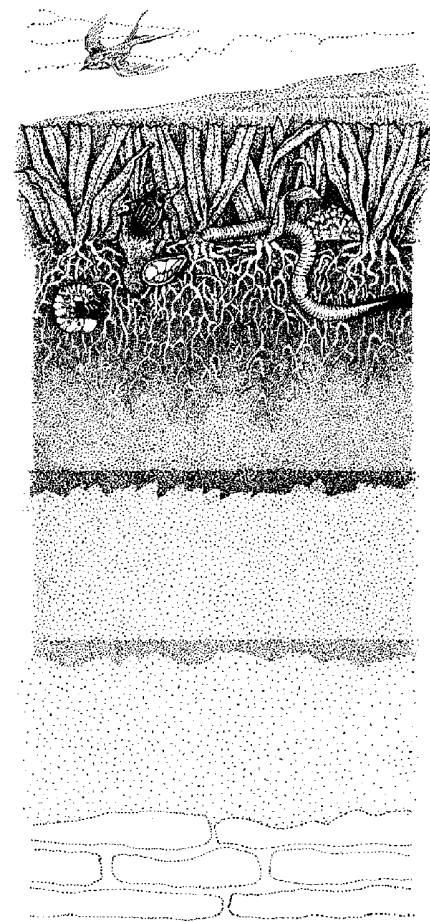


CUTT

Summer 1999 • Volume Ten • Number Two



It's A Watery World

In the education profession, we are always in search of a “teachable moment.” A teachable moment occurs when the audience you intend to address is experiencing exceptionally good times or really bad times. It is at these times when we have their attention and they are likely to hear your message. This has happened several times in the last decade, especially around environmental issues such as pesticide use. Remember the bird kills associated with insecticide applications in the 1980’s? More recently, the industry has become deeply concerned with the gray leaf spot disease that is devastating ryegrasses on golf courses. Gray leaf spot is capable of destroying scores of acres of rough and fairways in a matter of hours! Turf managers can’t seem to get enough information about the disease, how it infects and how to control it. From an educator’s perspective it is a perfect time to educate people on the basic tenets of pest ecology and plant pathology. ■

It follows then that the dry weather over the last few seasons that has culminated in the drought of 1999 in the northeast creates an opportunity for an important dialogue concerning a vital natural resource: water. How much do plants need? How best to apply? How to prepare and recover from drought? What if we could not use water any longer for turf management? We have a unique opportunity to discuss weather patterns, hydrology, soil physics and plant physiology. I for one am not going to miss it!

While we in the humid Northeast are discussing water use efficiency and drought stress

management, in the arid Southwest, water use efficiency is a way of life. For example, many areas of the Northeast receive 30 to 40 inches of precipitation, while regions in the Southwest average between 2 and 12 inches of precipitation. When **the** most important resource becomes restricted for climatic or regulatory reasons, the turf industry in the Northeast feels the pinch quickly and then focuses on improved efficiency. Again out west, water use is closely monitored and irrigation management is a pre-

continued on page 4

This Times

1. *It's A Watery World*
2. *Short Cutts*
 - Turfgrass ShortCUTTS
 - New field educator
 - Short Courses for 2000
 - CNY GCSA Tournament
 - Breast Cancer Program
3. *Scanning the Journals*
 - Landscape management
 - Summer stress tolerance
 - Golf course water quality
6. *Role of Humus*
8. *Black Cutworms*
13. *NYSTA Exposition*
14. *Field Day Recap*
16. *Gray Leaf Spot*