WISCONSIN turfgrass news

Field Day 2009 research tour

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WTA Summer Field Day Has Something for Everyone

By Tom Schwab, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The WTA Summer Field Day will be here before you know it. The date is set for Tuesday, July 27, 2010. This is a wonderful day for you to visit the OJ Noer Facility and see all the new turfgrass research being conducted at the University. There are over 80 studies ongoing this summer and several of the most pertinent ones will be showcased during the research tours. The talks in the tours will describe new research and maintenance practices to help managers of sports turf, golf courses, sod production, lawn care, parks, and other commercial turf areas.

Presentations and interaction with the researchers promise to go more in depth than past years. Comments from attendees asked for longer discussions about the research during the educational tour. Thus quality rather than quantity will be the theme for 2010.

For example: Are you interested in saving time and money while making pesticide applications? Come and see new sprayer technologies and disease management strategies that will save you time and money.

Or learn new and improved turf establishment strategies. UW researchers are investigating whether it is possible to uniformly apply seed, fertilizer, and a pre-emergent herbicide in one step, while also stabilizing the soil. Learn how hydroseeding can save you time and money.

One more question to ask yourself is; are you prepared for the new state of Wisconsin regulations on water use. Come to Field Day and learn about how the regulations may affect you. The regulations may require irrigating based on soil moisture. There will be hands-on experience with the latest soil moisture monitoring technology and a discussion of the pros and cons.

And that's just the beginning. Many other presentations will answer your day-to-day turf management questions. You won't want to miss what the UW Turf Team has been unraveling in their latest research.

In addition to the research tour there is a lawn care workshop in the afternoon providing more valuable education (Please see Paul Koch's article on page 3.) This workshop was introduced during the 2008 field day to resounding acclaim, so it returns for the third year. The workshop is not included in the field day registration price and requires an additional fee. Attendees from

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Sprayers and new pesticide management strategies will be intently discussed on the research tour.

The large trade show allows you to compare all different makes and brands in one location.

The Wisconsin Turfgrass News is the official publication of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association,
edited by Tom Schwab. O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Educational Facility.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fired Up

By Dan Biddick, WTA President

Fired up! Ready to go!

An early spring is great for our industry.

We are blessed to work with Mother Nature. She is a teacher. A few things she has taught me.....

- The life force flourishes in every corner of our world.
- A living organism does everything and anything it can to live.
- We can start over.
- Plant one seed to receive an abundance of seeds.
- We can adapt. We can change.
- Science is partner.

Come to the WTA summer field day at the OJ Noer Turfgrass Research Facility, on July 27th. I'll see you there!

Thank you for your continued support of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association. Your membership is important and appreciated.

Fired up! Ready to go!

WTA Summer Field Day Has Something for Everyone - *continued*

last year commented that it was well worth the additional cost. Space is also limited, thus attendees will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis to provide for a unique interactive experience.

The large and revamped trade show will likewise provide great education. Here you'll learn about all the latest supplies, services, and equipment available to the turf industry from helpful vendors willing to answer questions about all their latest products. Several equipment vendors allow test drives of their products so you can compare between brands.

Summer Field Day is a great way to learn the latest research coming from the UW-Madison, compare the newest commercial offerings from the trade show, visit with colleagues over a great lunch, and to possibly participate in the Lawn Care Workshop. You will surely leave Field Day with many ideas to put into practice back home. Call Audra Anderson at 608-845-6536 if you have any questions or have suggestions of subjects you'd like to see addressed during Field Day.

Dr. Soldat will explain soil moisture sensing devises and how they can be used to better manage your turf.

You will receive your Field Day brochure differently this year. The brochure is being emailed rather than mailed to you. It will also appear in all your individual association newsletters or can be downloaded from the WTA website - www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org. Also new this year, you may pay online if so desired. Field Day 2010 is going to be the best ever, and I hope you can fit it in - July 27th.

New hydroseeding strategies, like this, will be explained at field day.

Afternoon Lawn Care Session Returns In 2010

By Paul Koch, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab, University of Wisconsin-Mazdison

Back by popular demand for the third consecutive year at Summer Field Day will be the afternoon lawn care session. As in previous years, the session will be held following lunch at the 2010 Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day on Tuesday, July 27th. The afternoon session focuses on hands-on identification of turfgrass species, weed species, diseases, and insects as well as fertilizer and pesticide calibration. Though the program is still being finalized, new interactive talks and demonstrations will be added this year that deal with Emerald Ash Borer, water conservation and management, and pesticide safety. If you have any ideas for topics to be included in this year's session or future sessions, please feel free to contact Audra Anderson at 608-845-6536.

Though the afternoon is designed for lawn care technicians who directly manage homeowner and commercial properties, turfgrass managers of all stripes will stand to learn something they can take back to their facility. Once again, attendance will be limited to provide for a unique interactive experience for all attendees. Look for the afternoon session registration form to be included with the Summer Field Day registration. Attendees will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis and capped at 65 entrants, so be sure to return your form promptly to ensure your attendance. We look forward to seeing you there!

The optional lawn care training session provides hands-on training for you or your staff to brush up on practical turf management

MEET THE UW-MADISON TURF PROGRAM GRADUATE STUDENT

Sod, Sludge, and Science

By Shane Griffith, Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Like so many in the turf industry, I fell in love with the game of golf as a young kid. I learned to play alongside my grandpa, dad, and brother with a hand-me-down set of golf clubs at Fox Lake Golf Club in Fox Lake, WI. I don't recall what I enjoyed more, taking a swing at a golf ball or trying to chase geese with our three-wheeled golf cart. A few short years later I found myself enrolled as an undergraduate student at UW-Madison struggling with the question of what I wanted to do with my life. Still uncertain, I took a summer position on the grounds crew at Beaver Dam Country Club to earn some rent money. Here I received my first introduction to golf course maintenance by mowing tees, raking bunkers, and setting cups. It was a job where I could be outdoors, watch the sunrise, and smell the freshly cut grass…I was hooked. I was surprised when superintendent Jason Bell suggested that I look into UW-Madison's turf program. The UW had a turf program?

I returned to UW-Madison in the fall, declared soil science/turfgrass science my major, and began my journey. It was then that I met my advisor, Dr. Doug Soldat, who encouraged me to intern at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, WI. My experience at Blackhawk taught me both turf management and life lessons that I will never forget. Monroe Miller and Chad Grimm have been teachers, role models, and friends ever since. The following summer my passion for turf took me across the nation. I interned on the windy shores of Lake Michigan at Whistling Straits, and volunteered on the sunny cliffs of the Pacific Ocean for the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines. Regardless of where I worked or what classes I took in school I still had a thirst to learn more. Fortunately during my senior year Dr. Soldat received a grant from the USDA to explore the use of biosolids for turf sod production and invited me to join his research team. I jumped aboard, thankful for the opportunity, and looking forward to continuing my education.

Currently I am in the first year of my Masters degree studying the use of biosolids as a soil amendment for sod production. The objective of the study is to make sod production more profitable and sustainable by using a biosolids-based system. Specific goals include reducing fertilizer and pesticide inputs, limiting the soil removed during sod harvest, and providing an economical way to recycle biosolids. The biosolids were provided by the Madison Metropolitan Sewage District and first applied to plots in the fall of 2009 based on Kentucky bluegrass nitrogen requirements. The four-year field study is taking place at Paul's Turf and Tree Farm in Marshall, Wisconsin using conventional sod maintenance equipment. This project combines my passion for turf science with my interest in environmental stewardship. I am excited to be working on it over the next couple of years. I hope that it will be useful for sod producers in the state and spark the imagination of other turf managers to develop ways to beneficially reuse waste products.

I would like to extend my thanks to sod grower Paul Huggett for providing land, equipment, and professional expertise. I would also like to thank those who have supported me during my undergraduate and graduate career at UW-Madison including turf professors, former employers, friends, family and industry supporters. I have always been amazed by the outstanding support provided by the Wisconsin turf industry to UW students and faculty. I am thankful to be a part of the UW turf program and look forward to contributing. If you have any questions for me, feel free to send an email to segriffith@wisc.edu.

Application of biosolids through traditional ag equipment to sod production field, August '09

Pesticide Usage in the Turfgrass Industry

By Dr. Jim Kerns, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

With the recent global financial "meltdown" there has been a lot of talk about the intricate relationship between the US and the rest of the world. Fear not, I am not writing a political article! I did stumble upon a document published by the US Environmental Protection Agency on "Pesticide Industry Usage and Sales". In this article it is interesting to see the relationship among pesticide usage and sales in the US compared to the rest of the world. Within the US market, this document also showed the differences between pesticide usage in the agricultural sector and non-agricultural sector. Let's take a look at some of the figures I found.

Worldwide pesticide expenditures averaged 32.25 billion dollars in 2000 and 2001. In the US, pesticide expenditures averaged 11.28 billion dollars during the same time frame, which is 34% of the total worldwide expenditures[1]. Are these numbers high? From my point of view, these numbers are similar to those reported for fossil fuel consumption and total grain production. The US accounts for 23% of the total worldwide fossil fuel usage, but also produces about 23% of the total grain yield[2]. The issue at hand is; critics wonder why pesticide usage has dramatically increased since 1940, but the pest issues and losses to pest has remained fairly stable. Bear with me; I am slowly getting to my point. Just a few more numbers for you.

Herbicides account for approximately half of all the pesticide usage within the US and the rest of the world. Following behind herbicides are insecticides (~30%), then fungicides (~15%) and finally a category named other (~5%)[1]. The other category is made up of nematicides, rodenticides, fumigants, etc. Interestingly enough these numbers do not account for wood preservatives and specialty biocides.

Within the US markets of agriculture, industry/government and home & garden, the home & garden market accounts for 9%, 40% and 5% of the total US expenditures of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides respectively. The home & garden market is responsible for 19% of the total US expenditures on pesticides[1]. It is a fairly large market and will likely continue to grow.

Trust me, I am getting to a point, but just a little more data to ponder. The most commonly used pesticides in 2001 in the home & garden sector are 2,4-D, glyphosate, pendimethalin, diazinon, MCCP, carbaryl, dicamba, malathion, DCPA, and benefin[1]. Some of these active ingredients, like diazinon, have been removed from the home lawn market. I think this list would be much different when they conduct the next survey.

I know you (of course if you have made it this far) are thinking, "What's the point?" Basically the point is, the US is a major user of pesticides and critics' do have a valid point; why have pest problems remained stable yet pesticide expenditures seem to be ever increasing? We all know that the turfgrass industry is always under the microscope with respect to fertilizer and pesticide inputs. So my question to you is, are we using pesticides to replace good agronomic practices? This is the fundamental question that critics of pesticides use and I think it is one to consider. I tend to think that we use pesticides as a last resort, but many of the problems encountered by turfgrass managers could be mitigated with sound cultural practices. For example, rust fungi seem to be problematic every year in Kentucky bluegrass stands. These fungi attack turf when they are weak, usually from limited nitrogen or compacted soils. Therefore applications of small amounts of nitrogen or putting the area on an aerification schedule will help.

Moreover, irrigation has a huge impact on rust diseases. We know that most rust fungi require at least 6 to 10 hours of leaf wetness to initiate an infection. Thus, if the turf is irrigated, the irrigation events should be scheduled during the early to late morning hours to limit leaf wetness. I know this is easy for me to say sitting in the ivory tower of the University of Wisconsin, but there is a classic term in plant pathology called predisposition. Predisposition refers to the impact of environment on susceptibility of plants to plant pathogens. For instance, we know that excessive nitrogen applications during the summer can make turf more prone to brown patch. Or that turf grown in compacted soils is more prone to rust development.

Pesticides are an important tool in turf and crop management systems. They are necessary to maintain the quality of turf desired by customers and homeowners and the quantity of food desired by the US population. The overall goal of this article was to get turfgrass managers thinking about pesticide usage. I am not advocating that we should completely eliminate pesticide usage, but I do think we should sincerely think about the necessity of each application we make. Ask yourself could that particular problem be avoided in the future by implementing a new cultural or agronomic practice? I am fairly confident that this happens already in the turfgrass industry, but as regulations continue to evolve it is important to keep an open mind about alternatives to pesticides.

References: 1. Pesticides Industry Sales and Usage, 2000 and 2001 Market Estimates. United States Environmental Protection Agency.

http://www.epa.gov/oppbead1/pestsales/

2. United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. http://www.nass.usda.gov/.

Everyday Should Be Earth Day . . . and your LAWN knows it!

Press Release, Submitted by Jim Novak, Turfgrass Producers International

The calendar states that April 22nd is Earth Day. One solitary day set aside to increase everyone's awareness of our environment and serve as a means to heighten the public's consciousness about what is happening to the land, oceans, lakes, rivers and streams all around us. Earth Day is set aside to promote the benefits derived from recycling, using natural cleaning products, conserving our natural resources, and education. Volunteers across the country plant trees, work to prevent soil erosion, support programs to protect our water supplies and through numerous organizations commit their time and talents to conserving and protecting our natural resources.

Perhaps you never gave it much thought, but your lawn contributes immeasurably to the collective efforts of Earth Day. Each and every day when turfgrass is growing it offers considerable benefits to our environment:

Cooling the Air
The front lawns on a block of eight average homes have the cooling effect of 70 tons of air conditioning.

Producing Oxygen
55 square feet of turfgrass provides enough oxygen for one person for an entire day.

Filtering the Air & Reducing Pollution
Turfgrasses trap an estimated 12 million tons of dust and dirt released annually into the atmosphere.

Recharging & Filtering Groundwater Supplies
One of the key mechanisms by which turfgrasses preserve water is their superior capability to provide water infiltration through the soil/turfgrass ecosystem.

Reducing Storm Water Runoff
Turfgrasses preserve water by trapping and holding runoff with their higher plant root density.

Controlling Soil Erosion
Turfgrasses are relatively inexpensive, durable groundcovers that protect our valuable nonrenewable soil resource from water and wind erosion.

Retaining and Sequestering Carbon
Lawn areas in the U.S. alone could store up to 37 billion pounds of carbon.

Restoring Soil Quality
An extremely important function of turfgrass is soil improvement through organic matter additions derived from the decomposition of roots and other plant tissues.

When you add the community, human health and economic benefits that turfgrass has to offer it becomes very clear - - when it comes to your lawn . . . everyday is Earth Day. ■

Unwanted Pesticides, Household Hazardous Waste - Time to Get Them to a Clean Sweep Collection Event

By Dennis Presser, Clean Sweep Program Manager
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Homeowners and businesses in more than 40 counties and municipalities can dispose of unwanted chemicals, pesticides or other hazardous waste at Clean Sweep collection events. The collections are funded by $670,000 in grants awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Products such as chlordane, rootworm insecticides, DDT, acids, lead paint, mercury or solvents can be taken to Wisconsin Clean Sweep locations. From now through December, collections will take place in the following counties: Adams, Ashland, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Calumet, Chippewa, Crawford, Dodge, Douglas, Dunn, Iowa, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green Lake, Jackson, Juneau, Kenosha, Lafayette, La Crosse, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marathon, Monroe, Oneida, Outagamie, Price, Racine, Rock, Rusk, St. Croix, Sauk, Sawyer, Sheboygan, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Vilas, Walworth, Washburn, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago. The village of Bayside in Milwaukee County will also host a Clean Sweep event as well as the villages of Rochester and Waterford in Racine County along with the towns of Burlington and Dover in Racine County.

An interactive map of the Clean Sweep collection locations is at https://datcpgis.wi.gov/CleanSweep/. Other Clean Sweep program information is available at http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/pestfert/pesticides/clean-sweep/index.jsp.

The map lists the agricultural and household collection events along with prescription drug collections that are also funded by DATCP grants. The Ag and Household Waste collections are indicated by red triangles. Click the triangle for more information on dates, specific location of the collection and a local contact for the event.

The events may be just one or two days while others have permanent collection sites that are open for months at a time. Please check with your local contact for details. Some collection sites only accept household hazardous waste, other sites may only collect agricultural or business waste while others may collect all waste categories.

If your county or municipality is not listed on the map, contact your local solid waste department to find out if there are other disposal options available. Some local governments do offer collections that are funded by sources other than DATCP.

Businesses will also find better access to lower cost disposal services through Wisconsin Clean Sweep. Businesses must, however, contact the local collection coordinator who will then put them in contact with the hazardous waste hauler for an estimate of disposal costs.

Since the Clean Sweep program began in 1990 with the focus on collecting agricultural chemicals, the program has expanded to include household hazardous waste as well. The program has collected more than **five million pounds** of unwanted chemicals, pesticides and hazardous waste.

For information on Wisconsin Clean Sweep, contact Dennis Presser, 608-224-4545 or e-mail dennis.presser@wisconsin.gov.

New DNR Water Conservation Rule May Affect You Next Season

By Dr. Doug Soldat, Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

With its ample groundwater resources and proximity to two of the largest freshwater lakes in the world, Wisconsin has more freshwater than just about any other place on earth. That status has led other less fortunate states to consider the feasibility of siphoning water from the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Compact, agreed upon by local government units and signed into law by President Bush in 2008, will prevent states, provinces, or private companies from selling and transporting water out of the basin. The Compact also requires state governments to develop water conservation regulations to conserve and protect water resources within the Great Lakes Basin. These regulations are required to be in place by the end of 2010, which means the normally slow rule-making process is being fast-tracked.

The Wisconsin DNR has proposed a water conservation and water use efficiency rule (NR 852) that will be applied to water users within the Great Lakes Basin (Fig. 1) with high capacity wells that have new or increased withdrawals over the current baseline level. Water users within the basin should have received a letter from DNR in late 2008 specifying the baseline level. As I understand, the baseline was based on current pumping capacity, not historical water use. Therefore, unless the pumping capacity is increased (i.e. new well, or new pump), exceeding the baseline should be difficult.

NR 852 is the rule that will specify new regulations related to water use; the rule is in draft form right now, and based on the initial meetings I expect major changes to be made. However,

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rather than quote exact figures that are likely to change, I will describe some of the general things that you can expect when the final version appears later this year.

For new and increased withdrawals within the Great Lakes Basin, a user would be required to conduct a water audit that establishes the efficiency of the irrigation system and checks for leaks and other inefficiencies. From this information, a water conservation plan would be developed and submitted to DNR. The conservation plan will describe the results of the audit, the current water use level, the water conservation measures already in place, the feasibility of implementation of other water conservation measures, an implementation strategy for feasible water conservation measures, and a monitoring plan to assess the effectiveness of the newly implemented practices. The DNR has developed a tentative list of conservation and efficiency measures. Some examples of the measures may include things like using irrigation scheduling programs, following turf maintenance practices that conserve water (i.e. mowing higher), decreasing irrigated areas, identifying areas for re-use of water (i.e. stormwater detention), installing rainfall shut-off devices, replacing toilets and fixtures, upgrading the irrigation system or system components, and choosing lower water using grasses or plants. These will not be mandatory, but as mentioned above, the DNR will require a feasibility study for some of the options resulting in a report on the environmental and economic tradeoffs. If they are determined to be economically feasible and environmentally sound, they need to be implemented. Obviously, "economically feasible" is a tricky word. However, a second, much simpler route to compliance is available: Reduce water use by 10% over a five-year period. If this route is chosen, the feasibility studies of the CEMs can be skipped.

Like NR-151, this rule is complicated and many unanswered questions remain. However, I am heartened by the process so far. The DNR met with stakeholders twice in March and listened intently to the comments of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association (represented by Colin Seaberg), irrigation contractors, a representative from the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation, myself, and other university specialists. I have faith that the final rules will be reasonable and UW-Extension will work hard to make the compliance process as transparent and painless as possible for those affected. Until the final rule is in place, there is not much that can be done. In the meantime, feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

[1] A high capacity well is defined as a well that averages withdraws of 100,000 gallons per day in any rolling 30 day period (roughly 3,000,000 gallons per month). ■

Ask Not What You Can Do For Your Lawn - Ask What Your Lawn Can Do For You

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE BENEFITS OF TURFGRASS

By Chantel Wilson, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"Ask not what you can do for your lawn - Ask what your lawn can do for you." At first glance, this statement seems counterintuitive... partly because it is a play on a JFK quote. Are we not more concerned with what we can do for our lawn to keep it healthy and looking great? Coming from someone who studies turf pathology, my colleagues and I are always asking what we can do for turf and how we can help the public manage turf. Truth is, we know a lot! There is abundance of information on proper establishment, fertility management, mowing height recommendations, water requirements, fungicide applications, disease control guidelines, and much more to properly maintain grass. Perhaps the lesser addressed question is: What does turf do for us? We all know that everyone who manages their own lawn has grumbled at least once about needing to sacrifice the luxuries of air conditioning and television to go out in the sweltering heat and mow. Why do we torture ourselves, to keep our little patch of green? Turns out, there are many benefits to keeping and maintaining turfgrass!

When asked what the benefits of turfgrass might be, several things jump to mind. Grass is aesthetically pleasing, and looks much better than a field of dirt (you don't send a postcard of a dirt field to grandma). Sports players would much rather fall on plush, soft turf than bone-shattering pavement. Golf just wouldn't be golf if we had to drive from a bed of cacti or weeds. Joking aside, I actually became very interested in the less-intuitive benefits of turf when I was checking my email one morning and saw an article, "Why mowing the lawn relieves stress and boosts your memory[1]." Being someone who is scientifically trained, my first thought was: This has got to be a conglomeration of the material which comes out of the last part of the bull that hops over the fence. Ok, that isn't exactly what I thought. Upon reading the article, actual scientific research has proven that a chemical (cis-3-hexen-1-ol) released by turf when it is cut, has been found to relieve the effects of stress. Researcher Dr. Nick Lavidis from Australia has shown that this chemical and a few other plant-derived compounds have a relaxing effect on the cardiovascular system by upregulation of neurotransmitter activity of the brain[4]. The brain then releases signals into the sympathetic nervous system, and relaxes the constriction of blood vessels caused by stress. The chemical reaction's overall reduction in stress contributes to improvement in mood and stimulates memory by directly working on the brain's amygdala and hippocampus[1]. Essentially, the body unwinds from tension. I was very surprised by this! If that amazing fact wasn't enough to impress you, take solace in knowing that there are several more benefits to growing turfgrasses.

Other scientists have been extremely interested in the benefits of turf, and several publications have been made. A quick overview of the paper "The Role of Turfgrasses in Environmental Protection and Their Benefits to Humans" from James Beard and Robert Green, lists many functional, recreational and aesthetic components. Listed functional benefits included but were not limited to soil erosion control, enhanced biodegradation of synthetic organic compounds, noise/glare reduction, dust stabilization, reduction in fire hazards, improved recharge/quality protection of groundwater, and even "increased security of sensitive installations provided by high-visibility zones". I bet you didn't know your grass is a crime-fighter! Furthermore, this paper emphasizes the research of behavioral scientist Roger Ulrich, who has done a considerable amount of research of the psychological impact of grass, trees, open space, and other natural areas on humans. The authors write that Ulrich's work suggests that an outdoor view has contributed to recovery speed for hospital patients, quality of life within urban areas, reduction in "perceived job stress", and improvements in health[5]. Wow... ditch the apple a day!

Still not impressed? In other research, it has also been found that turf can be suitable to replace asphalt for parking. Provided, of course, that there is light usage, adequate irrigation, and a grass tolerant to "mechanical impedance" used. Benefits cited here are that turf provides natural cooling, and allows for adequate infiltration of precipitation into the groundwater system, which is not provided by impermeable surfaces such as asphalt[3]. What about golf courses? What benefit could they possibly have to the non-golfer? Golf courses, which rely on turf, provide not only aesthetics, but also a benefit that is indirectly linked to turf. If you like animals and native plant conservation, you might be happy to know that over 350 golf courses in the United States are Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries. Establishing Audubon Sanctuaries provides trees, wildflowers, nesting areas for birds, habitat for local wildlife, natural areas, and a great volunteer experience for locals[2]. Homeowners can also get their backyards Audubon certified, although turfed landscapes and golf courses typically are suitable habitats for wildlife. Benefits don't extend just to you, but to the environment, songbirds, foxes, birds of prey, honeybees, deer, rabbits, and turtles as well!

So, the next time you begrudgingly haul out the lawnmower, and you're asking what your lawn has done for you, take note that you might have only remembered to mow your grass because the chemicals released the last time you mowed helped you to do so. Keep your chin up, knowing that the turf helps the environment, saves animals, protects you from falls, and keeps your neighbors happy. If anything, upon completion of your arduous task, the same chemical release will make you feel better when you're done.

Information provided from "Why mowing the lawn relieves stress and boosts your memory[1]" by Daily Mail Reporter, Aug. 31 2009; "Wild Things[2]" by Katherine Woodford of Grounds Maintenance; "Vehicular Turf[3]" by Philip Busey, 1990, University of Florida; "Attenuation of the stress induced upregulation of sympathetic neurotransmission by plant derived odours[4]" by Nick Lavidis, 2007 Society of Neuroscience; and "The Role of Turfgrasses in Environmental Protection and Their Benefits to Humans[5]" by James Beard and Robert L. Green, 1994, Journal of Environmental Quality.

WTA GOLF FUNDRAISER

Blackhawk Country Club
October 4, 2010

The elevation from tee #1 allows you to really send your ball soaring westward

Beautiful fall colors will greet you on your October 4th visit

Hole #10 offers both beauty and challenge

Green #9 is nestled into the bluff and woods of Shorewood Hills

Download registration form at www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org

Contact Audra Anderson for more information at 608-845-6536 or ajander2@wisc.edu

The Foley Bill: A Harbinger for Wisconsin Pesticide Use?

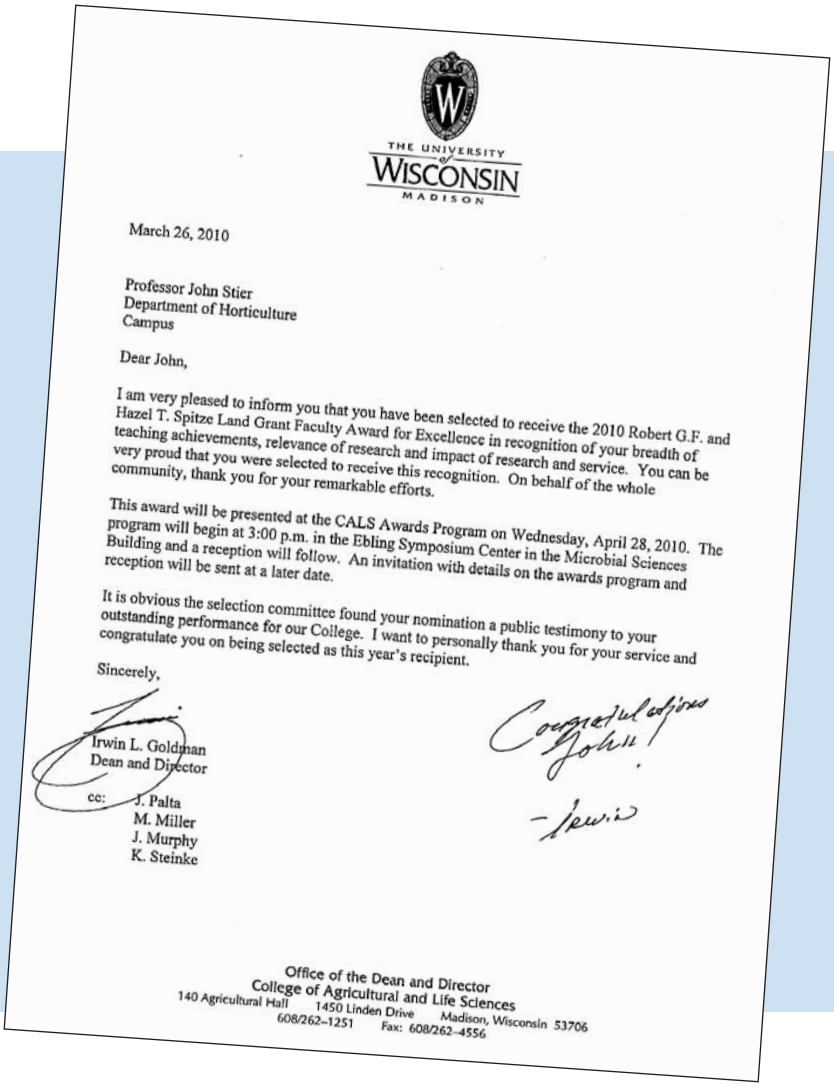
By Dr. John Stier, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The New York Senate passed what is known as the Foley Bill during the week of April 19, 2010. The bill now goes to the House for approval. Named for Brian Foley, the senator who introduced the bill, the Foley Bill will ban application of all synthetic pesticides to school grounds and buildings. In honor of Earth Day, Senator Foley writes on his Facebook page, "A great day for the environment and our children! The Senate approved my legislation to protect children from hazardous pesticides sprayed on school fields and playgrounds." Only natural products, or those that are deemed a 25(b) category by the Environmental Protection Agency, would be allowed to control plants like poison ivy, dandelion, and annual bluegrass on school grounds and athletic fields. Examples of allowable products include things like horticultural soaps and oils, corn gluten meal, and dried blood. I wonder if Senator Foley has ever sprayed a horticultural soap on his lawn (it would kill the turf), or applied corn gluten meal to kill existing ragweed plants to reduce allergens (no effect)? I'm not even going to ask how getting dried blood is "safe". Special exceptions to the use of synthetic pesticides may be made if the county health department or analogous agency or official declares an emergency situation. One wonders: will a child landing in the hospital with a severe case of poison ivy burns warrant an emergency situation?

A troublesome trend here is seeing elected officials second-guess expensive, over-arching administrative vehicles such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which our legislators brought into being for the specific purpose of reducing or avoiding potential harm to humans and the environment from pesticides in the first place. If an elected official like Senator Foley knows more about pesticide safety than the EPA, why are we spending money on the EPA? Do we not trust the 8-10 years of toxicity data the EPA requires before they register a pesticide, plus continuous review of new data? Do we not trust the 1000-fold risk factor the EPA imposed on all pesticides from passage of the 1994 Food Quality Protection Act? Does Senator Foley realize that synthetic pyrethroids are actually safer to mammals than naturally occurring pyrethrins, or that aspirin is five times more toxic than glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup herbicide?

The Foley Bill is something Wisconsin's turf industry needs to watch out for because it's not based on sound science and disregards the very legislation our officials would have us support (e.g., the EPA). When something like this comes to Wisconsin, will you be prepared? ■

CONGRATULATIONS DR. STIER!



THE UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN MADISON

March 26, 2010

Professor John Stier
Department of Horticulture
Campus

Dear John,

I am very pleased to inform you that you have been selected to receive the 2010 Robert G.F. and Hazel T. Spitze Land Grant Faculty Award for Excellence in recognition of your breadth of teaching achievements, relevance of research and impact of research and service. You can be very proud that you were selected to receive this recognition. On behalf of the whole community, thank you for your remarkable efforts.

This award will be presented at the CALS Awards Program on Wednesday, April 28, 2010. The program will begin at 3:00 p.m. in the Ebling Symposium Center in the Microbial Sciences Building and a reception will follow. An invitation with details on the awards program and reception will be sent at a later date.

It is obvious the selection committee found your nomination a public testimony to your outstanding performance for our College. I want to personally thank you for your service and congratulate you on being selected as this year's recipient.

Sincerely,

Irwin L. Goldman
Dean and Director

Congratulations John!
-Irwin

cc: J. Palta
M. Miller
J. Murphy
K. Steinke

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 8	WGCSA Super/ Pro	Morningstar GC, Waukesha
June 15	NGLGCSA Monthly Meeting	American Legion GC, Wausau
June 24	WSTMA Summer Meeting	Miller Park, Milwaukee
July 12	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Watertown CC, Watertown
July 18-20	PLANET Legislative Day on the Hill	Washington DC
July 26-30	TPI Summer Convention and Field Days	New York, NY
July 27	**WTA Summer Field Day**	**O.J. Noer Facility, Verona**
Aug 9	WGCSA Monthly Meeting	Oneida G & CC, Green Bay
Aug 12	WNA Field Day & Trade Show	Northwoods Nursery, Rhinelander
Aug 17	NGLGCSA Monthly Meeting	Timberstone GC, Iron Mountain, MI
Sept 20	Wee One Foundation Golf Fundraiser	Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan
Oct 4	**WTA Golf Fundraiser**	**Blackhawk CC, Madison**
Oct 5	NGLGCSA Supt/Crew Outing	Sweetgrass GC, Wilson, MI
Oct 8,9	WGCSA Couples Outing	Saddle Ridge, Portage
Nov 16,17	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium	American Club, Kohler
Dec 7	NGLGCSA Annual Meeting & Elections	Pine Grove Country Club, Iron Mountain, MI

WTA Members — If you have an important date you'd like to share with other members, call 608-845-6895, fax 608-845-8162, or email tgschwab@wisc.edu to include it in the next calendar.

Contact Telephone Numbers

NGLGCSA	Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Assoc.	www.nglturf.org
PLANET	Professional Landcare Network Executive Forum	www.landcarenetwork.org
STMA	Sports Turf Managers Association Conference	800-323-3875
Symposium	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium	800-287-9645
TPI	Turf Producers International	800-405-8873
Wee One	Wee One Foundation Golf Outing	630-457-7276
WGCSA	Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association	920-643-4888
WGIF	Wisconsin Green Industry Federation Annual Convention	414-529-4705
WNA	Wisconsin Nursery Association Winter Workshop	414-529-4705
WSTMA	Wisconsin Sports Turf Manager Association	608-845-6895
WTA	**Wisconsin Turfgrass Association**	**608-845-6536**