

PRO-TECH For Industry Professionals

As an outgrowth of the 1993 Governor's Conference on Technology, Cornell Cooperative Extension has received State funding for a new initiative called PRO-TECH. The goal of the PRO-TECH program is to enhance the competitiveness and profitability of the turf, ornamental, fruit, and vegetable industries through educational programs which encourage adoption of new and existing technologies based on sound management and marketing principles.

The program will integrate technology with relevant cost, financial, operational, human resource and marketing information. Curricula will be developed to guide decision-making regarding technology adoption. Courses will be structured to introduce technologies, to enable managers to make informed decisions about the appropriateness of a technology in their enterprises and to develop action plans for adoption.

PRO-TECH is an industry-driven program. A partnership with the turf and ornamentals, fruit and vegetable industries is critical to the success of this program. Industry will provide guidance in determining priorities, and in program development and delivery. Enterprise managers, in-

dustry organizations, suppliers, distributors and others serving horticultural enterprises will be involved in the PRO-TECH initiative.

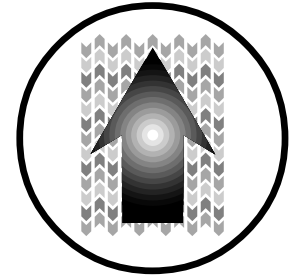
Working with groups of field staff, PRO-TECH staff and faculty will be actively involved in identifying technologies for which curricula will be developed, in organizing content, training staff and implementing courses. Industry representatives will be engaged in identifying and reviewing course content and assisting in program delivery.

Keep in touch with your local county Cornell Cooperative Extension office to learn more about local course offerings which will be delivered at the regional level in 1995.

For more information contact Joann Gruttadaurio at (607) 255-1792, who will work half time as a member of the PRO-TECH Leadership Team.

JOANN GRUTTADAURIO
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Editor's note: We recently learned that the PRO-TECH program was not funded in Governor Pataki's budget. The program's leaders hope to continue a scaled-down program without funding this coming year.



PRO-TECH Notes

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Scanning The Journals

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Effects of Irrigation on Pendimethalin Efficacy

Researchers at Ohio State University in Columbus conducted a two-year field study to determine effects of posttreatment irrigation timing on pendimethalin efficacy for controlling smooth crabgrass in turfgrass. Factors investigated included herbicide rate, formulation, and the interval between pendimethalin application and the initial posttreatment irrigation.

Granular-formulated pendimethalin provided better weed control than wettable powder pendimethalin when averaged over all rates, irrigation events, and years. All herbicide-treated plots contained fewer smooth crabgrass plants than untreated check plots. Granular pendimethalin was not affected by a delay in posttreatment irrigation. In contrast, wettable powder pendimethalin efficacy was reduced if irrigation was applied later than the day of treatment.

The study indicated that the granular pendimethalin formulation was more effective than the wettable powder formulation when no irrigation or rainfall occurred within seven days after treatment. No efficacy differences were observed between formulations when the initial posttreatment irrigation was applied on the day of treatment. Therefore, both formulations should perform equally well in irrigated turf areas, so long as the wettable powder formulation is immediately incorporated with water.

(From: J.J. Gasper, J.R. Street, S.Kent Harrison and W.E. Pound. 1994. Pendimethalin Efficacy and Dissipation in Turfgrass as Influenced by Rainfall Incorporation. Weed Science 42:586-592.)