



Short Cutts

It's New!

Turfgrass ShortCUTTS, a weekly link to turfgrass experts providing critical, timely information based on current weather conditions and the latest research, delivered to you by email or fax.



Joe Heller, Senior Horticulture Consultant in Rockland County

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Turfgrass ShortCUTTS Your Weekly Link to Turfgrass Information

It's July 15th and the Annual Member-Guest Tournament begins tomorrow. As you are driving around, scouting the course, you notice some areas that look droughty. It seems odd to you, since there has been adequate rainfall, and the soil seems moist. Is it wet wilt? Is it a disease? Gray leaf spot? You need to decide now!

Earlier in the season you signed up for the weekly report from the Cornell Turfgrass Program, *Turfgrass ShortCUTTS*, to keep abreast of current turfgrass management issues. Each week you receive a two page update on the latest weather reports, regional pest observations and recommendations based on the latest research from national experts. It arrives each Monday by noon either via email or fax.

You remember reading that Gray Leaf Spot was seen in the area and is often mistaken for drought stress. In fact, the *Turfgrass ShortCUTTS* experts indicated that irrigating will make it worse. A few recommendations are provided for control and you are able to decide on a course of action. The tournament is a success and everyone is raving about the turf conditions.

This is just one of many turfgrass issues discussed in *Turfgrass ShortCUTTS*, available to all turfgrass professionals for \$50 per year via email, or \$70 via fax. It is a small expense for your link to national experts providing information based on current weather conditions and the latest research. Don't delay, the season is winding down and in today's world, current information could give you the edge you need to succeed. Contact Evie Gussack at (607) 257-8481 or <eg21@cornell.edu> for more information.

New Field Educator in Rockland County

It is our pleasure to welcome a new member to our turfgrass team in Rockland County, Joseph (Joe) Heller. Joe is a Senior Horticulture Consultant for the commercial landscape and turfgrass industry in Rockland County. In addition, he is an active member of the Hudson Valley Horticulture Team. Joe received his degree from SUNY Cobleskill and is currently pursuing an advanced degree through Empire College. Prior to joining Cornell Cooperative Extension Joe worked in retail nursery management and operated a landscape contracting business.

Joe has several exciting programs planned for the 1999-2000 season including a pesticide applicator training course; snow and ice management; a landscaper's education day; and a commercial driver license course. He is currently involved with the planning of the Cornell Turfgrass Short Course scheduled to be presented in the Hudson Valley in February 2000.

Back to the Future: The 2000 Short Course Season

The Cornell Turfgrass Short Course Season, under the leadership of Ms. Joann Gruttadaurio, has some new offerings and new opportunities. The 2000 season offers the introductory management course, as well as advanced topic-specific courses on the Cornell campus. Also, the 2000 season will bring the introductory Short Course to the Hudson Valley in February.

The Cornell Campus Series kicks off the week of January 10-14, 2000 with the Turfgrass Management Short Course. This is a return to the one-week format with an emphasis on the basics of managing lawn, golf and sports turf. Featured topics include fundamental principles of soil management; grass identification, selection, establishment, and primary care; integrated pest management; and weed, disease and insect diagnostics and control programs. As always, participants can expect a lively mix of lecture, discussion and hands-on laboratory experiences with the Cornell Turfgrass Team.

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The week of January 17-21, 2000 brings the encore presentation of the Advanced Turfgrass Short Course on Golf Turf Pest Management. This course was extremely successful and well received in 1999 by over 50 participants. Once again there will be national experts from all areas of pest management with an emphasis on improving your understanding of pest behavior, developing enhanced diagnostic skills and implementing environmentally responsible management programs. In fact, this year's course will have an entire session on selecting control programs based on their environmental impact.

The final offering of the Cornell Campus Series continues the Cornell Team's national emphasis on pollution prevention. The new advanced Short Course on Turfgrass Management to Preserve Water Quality will be offered the week of January 24-28, 2000 in partnership with Audubon International. This course will focus on management of golf and lawn turf from design and management for pollution prevention to communication and the development of a water quality protection program. International experts, as well as leaders from the Cornell Turfgrass Team will present the latest information from recently completed research on water quality. In addition, there will be important information on developing water quality management programs for properties interested in participating in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

Following an extremely successful three years on Long Island, the Turfgrass Management Short Course moves to the Hudson Valley the week of February 21-25, 2000. The one-week format will be identical to the campus-based short course and include hands-on laboratories and interaction with Team members. The location of the course is being investigated and will be announced in the next issue of *CUTT*.

If you would like information on any of the short courses, contact Joann, Director of Turfgrass Education at (607) 255-1792 or <jg17@cornell.edu>.

"Cornell On Course to Support Research"

Central NY GCSA Poa Annual Tournament

In an effort to bridge the gap between golf turf research and the golfer, the Cornell Turfgrass Team participated in the Poa Annual Re-

search Fundraising Tournament held at the 2 golf courses at Rogue's Roost. They were not playing golf, rather the team members were placed strategically throughout the golf course to discuss how the research funds are put to work at Cornell. Golfers learned about grub scouting, weed control and disease diagnostics, as well as the importance of soil testing, preserving water quality, growing grass in heavily shaded areas. Many attendees commented how the information they learned will help them understand the challenges their golf course superintendents face as well as improving the quality of their own lawn.

"Get The Facts!"

Cornell Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors Program

A few years ago the New York State Legislature, in response to citizen outcry for more information, established the Cornell Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors (BCERF) Program. The BCERF program has a variety of resources and educational events available to raise awareness about what scientific information is telling us and needs to tell us about breast cancer and other forms of immune system ailments.

There are ad-hoc discussion groups held throughout the state and several regions have BCERF specialists in their county to address local concerns regarding breast cancer. Often these meetings include nationally recognized speakers in addition to experts at Cornell in toxicology and epidemiology. However, one of the most important contributions made by the BCERF program is the comprehensive scientific reviews of pesticides being conducted and published in various formats. Citizens can review the scientific evidence regarding pesticide use, breast cancer and other forms of cancer.

Recently, BCERF published extensive scientific reviews in addition to more easy to read fact sheets on 2,4-D and Diazinon, two commonly used pesticides in turf. If you would like copies of this or any other information published through BCERF you can access the program online at <www.cfe.cornell.edu/bcerf/>.

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