

CUTT

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Putting Green Management Systems with Reduced Pesticides: A Continuing Evaluation

This project provides information from the fourth year of a study assessing the feasibility and performance of golf course turf managed with an IPM approach utilizing population-based pest management to a system that utilizes biologically-based controls and reduced risk chemistry. The work was initiated on the Green Course at the Bethpage State Park, Long Island, New York in 2001. The Green Course is one of five public courses at the park and accommodates approximately 50,000 rounds of golf annually. The greens are push-up native soil greens that have been heavily sand top-dressed for the last six years, and are typical of a high-use public course in a northern metropolitan community. A more detailed discussion of methodology and results from 2001 through 2003 can be found at <http://usgatero.msu.edu/>.

Experiment Design

The experiment was designed as a 3 x 2 factorial, with three pest-management and two cultural-management regimes.

Pest Management: 1) Unrestricted: All legal and currently available chemical pesticides in New York State may be used. 2) IPM: Cultural and biological approaches to prevent and minimize pest problems were emphasized, but any legal practice or pesticide could be used. 3) Bio-Based Reduced Risk (formerly nonchemical treatment): Cultural and biological approaches to prevent and minimize pest problems were

emphasized, but reduced risk chemical pesticides were used occasionally to prevent turf loss.

Cultural Management: 1) Current Standard: Cultural practices currently being employed at the golf courses of the Bethpage State Park. 2) Alternative: Modified cultural practices selected to reflect the most progressive practices that maximize turfgrass performance and minimize stress to the grass.

The experimental design resulted in six management systems. Each green served as a replicate, with all 18 greens of the Bethpage Green Course used to accommodate 3 replica-

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