



Short Cutts

CUTT Wins National Award

Since its inception almost a decade ago, under the leadership of Dr. Norm Hummel, *Cornell University Turfgrass Times* has been committed to excellence in keeping you abreast of the latest turfgrass research and education programs available in New York State. In addition, with sections such as "Scanning the Journals" and "Short Cutts" we make you aware of the latest findings from around the turf world, and their implications for turfgrass managers in New York. More recently, we have added regular program updates from each of the Cornell Turfgrass Team members and the increasingly popular "Human Resource Update" section from Team members Dr. Bob Milligan and Tom Maloney.

Our commitment to excellence was recognized in 1998 with the **Certificate of Excellence for Extension Education Materials from the American Society of Agronomy**. *CUTT* was selected from over 30 entries to receive this prestigious award! The award recognized the

technical expertise with the variety of topical material covered, in an in-depth, easy-to-read format that was enjoyable to read. Furthermore, while there is a wealth of information available across the country, *CUTT* was recognized for layout and design, under the direction of Kenn Mar-

ash, creative director for Ghostwriters, inc. of Harford Mills, NY. Therefore, we believe it is truly a Team effort that involves generating the information (research), synthesizing the information (extension education) and then delivering the information in a contemporary format (layout and design).

We hope you continue to enjoy the work and benefit from our information. We look forward to serving you with the same level of excellence for the next decade!

1999 New York State Turfgrass Association Board of Directors

Another successful New York State Turf and Grounds Exposition concluded in Syracuse, NY with the election of a new Board of Directors for 1999. The Executive Board includes; Anthony (Tony) Peca Jr., of Batavia Turf Farms as President, John Fik, CGM Grounds and Landscape Manager for Hobart and William Smith Colleges serves Vice-President and Joe Hahn, CGCS, Golf Course Superintendent at the Country Club of Rochester, is the Secretary/Treasurer and Stephen Smith of PIE Supply is Immediate Past President. The Directors include Michael Maffei, CGCS, Golf Course Superintendent at Back O' Beyond (second term ends in 2001), Ken DeCerce of Services Galore (first term ends 1999), John Rizza of Turf Partners (second term ends 1999), Bob Scott of Dow Agrosiences (second term ends in 2000), Jim Seaman, Golf Course Superintendent at Shaker Ridge Country Club (first term ends 1999), James Diermeier, CGM, Grounds and Landscape Manager at Reader's Digest Association (first term ends 2000), Angelo Ranieri, CDF, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds for the Susquehanna Valley Central School District (first term ends in 2000), Steve Griffen, of Saratoga Sod Farm (first term ends 2001), Steve Hyde of The Scotts Company (first term ends 2001).

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Establishing Greens

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vars and seed treatments were not significantly different in response to seed rate. This was consistent with results from 1997. Furthermore, the increased plant density associated with the high seed rates results in plants with one half the number of tillers as compared to recommended rates. These smaller plants are less likely to produce stolons that are necessary for traffic tolerance and recuperative ability following surface disruption (Figure 5).

Implications

The most significant, but easily overlooked implication of this two year research project, is the low disease incidence in response to the most severe management and traffic stress. The cultivars selected, lest Penncross, represent significant improvements in disease tolerance and demonstrate the importance of the genetic component of IPM, i.e. selecting pest resistant species and cultivars. In addition, the excellent growing environment established at the research center (proper root zone selection, site placement for maximum air movement and light penetration, precise cultural management) demonstrates the importance of these factors to the maintenance of healthy plants, more able to tolerate pest infestations.

The recent trend in golf turf management to accelerate establishment systems appears to be substantially flawed. The manager and golfer are lured by rapid development of surface density, yet, upon close observation there is a collection of small, weak plants that, based on our data persist into the second year. This was most obvious in the significant below-ground competition evident in the root sampling data. High seed rate plots produce a higher proportion of roots at the surface to exploit resources. This surface rooting will require a higher frequency of resource applications (fertilizer and water) as well as organic matter accumulation that could result in decreased infiltration. Previous research has shown that reduced infiltration as a result of surface organic matter accumulation will create an anaerobic layer that will further restrict rooting and create an ideal disease environment.

As a result of this research, we have identified possible disease tolerance of certain creeping bentgrass cultivars (genetic component of IPM); the role of seed rate in reducing disease incidence; and the reduced need for fungicides in the seed bed when utilizing recommended seed rates. The consequences of high seed rates persist into the second year, especially evident in the rooting response, where greater surface rooting is likely to result in reduced stress tolerance.

FRANK S. ROSSI, ARTHUR SCHAUB AND ERIC B. NELSON
CORNELL UNIVERSITY TURFGRASS TEAM

Short Cutts

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The Executive Director of the New York State Turfgrass Association is Elizabeth (Beth) Seme. Academic Liaisons are Dominic Morales of SUNY Delhi, Bob Emmons of SUNY Cobleskill and Frank Rossi of Cornell University. Mr. Horst Pogge serves on the New York Greengrass Board. If you have any questions about NYSTA activities, programs or interest in serving on the Board, contact Tony Peca at (716) 343-2828 or Beth at (800) 873-8873.

Advanced Short Courses Draw Rave Reviews

The Cornell Turfgrass Program embarked on a new direction for the 1999 Short Course schedule. As you may have read in previous issues of *CUTT* and from conferences around the state, we did not conduct the two-week Turfgrass Management Course. Rather, we introduced a new series of Advanced Short Courses to address specific needs of Sports Turf managers and Golf Course Superintendents. These course were held over the first two weeks of January on the Cornell University campus.

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The Sports Turf course attracted about 30 managers from as far away as Washington, Texas and Wisconsin. In addition, several managers from New York State colleges, universities and school districts attended. The 1999 course focused on design, construction and maintenance of sports turf areas and internationally known speakers shared "state-of-the-art" information. Several speakers commented that this was the most comprehensive, in-depth education for sports turf managers, they had ever seen."

The next week, 50 professionals in the golf course management industry attended the Golf Turf Short Course. The 1999 course focused on Innovative Pest Management, Science and Practice. Speakers included Drs. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers University, Joe Vargas of Michigan State University, Pat Vittum of UMass and, of course, your Cornell University Turfgrass Team (Rossi, Villani, Nelson, Landers, and Weston). A comprehensive exam at the end, allowed GCSAA Certified Golf Course Superintendents to receive over 3 CEU's toward certification. The course was praised by attendees for the interactive format that enabled them to develop decision-making skills needed at their facilities.

Stay tuned for future offerings of Short Course Activities in 1999, 2000 and beyond.

Times Have Caught Up With *CUTT*

After almost ten years of quietly bringing you current and useful turfgrass information from research labs, education programs, field studies, and the collective minds of the Cornell University Turfgrass Team, *CUTT* has been hon-

ored to receive a Certificate of Excellence from the American Society of Agronomy (see article on page 2.)

Following the traditional and well-worn path of most extension publications, *CUTT* has been made available since its inception at below-cost rates. As anyone who has kept up with trends in government and education sectors knows, tax dollars to support public outreach efforts have steadily been shrinking. And, as anyone with a business sense realizes, a publication cannot continue in existence if it cannot meet its financial needs.

The expertise involved with *CUTT* comes with a price that has not been adjusted since the very first issue was published in the Spring of 1990, despite the fact that the average issue is 50% larger and, as in the case of this issue, often contains twice the number of pages as earlier issues. In the meantime, University budgets have declined, and layout, printing and mailing costs have risen. As a result of the increased cost of doing business, we are forced to increase the subscription rate for *CUTT* from \$8.00 per year (\$2.00 per issue) to \$20 per year (\$5.00 per issue). This change will be reflected in your next renewal statement.

We trust that you will continue to enjoy and benefit from our Award Winning Publication; we look forward to your input and support as we soon begin our second decade. Remember, too, that a subscription to *CUTT* is a membership benefit of joining the New York State Turfgrass Association. If you have any questions or want subscription details, please feel free to contact our Team Assistant, Ms. Kelly Woodhouse, at (607) 255-3090.

FRANK S. ROSSI
NEW YORK STATE
EXTENSION TURFGRASS
SPECIALIST
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF
CUTT



Joann Gruttadaurio,
Director of Education,
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and delivers course
material to Short
Course attendees.

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