If Not for You...

esearch, especially field research is an extremely expensive endeavor, requir ing 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 ataenius grubs were often found on high organic soils and turfgrass with heavy thatch.

These studies have required the collection and processing of thousands of individual soil samples totaling several tons of soil over the four year duration (and counting) of this project. We have been well funded for this study through state and local agencies as well as a strong financial backing from the New York State Turfgrass Association. There are crunch times however when field work needs to be done. That is when we need to call out the volunteers to help in the field who assist our studies by taking sample and processing samples without pay (we do however supply each of our volunteers with a new grub shirt for their efforts). Below is a list of individuals who have worked on the scarab project since 1995. Those individuals who have volunteered their time to help make this work possible are identified by an asterisk next to their name. We are deeply indebted to these people for their generosity.

Mark Adonna Ken Bell* Nancy Consolie Karen Dean* Jim Engle* Tim Gibb* Rachel Herring* Mark Higgins* Jana Lamboy* John Minns Jr.* Rick Piccioni Paul Robbins Julie Stavinsky* Iris Velazquez Jim Willmott

Fred Albertelli
Asia Bonnaci*
Frank Consolie
Ariel Diaz*
Kerrie Frisinger
Gisela Godoy
Carol Herring*
Steve Hitchcock
Chris Lenzo
Kandi Nelson*
Carlos Portillio*
Alfredo Rueda*
Rich Stigberg*
Mike Villani
Luann Wilsey

Leslie Allee*
Bonnie Carney
Tom Consolie*
Ariel Casablanca*
Jody Gangloff*
Jennifer Grant
Mary Lou Hessney*
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Ken Millington
Jason Nyrop*
Amy Roda*
Cliff Sadoff*
Aaron Teichner*
Karen Wentworth

Bill Arehart*
Chris Casey*
Dan Dalthorp
Preston Dinkle
Chris Gerling*
Bob Hazel*
Wendy Heusler
Vera Krischik*
Brian Minns*
Jan Nyrop*
Chad Reissig
Malia Sommerville*
Maher Tawadros*
Livy Williams

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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 Guttmann), 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 observations 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.

A. Martin Petrovic Cornell University Turfgrass Team



Program Update

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