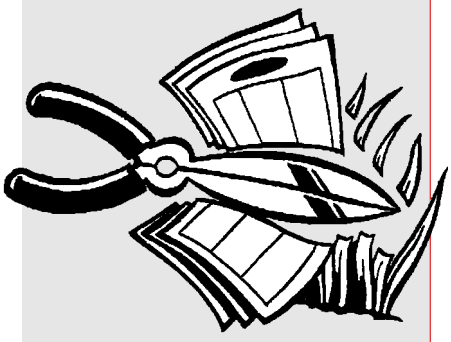
CUTT

Clippings

The internet 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.



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. Cosponsored 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 entomology.

"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 taping the sounds made underground 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 pesticides, to exchange new information on the ecology and biology of pest species, discuss new pests of turf, and talk about the effect of government regulations," he said.

During the meeting, the group also took the opportunity to celebrate the release of the second edition of *Turfgrass Insects of the United States and Canada*. Retired Cornell professor, Haruo Tashiro, who is considered the dean of American 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 during the conference.

Seven topics were addressed during informative panel discussions over three days. In the discussion on biocontrol, moderators Jennifer Grant (NYIPM/Cornell), Albrecht Koppenhofer (Rutgers University), and Parwinder Grewal (Ohio State University) took a look at the practical use of biological control agents for controlling turfgrass pests. The use of biological insecticides, predators, and parasitoids for insect control in turf was also discussed.

In a panel discussion on the transition of IPM from research to implementation, moderator 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 approaches in a realistic IPM program, and the status of action thresholds and sampling in IPM programs.

In University/Industry/Government/Professional Relationships, moderator Rick Brandenburg (North Carolina State Univ.), Dan Potter (Univ. of Kentucky), and Chris Becker (American Cyanamid) talked about how funding 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 Wisconsin), and Wendy Gelerntner (Pace Consulting, San Diego CA) talked about advances in black cutworm management, from traditional and emerging control tactics to action thresholds 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 Robert Crocker (Texas A&M).

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

The Geneva Experiment Station continues to be one of a small handful of institutions working on both fundamental and applied aspects of turf entomology.

During the meeting, the group also took the opportunity to celebrate the release of the second edition of Turfgrass Insects of the United States and Canada. *Retired Cornell professor, Haruo Tashiro, who is considered the dean of American turfgrass entomologists, is the sole author of the first edition. Drs. Vittum, Villani and Tashiro are the authors of the second edition.*

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 relatively 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 treatments (there is virtually 100% mortality in the growth regulator treatments). No weight loss was observed in the entomopathogenic nematode or fungal pathogen treatment at either evaluation.

Research conducted in this project has provided better understanding of the activity of products not currently under FQPA review against an important turfgrass pest. Additionally funding has allowed for the development of a novel and reliable screening assay that will but used to evaluate additional IPM compatible products in the future. Funding for this project was provided by the NYS Turfgrass Association and the NYS Community IPM Program.

Michael G. Villani