass serves as the basis of current nutrient management recommendations provided for industry. In addition Dr. Hummel contributed greatly to our knowledge of turfgrass management strategies that reduce the need for chemical control of turfgrass pests.

Dr. Hummel's enthusiasm, presence and friendship will be missed. But there is some good news to report. Dr. Hummel will be joining the turfgrass industry, thus, we will continue to see

A Personal Message From the Editor

If you have ever wondered if men really do experience a mid-life crisis, let me tell you from my experience that it is true. I turned 40 years old this year, and while I can't say that this is a crisis of any sort, I have come to a crossroads in my life and career. For the past 13 years I have had the pleasure to have worked on the faculties at Iowa State University (2 years) and Cornell University (11 years) in an extension capacity. I have truly loved working in extension because it put me in contact with you, the turfgrass industry on a daily basis. I liked knowing what was going on out there all the time, and what was needed in terms of extension education. The time has come, however, to change course. I have recently submitted my resignation from Cornell, effective August 8.

For the past couple of years I have not enjoyed working in my position as much as one should. The demands on my time to do tasks that I felt were nonproductive and unrewarding grew. There was little opportunity within my position, and within Cooperative Extension and Cornell to obtain the help I needed or to change the direction my position was heading. The challenge was gone, and the prospect of doing the same thing in the same system for another 25 years was not encouraging. When you no longer look forward to going into work in the morning, its time for a change, and this change, I believe

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Hummel Leaves

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him at many of the events which he was associated with while a faculty member at Cornell. Dr. Hummel has established a private laboratory that will be dedicated to the physical analysis of soil samples and a consulting firm that is associated with the laboratory. Thus, his expertise will still be sought by many. Do not be surprised if, in the future, you still see him speaking at meetings and conferences or find a need to call him for advice. We sincerely wish the very best to Dr. Hummel, his wife Terri and children Matthew, Adrienne and Natalie. May they all enjoy the fruits of his success.

As for those who may be wondering about the fate of the position vacated by Dr. Hummel, there is encouraging news. Thanks to the support of Dean David Call, the Associate Deans and Directors, we were given permission to begin a position search. To be able to do so is no small matter in view of the tight budget situation that we are now enduring. In fact, there are only two approved searches moving forward within CALS at this point in time, one of which is our turfgrass position. Normally, there are at least ten such searches underway. The position, which is being advertised throughout the United States, has already attracted several applications. Dr. A. Martin Petrovic has agreed to serve as chair of the Search Committee. If you have any questions about the position or the search process please feel free to contact Dr. Petrovic (607) 255-1796 or myself, Dr. George Good (607) 255-2048.

There will undoubtedly be a period of time after Dr. Hummel's departure and prior to the arrival of a new faculty member — anticipated to be January 1996 — during which we will be operating without an extension faculty person in turfgrass science. For those with questions about turfgrass management, call the Cornell Cooperative Extension Field Staff person in your area who has turfgrass management responsibilities. However, knowing that some inquiries will come to us at Cornell, we will shore up our ability to cover phone calls and correspondence associated with turfgrass management issues. We plan to keep Dr. Hummel's phone (607) 255-1629 and answering systems active during this time to allow calls to be handled by other turfgrass staff. Similarly, correspondence will be reviewed and answered. For information on turfgrass pests, contact the following faculty: weed management, Dr. Joseph Neal (607) 255-2170; turfgrass disease management, Dr. Eric Nelson (607) 255-7841; turfgrass insect management, Dr. Micheal Villani (315) 787-2342.

GEORGE L. GOOD, CHAIR
DEPT. OF FLORICULTURE AND ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

From the Editor

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will be in my best interest, as well as that of my family and the Turfgrass Science Program at Cornell.

Over the past couple of years I have developed a soil and turfgrass consulting business on the side, nearly all of it serving out-of-state clientele. In the past few months I have picked up some prominent clients, including Greensmix, Trans American Soil Blenders, and the clients of Nicklaus, Fazio, and Hurdzan design groups. I am very excited about devoting full time to the business, and to expand my services into areas where I see opportunities. While I will no longer be at Cornell, I still intend to be very much a part of the turfgrass industry in New York.

Over the past several years, it has indeed been a pleasure for me to work with some of the fine people that I have. Marty Petrovic, for one, is really the foundation of the turf program. He was the first faculty member of the current team and played an important role pushing for the program which we have. I have always appreciated his wisdom. Eric Nelson, Mike Villani, and Joe Neal are the three best plant protection people in their respective areas in the world, bar none. What a pleasure it has been for me to work with them, always willing to cooperate in whatever way they could for the betterment of the program. They were committed to getting the information they generated in their research programs out to the industry. Joann Gruttadaurio has been a good friend and colleague. There would have been far fewer extension programs coming out of our department if it had not been for her efforts. I would also like to acknowledge our cooperative extension field staff. Talk about thankless jobs — nowhere will you find a more dedicated group of individuals. To all of you: your commitment to outreach education has been an inspiration.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you in the industry, especially the leadership in the many state and regional associations, for your support of the turf program. My departure does not mean that the program is any less deserving of your support, and I am sure you will continue to do so. Thank you all, for it has really been my pleasure. I will look forward to seeing you at some point in the future at conferences or in the field.

NORMAN W. HUMMEL JR.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF TURFGRASS SCIENCE
DEPT. OF FLORICULTURE AND ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Update on the Search to Replace Hummel

The departure of Dr. Norm Hummel has created a major gap in Cornell's Turfgrass Science Program. We were fortunate to be given the approval to hire a replacement. The search committee is composed of Drs. Joe Neal, Mike Villani, Eric Nelson, and Marty Petrovic (chair); Ms. Joann Gruttadaurio and Mr. Joe Hahn.

There are seventeen applicants for the position and interviews will start in October. The quality of the applicants is outstanding and we are anticipating that the new person will start work sometime near the first of the year.

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