Something To Grow On

The World Wide Web is an ever-expanding information resource and an efficient means to transfer knowledge. Internet web sites from reliable sources can provide practical information for effective management of turfgrass systems. *Something to Grow On*, a web site from the Department of Floriculture & Ornamental Horticulture at Cornell University, provides useful information for the commercial green industry as well as individuals interested in learning more about nutrients, soil properties and how they affect plant growth. The site’s address is http://www.cals.cornell.edu/dept/flori/growon/field.html.

**Help with Practical Problems and Answers to Questions**

Visitors to the site will discover a wealth of practical information and guidelines and instructions to help them diagnose worrisome problems and take steps to solve them. Suppose you suspect a plant nutrient deficiency in a lawn or turf field. A visit to the *Something to Grow On* site will provide instruction on how to collect a soil sample for nutrient analysis and how to make sense of the soil test results.

Information on a wide variety of topics is presented through the site to help visitors answer diverse technical and general questions. For example, if you’ve ever wondered how soil pH affects nutrient availability, why nutrients leach more readily from sandy soils than from clay soils, what happens when you add lime to soil, what are common sources of soluble salts, can excessive amounts of salts harm plants, and what nutrients are present in a complete fertilizer, you can find this information at the *Something to Grow On* site.

Further, you can learn how to interpret laboratory soil test results and apply this information to solve your turf problem. Find out why soil pH plays such a critical role in maintaining healthy turfgrass. Differentiate between cation exchange capacity, buffering capacity and exchange acidity, and discover what these values can tell you about your soil.

**A Diversity of Topics**

There’s more! *Something to Grow On* contains information about many additional topics, including:

- the nitrogen cycle
- sources of nutrients
- macronutrients
- micronutrients
- fertilizer classification
- mobile and immobile elements
- foliar analysis
- liming
- soil properties
- fertilizer application rates
- salt index

Although this site and some specific nutrient management recommendations it contains continued on page 11
Something to Grow On presents useful information for the commercial green industry as well as individuals interested in learning more about nutrients, soil properties and how they affect plant growth.

Surf over to http://www.cals.cornell.edu/dept/flori/growon/field.html.