

# CUTT

Spring 2002 • Volume 13 • Number 1

## The World Series From the Ground Up

**O**ne of the more glamorous aspects of being the New York State Turfgrass Extension Specialist is when professional sporting events request my assistance. One such opportunity occurs on a regular basis with the New York Yankees baseball club.

Dan Cunningham is the head groundskeeper for the Yankees and a friend of mine from college many years ago when we studied at the University of Rhode Island. Like many of us who graduated from the URI program, Dan pursued his interest in turfgrass management on the golf course, working at Winged Foot Golf Course in Mamaroneck, NY. Until, that is, he was encouraged by Bob Alonzi to apply for a grounds position at Yankee Stadium almost 20 years ago.

Dan started out on the crew, working his way into the assistant's position and for the last several years has assumed the

Head Groundskeeper position. Dan is aided in every aspect of field care by his assistant Rob Ley, as well as the staff of Steve, Horace and Tommy.

Given the dominance of the Yankees in the American League, it has been an exciting time in the Bronx for the last seven years, especially in Fall. For the last two years I have been able to attend the last game of the season at Yankee Stadium. Neither were the closing games of the World Series, since the Series was concluded, to different results, at the visitor's field. However, both games were memorable.

### The Setup

I arrive at the field by noon the day of the game. The starting time for World Series games is generally around 8:00 pm. It is an

*continued on page 7*

## This Times

- 1. *The World Series* 1. *NY Turfgrass Survey* 2. *Clippings: Organic Short Course; Maffei Receives NYSTA Award*
- 3. *Scanning the Journals: Fertilizer Effects on Microbes and Disease; Alleviating Heat Stress* 10. *Moss Control*
- 12. *Organic Weed Control* 18. *Cornell Turfgrass ShortCUTT* 20. *Point Source Pollution Prevention*

## Can We "Count" on You?

**T**he turfgrass industry in New York is an important aspect of the state's agriculture yet it has not been properly assessed for its economic value to the state. The last survey of the industry was conducted in 1977 and clearly the industry has experienced substantial growth in the last two decades.

Industry surveys conducted in other states have resulted in substantial additional financial and legislative support from state governments. In some cases, several hundred thousand new dollars have been allocated to turfgrass research and education. This is a vital time for New York—with pending legislation and lack of effective pesticide alternatives—to invest in turfgrass research

focused on environmentally responsible management. Your participation in a new turfgrass industry survey will help the process and could yield significant additional resources.

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the National Agricultural Statistics Office is preparing to conduct the survey in Fall 2002. The financial commitment from the state is expected to be over \$100,000 while the industry will be asked to provide \$65,000. The Board of Directors of the New York State Turfgrass Association has been actively and successfully advocating for this project and now needs your help. Work with

*continued on page 4*