

If Not for You...

Research, especially field research is an extremely expensive endeavor, requiring substantial funding for the collection of sufficient data test a given hypothesis with a reasonable amount of certainty. For the past several years we have been surveying golf course fairways and home lawns in central New York in an effort to predict which environmental and historical factors influence the distribution and persistence of scarab grubs in turf. These studies suggest that Japanese beetles tend to prefer well managed irrigated turfgrass that is close to vegetation suitable for adult feeding. They appear to prefer loamy soils in full sun. By comparison, European chafers are found in lower maintenance turf sites, without irrigation, and with sandy, well-drained soil textures. They are also commonly found surrounding small trees that serve as aggregation sites for mating pairs. Black turfgrass ateniens grubs were often found on high organic soils and turfgrass with heavy thatch.

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age effluent to irrigation 18 of the 45 holes of this golf course. This project involved the Village of Lake Placid (Paul Guttman), the Lake Placid Resort Club (Joe DeForest), NYSERDA (Larry Pakanes) and Cornell University. The Village reduced its phosphorus discharge into the Chubb River by 25%, which the golf course had very good looking-functional turf the entire summer. Issues of concern in this project are: would the phosphorus in the sewage effluent irrigation water increase the phosphorus in the turf soil to the point that phosphorus would runoff from the golf course and enter the Chubb River as before; and would the use of sewage effluent irrigation water that contains salts cause damage to the turf. Based on sampling the river and observa-

tions of the turf quality, it appears that sewage effluent irrigation of this golf course did not increase the level of phosphorus in the river and did not injure the turf from salt. It should be noted that this was an unusually wet summer so the amount of irrigation was limited and salts would be washed out of the soil. We plan to continue this project next year and will sample impact of phosphorus runoff at a much closer location to the irrigated portion of the golf course.

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Program Update

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