Fore! Golf Course Management Survey

Over the next few weeks, the turfgrass program at Cornell University will be hitting the links! However, rather than recovering from the sand and creating divots in your fairways, the Cornell team may be aiming for your participation in a study being conducted throughout New England and the tri-state area. Co-sponsored by the New York State DEC, the fact-finding project seeks to identify current trends within the industry. The internet and/or mail based questionnaire would require about one hour of time to complete and examines how golf courses and associated management practices have evolved to relate to their surrounding environments and provide a better understanding about the relationship they maintain with surface and ground water bodies. Although some questions are asked about how pesticides are handled, this study is not concerned with pesticide use or the amounts they are used in. Roughly 600 golf courses will be contacted with a letter requesting participation. If selected, your commitment of time and information would be invaluable to providing an accurate projection about how golf course management practices are aligned to meet the challenges of future.

Managing our Natural Resources:
The 2000 NYSTA Conference

The program is set for the New York State Turfgrass and Grounds Exposition scheduled for November 14 through 16, 2000 in Syracuse, NY. The theme for the 2000 conference continues NYSTA’s commitment to environmental excellence, Managing our Natural Resources. Sessions consistent with this theme will include several basic and advanced topics on soils, water, fertilization, and wildlife management. In addition, as leaders in the area of sports turf education, we will be providing sessions on managing high traffic areas, core cultivation, and understanding the latest products on the market. As usual, the golf turf program continues to explore cutting edge research on environmental stress and how to identify and manage diseases such as gray leaf spot and bentgrass deadspot. Right in the middle of the conference, is the early bird session highlighting the latest research currently underway at Cornell on moss control, pesticide fate, dollar spot biology, and insect killing nematodes. The Tuesday Seminars will include grass and weed identification, as well as basic aspects of turf soil management, to help you get back to basics. As technology continues to enter the market, client expectations increase, and regulations limit our options, education is the key to maintaining a successful profession. I guess we’ll see you in Syracuse!

Lawn Care and Water Quality Almanac Available

If you’ve ever wanted to provide information to your clientele regarding the impact of turfgrass management on water quality, which also explains the benefits of turf, when is the best time to fertilize, and how should a lawn be watered, then the almanac is for you. The almanac also lists common sources of stormwater pollutants, shows how to conduct a landscape water quality assessment, and has excellent photos and graphics of common lawn pests. The almanac is available from Media Services at Cornell University. You can access them at www.mediaserv.cornell.edu.

The Grass is Never Greener on the Other Side

Turfgrass entomologists may live above ground, but a lot of their grubby friends don’t. Over 70 industry representatives, faculty, graduate students and extension specialists from around the country attended the “Turfgrass•Entomology•2000” conference at Cornell University’s New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, in Geneva, NY, April 2-4, to talk about the grubs and other issues facing turf specialists and consumers. The meeting was hosted by Michael G. Villani, professor of entomology at Cornell, and Patricia J. Vittum, associate professor of entomology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

“It was especially gratifying for us to meet at the Experiment Station because the turfgrass entomology community here has been considered one of the focal points of turf entomology continued on page 15
Clippings

continued from page 2

since the 1940’s through the research efforts of
Dr. Gambrell, Dr. Tashiro, and myself,” said
Villani. The Station continues to be one of a
small handful of institutions working on both
fundamental and applied aspects of turf ento-

mology.

“This is a national meeting and one of the
most useful ones I go to,” said Robert L. Crocker,
associate professor at Texas A&M. Crocker’s
current project tapping the sounds made under-
ground by white grubs is a potential means of
monitoring their numbers. “This meeting is a
chance for us all to talk about environmental
concerns, pesticides and alternatives to pesti-
cides, to exchange new information on the ecol-
ogy and biology of pest species, discuss new
pests of turf, and talk about the effect of gov-
ernment regulations,” he said.

During the meeting, the group also took the
opportunity to celebrate the release of the sec-
ded edition of *Turfgrass Insects of the United States
and Canada*. Retired Cornell professor, Haruo
Tashiro, who is considered the dean of Ameri-
can turfgrass entomologists, is the sole author
of the first edition. Drs. Vittum, Villani and
Tashiro are the authors of the second edition.
A dinner was held in Dr. Tashiro’s honor dur-
ing the conference.

Seven topics were addressed during infor-
mative panel discussions over three days. In the
discussion on biocontrol, moderators Jennifer
Grant (NYIPM/Cornell), Albrecht Koppenhof-
ner (Rutgers University), and Parwinder Grewal
(Ohio State University) took a look at the prac-
tical use of biological control agents for con-
trolling turfgrass pests. The use of biological
insecticides, predators, and parasitoids for in-
ssect control in turf was also discussed.

In a panel discussion on the transition of
IPM from research to implementation, modera-
tor Fred Baxendale (Univ. of Nebraska), Rich
Cowles (Conn. Agric. Exp. Sta.), and Gary
Couch (NYIPM/Cornell) discussed moving IPM
from the classroom to the field to the end user,
integrating biocontrol and traditional ap-
proaches in a realistic IPM program, and the
status of action thresholds and sampling in IPM
programs.

In University/Industry/Government/Profes-
sonal Relationships, moderator Rick Branden-
burg (North Carolina State Univ.), Dan
Potter (Univ. of Kentucky), and Chris Becker
(American Cyanamid) talked about how fund-
ing shapes the message, whether roles, goals
and responsibilities were clear, and how these
relationships affect graduate education now and
in the future.

Moderators Chris Williamson (Univ. of Wis-
consin), and Wendy Gelenotner (Pace Consulting,
San Diego CA) talked about advances in
black cutworm management, from traditional
and emerging control tactics to action thresh-
holds and laboratory bioassays.

Pheromones and their use as attractants,
arrestants and repellants was the focus of the
session moderated by Paul Robbins (NYSAES/
Cornell), Mike Klein (USDA/ARS.), and Rob-
ert Crocker (Texas A&M).

Emerging Environmental Issues, such as the
impact of FQPA on turf insect pest management,
selective vs. broad spectrum insecticides, home-
owner use of products and local laws were ad-
ressed in a session moderated by Amy Suggars
(TruGreen Chemlawn), David Cox (Novartis),
and Gwen Stahnke (Washington State Univ.).

Black Cutworm Control

continued from page 7

ments rather than feeding on the grass blades
as observed in larvae feeding in untreated check
replicates. Small cutworm larvae consume rela-
tively large amounts of grass and grow rapidly
during this period of their development. This
weight disadvantage evaporates at the six day
post treatment evaluation in the sulfur treat-
ments (there is virtually 100% mortality in the
growth regulator treatments). No weight loss
was observed in the entomopathogenic nema-
tode or fungal pathogen treatment at either
evaluation.

Research conducted in this project has pro-
vided better understanding of the activity of
products not currently under FQPA review
against an important turfgrass pest. Addition-
ally funding has allowed for the development of
a novel and reliable screening assay that will
but used to evaluate additional IPM compat-
ible products in the future. Funding for this
project was provided by the NYS Turfgrass As-
sociation and the NYS Community IPM Pro-
gram.

Michael G. Villani