



Short Cutts

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National Recognition for Villani

Cornell Turfgrass Team member Mike Villani was recognized by the Entomological Society of America (ESA) for Excellence in Urban Entomology. This award recognizes Mike's significant contributions to Urban Entomology through his sizable research program and extension activities. This award comes to Mike with the support of his colleagues nationally who submit letters on his behalf. These letters include statements such as; "the best turf entomologist in the country, maybe the world", "a superb scientist and world leader in the area of turf entomology", and "no one has contributed more to urban entomology worldwide than Dr. Villani".

In typical Villani fashion, he deflects the attention to his wonderful lab group including, Nancy Consolie, Paul "the juggler" Robbins, Wendy Heusler, Steve Hitchcock, Jennifer Grant, Dan Dalthorp, and Carlos Potillo-Aguilar. In addition, he indicated that his collaborative work with other scientists at the Experiment Station in Geneva have added to the quality of his research.

Never one to bask in the glory of his achievements, Mike is actively working on the revision of Haruo Tashiro's *Turfgrass Insects of the United States and Canada*, with Pat Vittum and "Tash" himself. He recently co-edited the highly successful *ESA Handbook of Turfgrass Insect Pests* with Rick Brandenburg of North Carolina State University. Interestingly, this is not Villani's only interaction with Brandenburg (see Program Update). The two have received over \$100,000 from the United States Golf Association over the last 4 years to investigate the behavior of mole crickets, a major insect pest in southern turf systems.

Born in San Antonio, TX and raised on Long Island, Villani received degrees from SUNY Stonybrook and his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Entomology at the Geneva Experiment Station. Mike is an active family guy in Geneva with his wife Connie and two daughters Sara and Kate.

A Passing Note; John Cornman

The original member of the Cornell Turfgrass Team, Professor John F. Cornman passed away on January 6, 1998 at the age of 84. Professor Cornman retired in 1973 following 37 years of service to Cornell. Born in Shelby, OH, Professor Cornman graduated locally from Watkins Glen High School and received all his degrees from Cornell.

He was employed as a horticulturist for the United States Golf Association in 1939, only to return to Cornell as an instructor in the next year. In 1943 he entered military service with the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics as an agronomist advising them on dust abatement and erosion control. He returned to Cornell in 1947. Professor Cornman was responsible for teaching the turfgrass management course until 1961 when turf became his primary responsibility.

He worked on problems in the 60's that we still struggle with today, such as crabgrass and veronica filiformis control. His extension publication, *Home Lawns*, was the most requested Cornell publication for many years. In addition, he organized and directed the Cornell Turfgrass Conference for 26 years and served as editor of the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) Bulletin for 20 years. Professor Cornman received the Citation of Merit from NYSTA in 1979.

Professor Cornman is survived by his wife Francis, three sons, David, Peter, and Stephen, and their families.

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will be tested in field studies outlined below. Those pesticides showing any phytotoxicity to seedlings will be tested further in mature turf in greenhouse experiments.

Objective 3: Field Tests

One set of plots will be established on bentgrass turf at the Cornell University Turfgrass Research Field Facility. Biocontrol treatments will be randomized within a set of four replicate blocks receiving a pesticide application. Control plots will consist of untreated turf (no biocontrol treatment) within each pesticide block. Among the pesticide treatments, one set of biocontrol treatments will receive no pesticide application and serve as an additional control. Individual biocontrol will be applied to 3 ft x 3 ft plots.

Unless stated otherwise on the label, microbial inoculants will be applied at weekly intervals according to label rates whereas compost applications will be made at monthly intervals at rates of 10 lb/1000 ft². Pesticides will be applied according to label instructions. The efficacy of disease suppression in pesticide/biocontrol combination plots will be compared with plots receiving only the biocontrol treatment alone.

Funding Sources

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Citation of Merit for Delhi Leader Morales

The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) bestowed one of its highest honors on Dominic Morales, Turfgrass Program Leader at SUNY Delhi, awarding him the 1997 Citation of Merit. Dominic has distinguished himself over the years with his willingness to contribute to educational programs throughout the state and region as well as his tenacious promotion and development of the Turfgrass Program at Delhi.

Dominic's expertise as an educator was recognized in the past few years by the SUNY system with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. These two awards demonstrate Dominic's dedication to turfgrass education, his active involvement in industry activities, and the admiration of his colleagues. Recently, he spearheaded the construction of a second nine holes at the Delhi Golf Course and new Turfgrass Education Facility. This activity has brought national attention to the Delhi program.

Dominic received his degrees from SUNY Farmingdale, University of New Hampshire, and the University of Connecticut. He lives in the Delhi area with his wife and lovely children.

The Short Course Returns to Long Island

For the second consecutive year, the Cornell Turfgrass Team in partnership with the Nassau-Suffolk Landscape Gardeners, the New York State Turfgrass Association, and Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations are bringing the Turfgrass Management Short Course to Long Island.

This is the same course that has been offered in Ithaca for 13 years, inspiring over 1000 turfgrass professionals. In 1997, the course conducted on Long Island met with overwhelming support and demonstrated the highly successful nature of this educational opportunity.

This year the course will be held for two weeks at the Holiday Inn Ronkonkoma in West Islip from February 16 to 20, then 23 to 27, 1998. The short course is designed to provide basic information on the art and science of turfgrass management. Many of our short course alumni have improved the profitability in their businesses as a result of this course. In addition, with its emphasis on both fundamental concepts, it serves as a foundation for individuals who do not have formal training in turfgrass science.

Topics covered include turfgrass soil management, selecting and establishing turfgrass stands, understanding soil tests for proper fertilizing, and of course half day sessions with hands-on labs for grass, weed, insect and disease identification.

If you'd like more information please contact our short course assistant Kelly Woodhouse at (607) 255-3090.

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