

Short Cutts

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New Construction Educator at USGA

On-Site Bentgrass Evaluations

James Francis Moore, former director of the Mid-Continent region of the United States Golf Association has been named to the newly created position of Director of Construction Education Programs. The intent of the program is to provide education and deliver information to persons interested or associated with the construction of golf courses. For example, Jim has developed a spectacular web site found through the USGA site or directly at www.usga.org/green/coned/index.html. In this site you will see and read about the latest in constructing greens, tees, fairways, and bunkers from a seasoned professional with experiences that could fill an encyclopedia.

In addition to the web site and the coming educational seminar program, Jim is coordinating a program in cooperation with the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program to evaluate bentgrass cultivars for greens at existing golf course throughout the country. The USGA is providing funding for the construction of approximately 10 bentgrass greens and 5 Bermuda grass greens. These greens will be exposed to regular play, most likely as practice greens, which as many of us know receive an exceptional amount of traffic during the season. The goal of the program is to generate data under more realistic conditions and expose the golfing community to the variety of choices that are available to their golf superintendent when selecting a bentgrass. One hope is to promote regional field days at the sites that include golf pros, architects, and club officials.

Turfgrass Information Directory

Did you ever wonder if there was any good educational resources available for soil testing or irrigation? Possibly you heard a professor from Minnesota speak at a conference and you'd like contact them. Or you just might want to know if there is a good video on turfgrass IPM training. Well, the search has been made easier. Ann Arbor Press has published the Turfgrass Management Information Directory edited by Dr. Keith Karnok.

This information directory includes a substantial list of educational resources available in the turfgrass management area. Inside you will

Viable Alternative Weed Control

Preemergence annual grass control, typically crabgrass (*Digitaria spp.*), can be accomplished fairly successfully with many synthetic herbicides such as Halts, Barricade, Dimension, and Team. The growing concern over the use of synthetic pesticides has prompted many turfgrass managers to consider alternative control strategies. Unfortunately, biological, or for lack of a better term organic, controls have not been developed for use in turf.

Over the last several years researchers at Iowa State University under the direction of Dr. Nick Christians have identified a viable alternative to traditional herbicide control using corn gluten meal. This material is available via mail-order from the Gardens Alive Company in Indiana as A-Maizing Lawn. As a result of its corn meal base it does serve as a nitrogen source and must be used carefully as all pesticides.

While corn gluten meal can be successful in providing commercially acceptable weed control, it has been plagued with poor performance in the first year of use. In general, studies conducted on plots over a two year period have provided excellent control in the second year. To facilitate the use of the material and integrate it into an existing turf weed program, Iowa State researchers investigated mixing low rate applications of Halts Pre-M (60DG) with the corn gluten meal. Results suggest that the low rate combinations can provide excellent control and allow for corn gluten meal use alone in the second year. This could provide an adequate transition to managers interested in moving to an alternative approach. Keep in mind, corn gluten meal may be more expensive and does serve as a nitrogen source.

(From: D.S. Gardner, N.E. Christians, and B.R. Bingaman. 1996. Use of Corn Gluten Meal to Reduce Application Rate of Pendimethalin. *Agronomy Abstracts* 88:144.)

find a list of teaching programs in the United States and Canada, a variety of instructional resources, a list of diagnostic and soil testing services, as well as, green industry organizations, University and key industry personnel.

This publications is by no means complete and there is already a planned revision in the near future with an expanded section on web sites and other computer resources. For ordering information you can write to: Ann Arbor Press, Inc., PO Box 310, Chelsea, MI 48118.

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Scanning the Journals

A review of current journal articles

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Turfing the Net

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The Cornell Turfgrass Team is planning to go online with their own Web site in 1997. It will contain research reports, plant pest profiles, pest control recommendations, and regional growing degree day information.

The educational video *Low Input Lawn Care (LILAC)* developed under the direction of Dr. Frank Rossi has been awarded the 1996 Certificate of Excellence by the American Society of Agronomy.

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Most computers sold today are Pentiums, have 16 MB of Random Access Memory, a Super VGA card for graphics, and at least a gigabyte of hard disk storage space. The standard speed for a modem is 28.8 baud. Now, if this doesn't mean much to you, either talk to your twelve-year old, or visit a computer store. Most computer store employees can give you good advice on your specific requirements.

The December 1996 issue of *Golf Course Management* has an excellent article on computers and the Internet (pp. 79-99). You should be able to purchase all the stuff you need for around \$2,000.

To hook up with the Web you need an Internet Service Provider. America Online, CompuServe and Prodigy are three commercial services that provide Web access for a fee. There also are county and regional access providers. Subscriber charges usually start at about \$20 per month.

Places To Go

When you want to visit a Web site, you type in its address (referred to by computer nerds as the URL — Uniform Resource Locator). For example, a good place to try first is the New York State Turfgrass Association's Web site. Type in: <http://cobleskill.edu/nysta> (do not include the brackets) and you will arrive at NYSTA's home

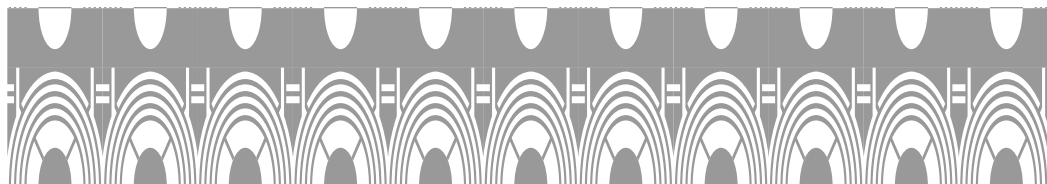
page (see graphic on page 6). If you click on the "related sites" icon, you will find a list of other turfgrass Web sites. By clicking on one of them you will go immediately to that site, which, in turn, has links to other turf Web sites.

Sites you visit regularly can be bookmarked. Rather than typing in the address each time you can go directly to the Web site by clicking on its name in your list of bookmarks. Net searches can be very productive and a lot of fun. If you want to look for information on a certain pest, for example, you can enter its name and do a search. You may locate hundreds of documents that discuss the pest.

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Don't despair if you have problems loving your computer. Things can get very confusing at times. I take solace from a story I read about the mother of one of the world's greatest computer experts. A reporter said that she must be very impressed by her son's intelligence. She replied, "I was until he tried to make up the gas and oil mixture for my snowblower last winter."

PROFESSOR ROBERT E. EMMONS, TURFGRASS PROGRAM LEADER
SUNY COBLESKILL



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Low Input Lawn Care (LILAC) Wins!

The educational video entitled Low Input Lawn Care (LILAC) developed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison under the direction of Dr. Frank Rossi and produced by Dave Luciani has been awarded the 1996 Certificate of Excellence by the American Society of Agronomy. The video is available in three 30 minute modules and has been featured on satellite broadcast and public television programs throughout the country.

The modules are 1) Starting out Right; Selection and establishment of Turfgrass; 2) Primary Culture; Mowing Fertilizing, and Watering; and 3) Solving common problems; shade, thatch, and weeds. This video is geared for the homeowner or lawn care professional who desires to provide a more resource efficient lawn care program. It is based on turfgrass biology and ecology with an emphasis on the link among quality expected, use desired and maintenance performed.

If you would like copies of the video series you can contact the University of Wisconsin-Extension at (608) 265-2527.