Clippings

It’s time to learn!
Come to Field Day 2005
June 21

Take a Short Course
• Landscape Architects
• Landscape Professionals
• Landscape Managers

Continuing Education Offerings for Turf and Landscape Professionals

Coming your way this summer from Cornell:

Cornell Turf and Landscape Management Field Day
June 21, 2005
Cornell University Campus, Ithaca, NY
www.hort.cornell.edu/instruction/short/cornellturf.htm

Landscape Architects and Landscape Professionals Short Course:
June 24–25, 2005
Cornell University Campus, Ithaca, NY
www.hort.cornell.edu/instruction/short/landscape.htm

Landscape Management Short Course
August 16–17, 2005
Cornell University Campus, Ithaca, NY
www.hort.cornell.edu/instruction/short/managerlandscape.htm

Early Notice: Mark the Date for Fall

2005 Empire State Green Industry Show
November 15–17, 2005
Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY
www.nysta.org/greenshow/home.html

Energy Management
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Food and Pests

During the mid-1970s, the price of ammonia used for fertilization more than doubled. As a result, fertilizer prices also increased. In fact, fertilizers might have twice the energy per dollar value as the equipment used to manage a golf course. Even though much less is spent on fertilizers compared to a $25,000 mower, the energy needed to produce the fertilizer based on what you pay for it is considerably higher than the energy that the equipment consumes.

Clearly, reducing the use of fertilizer has direct energy savings, but also indirect savings by reducing turf growth that would require additional mowing. Also, proper timing of application to promote color, and turf health without stimulating top growth, is an important energy-saving measure that would include the use of iron for improved turf color.

Pesticide manufacturing is the highest energy-consuming practice on a weight basis of all agricultural inputs. In fact, the energy for production is two to four times greater that that for fertilizers. This includes the production of the active ingredient and the energy used for formulating the product, often with a petroleum-based formulant.

However, the high level of activity at low amounts of active ingredient needed to get the desired results and benefit of selectivity (killing pests, but not grass) provide other benefits that could reduce energy use, such as for weed control that would require enormous amounts of labor and energy.

Energy Conservation

Very little research has been conducted on energy-conserving turfgrass management. We are generally engaged in pest control and other measures that produce improved turfgrass quality and aesthetics. In the industry, how many turf managers take the time to review annual maintenance for fuel/energy use?

Records like this might reveal how much energy use has increased over the years as more golfers are on the course. At this point, the additional cost for energy might not be prohibitive. But at some point it might.

Audubon International includes energy efficiency as a component of its Cooperative Sanctuary and Signature Programs. These programs not only look at the golf course, but at the entire facility management. This is an important clarification when viewing energy costs and evaluating efficiency in budgets between the clubhouse and the course. Nevertheless, there are significant challenges and opportunities ahead in the area of energy efficiency.

Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D.

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