



Short Cutts

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Frank Rossi Named One of Golfweek's "40 Under 40"

Golfweek recently honored 40 young turf professionals who they consider "most likely to shape the game" over the coming years. *CUTT* Editor Frank Rossi was among them. Frank also is an assistant professor of turfgrass science at Cornell and New York State Extension turfgrass specialist.

Frank became enamored with turfgrass at the tender age of 11 while mowing lawns. As he grew, he worked at golf courses while obtaining his education. He obtained his BS in 1984 and an MS in 1987 from the University of Rhode Island. His first association with Cornell was as a doctoral candidate, earning his Ph.D. in 1990. Though never straying far from the golf course—he's been a golf turf manager as well as being part of maintenance crews—Frank joined the ranks of academia, holding professorial appointments at Michigan State and the University of Wisconsin. He returned to Cornell as a faculty member in 1996.

His research focuses on turfgrass ecology and stress physiology. He has numerous scientific papers, research proceedings and popular articles to his credit. With a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in 1999, he is writing the *Best Management Practices Guidebook* for golf courses in the environmentally and politically sensitive New York City watershed.

Widely sought after as a speaker and consultant due to his knowledge, experience, engaging personality, and infinite energy Frank has advised major industry associations, including serving as visiting scientist for the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee, which evaluated and distributed over \$5 million in funding.

While Frank has been editor, *CUTT* has grown in size and readership and won a Certificate of Excellence from the American Society of Agronomy in 1998. Also in 1998, the Cornell Turfgrass Team, under Frank's leadership, began the Turfgrass Hotline, now known as *Turfgrass ShortCUTT*, a weekly, two page newsletter delivered each Monday during the growing season via email or FAX to get timely information out as quickly and efficiently as possible (see page 15).

NYSTA Grants Cornell \$50K

The Cornell University Turfgrass Team, an interdisciplinary research and education program, received a \$50,000 grant from the New York State Turfgrass Association. NYSTA has been a committed supporter of turfgrass research and education at Cornell University for over 50 years. Each year the \$50K support is matched dollar for dollar by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The NYSTA funds are deposited directly into the New York State Turfgrass Research Foundation, a long term endowment to support turfgrass research in New York State. The College then distributes another \$50K to members of the Turfgrass Team.

This year funds have been distributed more widely among members of the Cornell Turfgrass Team and include Karen Snover and Andrew Landers. Karen will be using the funds to conduct nematode sampling on golf courses to determine population dynamics of plant parasitic nematodes on golf courses. Andrew is continuing the development of a direct injection sprayer to reduce hazards associated with pesticide application.

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CORNELL Turfgrass

CUTT, "CORNELL UNIVERSITY TURFGRASS TIMES" is published four times per year by Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Turfgrass Science Program at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853. Address correspondence to: CORNELL UNIVERSITY TURFGRASS TIMES, 20 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; telephone: (607) 255-1629

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Design & Production: Ghostwriters, inc.,
Ithaca, NY*

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In the Field

Laboratory studies while interesting can only be used as a guide to what might be expected in the field. Field studies were conducted in New York (M. Villani), Rhode Island (S. Alm), and Connecticut (R. Cowles) against Japanese beetle, oriental beetle, European chafer, and Asiatic garden beetle grubs in turfgrass plots. These plots were treated with a 1 lb./acre rate Halofenozide and a field rate of Imidacloprid in mid June (about 1 month before grub eggs could be expected to hatch in the plots), mid July (just as grubs were hatching from their eggs) and mid August (the conventional application time when a mixture of first, second, and third instar grubs might be expected in the plots. Figure 4 is a summary of the effect of application timing and grub species on the field activity of these two products.

Notice that high Japanese beetle grub mortality was recorded using either Halofenozide or Imidacloprid at all three application dates. Imidacloprid was also effective against oriental beetle regardless of application timing. There was a slight but significant decrease in European chafer mortality at the August application date

when compared with early application dates. Our research suggests that for these three grub species early applications of Imidacloprid while convenient may not have minimal impact on success if grubs are feeding on the surface. The early or late applications of Halofenozide were somewhat less effective than applications timed with egg hatch. As in our laboratory studies Halofenozide provided marginal reduction of European chafer grubs regardless of application date.

Asiatic garden beetle grubs were tolerant of application of Imidacloprid at the field rate with marginally adequate control when applied at egg hatch and poor control when applied in June or August. Plots in which Halofenozide was applied actually had 35-48% more Asiatic garden beetle grubs than did surrounding untreated plots. This unusual situation may have occurred if Halofenozide was not toxic to Asiatic garden beetles but reduced other grub species in the Halofenozide plots thus reducing competition for grass roots. Alternatively predators and parasites that reduced Asiatic garden beetle grubs in untreated plots may have been reduced in plots treated with Halofenozide and Imidacloprid.

MIKE VILLANI
CORNELL UNIVERSITY TURFGRASS TEAM

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National IPM Grant Received by Cornell

Cornell Turfgrass Team member, Frank Rossi, and the Director of Northeast Regional IPM Program in NY, Jim Van Kirk, received a grant from the National Science Foundation Center for Integrated Pest Management (CIPM) to develop elements of a golf course IPM program for the Northeast Region. This grant will fund a regional conference on golf course IPM principles, so that criteria can be agreed upon to recognize the variety of management activities implemented on golf courses to minimize pesticide use.

The CIPM grant is for one year to bring regional turfgrass specialists and leaders in the golf turf industry together. Specifically, the project will explore the development of a points rating system that accumulates with each action taken by the turf manager, so that the total score

demonstrates the commitment to implementing IPM programs. Industry support for the funding was received from the Northeast Golf Course Superintendent Association, the Metropolitan gold Course Superintendents Association, and Audubon International. Steering committee meetings will be held this summer and the IPM Principles Conference is expected to be held next fall or winter.

Easy to Read Golf and Wildlife Book

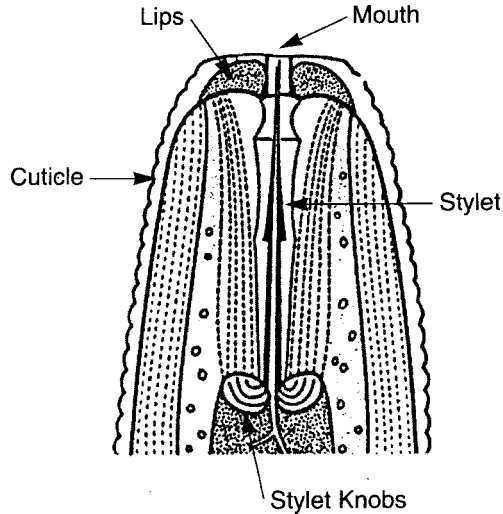
The founder and president of Audubon International, Ron Dodson, has published a book through Ann Arbor Press titled *Managing Wildlife Habitat on Golf Courses*. This is a wonderful book that outlines the basic aspects of managing wildlife habitat on human managed landscapes, in this case golf courses. The book provides an overview of the golf course from a wildlife

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try Club of Ithaca. With the help of D. Cord Ozment and his staff we will collect samples from 115 grids across the putting green at three separate collection periods throughout the growing season. The green shows characteristic symptoms of nematode damage and an assay conducted last fall indicated that high levels of plant parasitic nematodes are present. Our survey will provide valuable information to turfgrass industry members and university researchers by focusing on the distribution patterns and population levels across a putting green to learn how varied the population can be and in turn determine the accuracy of our current sampling procedures.

KAREN L. SNOVER
DIRECTOR, PLANT DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC
CORNELL UNIVERSITY TURFGRASS TEAM



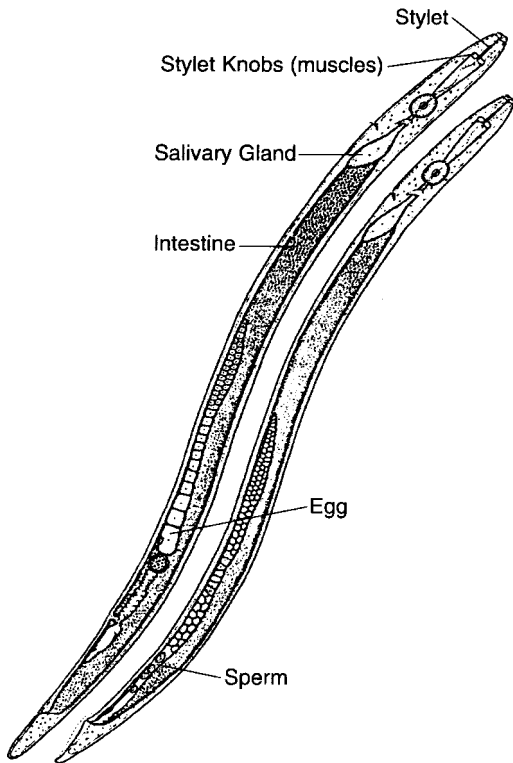
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habitat perspective, some historical information on how golf and the conservation movement have evolved to a place where they share common interests. The remaining chapters establish a scientific basis for managing habitat and some practical tips for how to get started implementing these tips on your property.

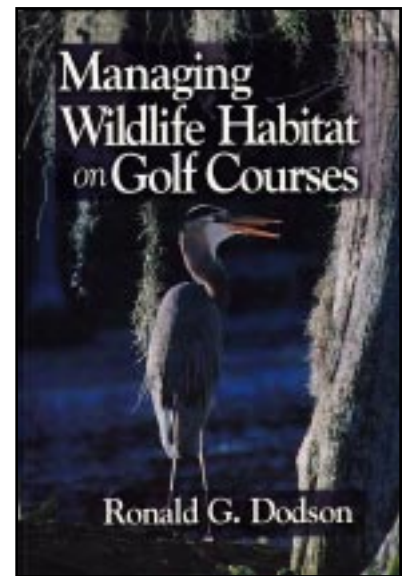
Many golf turf managers hear of the steps being taken by those in the Audubon Program and have a sense that it is extra work to “do the right thing” for water quality and wildlife. This book should inspire those individuals to start doing “little things” to conserve resources and create habitat while maintaining the playability of the golf course. Whether it is adding landscape plantings, preserving nonhazardous tree limbs, encouraging aquatic vegetation, or engaging the community in the efforts, Ron has something in this book for all of us.

My favorite sections of the book are the last two on case studies and “the right thing to do”. In these chapters, Ron provides an important call to action for the golf industry (including the golfers) to become conservation minded and promote the attributes of the human managed landscapes that enhance the quality of our life, not juts as golfers, but as members of a community. The case study section provides a nice overview of the various approaches taken by golf course superintendents regardless of the size of their budget. Implicit in this chapter is the sense that anyone can enhance the environmental quality of their landscape; all it takes is some information and a commitment. Ron provides some of the former and inspiration for the latter.



Above: diagrammatic representation of a typical male and female plant parasitic nematode.

Above right: side view of a nematode head.



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