

Turfgrass Producers International

E-Newsletter

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There's a TV show in the U.S. called "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader" that has enjoyed a degree of popularity.

The concept of the show is pretty simple; adults are challenged to answer basic questions that a child in 5th Grade (ages 10-11) should be able to answer. Adult contestants can rely on the help of select 5th Graders if they get stuck on a question.



We recently came across a booklet entitled "Artificial Turf -Questions & Answers".

Although the booklet has no

identification as to the author, publisher or sponsor, a PDF copy of the booklet is available for viewing on the FieldTurf website. Click on the booklet image to access the PDF or click on the link below for direct access:

http://www.fieldturf.com/pdfs/ Artificial_Turf_QA.pdf.

Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?

Evidently some folks promoting artificial turf aren't!

In reading the booklet it became evident that the author(s) could use the help of a 5th Grader. The following is just one statement in the booklet (and there are a few others) that a 5th Grader might like to challenge:

SOURCE:

"Artificial Turf—Questions & Answers" **Q.** "Does replacing natural grass fields with artificial ones reduce the oxygen in the air?

A. 70% of our oxygen comes from the oceans – not from natural grass. The other 30% of our oxygen comes from natural environments that grow, die and decay – such as rainforests and peat bogs. Natural grass playing fields, that get cut every week, do not produce oxygen.'

5TH GRADER'S RESPONSE:

"Sorry, that's wrong. Plants are the only photosynthetic organisms to have leaves. Although not all plants have leaves, turfgrass has leaves. Lots of leaves. The leaves are those green blades that appear above the soil. The leaves are always there, even after you mow the grass, they are just a little shorter after mowing.

A leaf may be viewed as a solar collector crammed full of photosynthetic cells. The raw materials of photosynthesis like water and carbon dioxide enter the cells of the leaf and the products of photosynthesis, like sugar and OXYGEN, leave the leaf.

So you see, TURFGRASS DOES PRODUCE OXYGEN and a lot of it! Maybe you just aren't breathing enough oxygen to think clearly."

"Turfgrass, like most plants, releases oxygen into the air.' SOURCE: University of Idaho plant physiologist Bob Dwelle.

"All green plants produce oxygen." SOURCE: Science in School

"Like all plants, turfgrass releases the oxygen we breathe. Turfgrass is a ground cover that is pleasing to look at, durable and an excellent oxygen producer."

SOURCE: Michigan State University

"Trees and turfgrass produce vast amounts of oxygen while cleansing the air of pollution and cooling the atmosphere."

SOURCE: National Recreation & Park Assn.

"A 2.25 square meter turfgrass area supplies enough oxygen for one person for one day,'

SOURCE: Team Science Activity - Gallaudet University, Washington D.C.



Innovation & Quality

http://www.progressiveturfequip.com/

TPI COMMENTARY—cont'd from page one



SOURCE: "Artificial Turf—Questions & Answers"

Q. Do artificial turf fields get hot?

A. Yes, they do. With almost 5,000 installations, many are located in desert climates, from Nevada to the Middle East. While common sense usually ensures that athletes are not practicing during high temperatures, FieldTurf R&D has developed some unique solutions. However, simply watering the field for 10 minutes will drop its temperature approximately 40 degrees. The temperatures remain lowered for almost 2 hours.

5TH GRADER'S RESPONSE:

"Sorry, I don't think your answer will be acceptable to the judges. They might think you are fibbing just a bit and omitting some important information. You suggest that 'simply watering the field for 10 minutes will drop its temperature approximately 40 degrees and the temperature will remain lower for almost two hours.'

The problem is you don't say what the air temperature was or how hot the field was in your example. And what if the artificial turf is in a public park, or on a school playground? Who is going to water it to cool it down? I guess my 5th Grade classmates and I will have to carry water buckets whenever we go out to play in the park or playground."

RELATED STORY:

In June of 2002 C. Frank Williams and Gilbert E. Pulley conducted a "Synthetic Surface Heat Study" at Brigham Young University.

Preliminary temperatures were taken for synthetic turf, natural turf, bare soil, asphalt and concrete at five feet and six inches above the surface and at the surface with an infrared thermometer.

A soil thermometer was also used to measure the temperature at two inches below the surface of the synthetic turf.

During the study water was used to cool the surface of the natural and artificial turf. It was determined that the natural turf did not heat up very quickly after the irrigation so only the artificial turf was tracked at five and twenty minutes after wetting.

The researchers stated, "The results of the preliminary study are shocking. The surface temperature of the synthetic turf was 37°F higher than asphalt and 86.5°F hotter than natural turf.

Two inches below the synthetic turf surface the temperature was 28.5°F hotter than natural turf at the surface.

Irrigation of the synthetic turf had a significant result cooling the surface from 174°F to 85°F but after five minutes the temperature rebounded to 120°F. The temperature rebuilt to 164°F after only twenty minutes."

These preliminary findings led to a more comprehensive look at the factors involved in heating of the artificial turf.

It should also be noted that The Safety Office at B.Y.U. set 120°F as the maximum temperature that the surface could reach. They determined that when the temperature reaches 122°F it takes less than 10 minutes to cause injury to skin.

The hottest surface temperature recorded during the Brigham Young University study was 200°F on a 98°F day.

Hmmm...so much for FieldTurf R&D's "unique" solutions.

See related story on page 3 entitled —

There's No Debate . . .

Artificial Turf GETS
DANGEROUSLY
HOT!!!



Concern over synthetic turf surface temperatures continues to grow as public awareness increases. The consequences and health risks associated with alarmingly high surface temperatures should not be taken lightly.

To put these extreme temperatures in perspective consider the following:



The American Red Cross reports the following regarding skin burns from hot surface temperatures:

- At 113 °F (45°C) you can get a 3rd degree burn after 5 hours
- At 116.6 °F (47°C) you can get a 3rd degree burn after 45 minutes
- At 118.4 °F (48°C) it only takes 20 minutes
- At 120°F, (48.8°C) it only takes 10 minutes
- At 124°F, (51°C) it only takes 4.2 minutes
- At 131°F (55°C) it only takes 30 seconds
- At I40°F (60°C) it only take 5 seconds of exposure.

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There's No Debate . . .

ARTIFICIAL TURF GETS DANGEROUSLY HOT!!!

"At temperatures above 120 °F, (48.8 °C) it only takes 3 seconds to burn a child's skin severely enough to require surgery."

Source—Study cited by NYC Health Department



Artificial Turf Heat Alert

City posts warnings of health risks to those playing on scorching fields.

Children swarmed the artificial-turf soccer field at Asphalt Green in New York, but a sign at the gate might have raised a red flag for their parents.

"This field can get hot on warm, sunny days," said the posting by the city's Parks Department. "If you experience symptoms of heat-related illness, such as dizziness, weakness, headache, vomiting, or muscle cramps, move to a shaded area. Drink water, rest, and seek medical attention if you do not feel better."

This sign will soon appear at all of the city's 94 artificial turf fields — as well as at the 68 fields planned for the future — to warn the public about the risks of overheating and dehydration.

After a decade of installing artificial turf, New York city's Parks Department is finally acknowledging what's long been known: Fake grass gets hot.

One day in May, the artificial turf at Brooklyn's Cadman Plaza was 165.5°F (74.16°C), while a nearby plot of grass measured just 83°F (28.3°C). Waves of heat rose from the field. "It's outrageous," said Josh Srebnick, a pediatric neuropsychologist who was playing with his five-year-old son, Jake.

One study cited by the Health Department in a recent report on the turf said, "At temperatures above 120 degrees (48.8°C), it only takes 3 seconds to burn a child's skin severely enough to require surgery."

The Parks Department has never taken surface temperatures, but this summer it will begin to conduct its own tests of "air quality" on hot days, said a spokesperson. It's also" exploring" alternatives to rubber-infill turf "to make fields cooler."



"One day in May, the artificial turf at Brooklyn's Cadman Plaza in New York was 165.5°F (74.16°C)."

Send us a photo of your LICENSE PLATE





We think it would be a great idea to create a clever image out of assorted vanity license plates from around the world that feature words associated with turfgrass.

If you have a turf-related license plate(s) please send us a photo of the license plate (not the whole car) for our collection. The following are just a few samples:

TURF
TURFGRASS
TURF FARM
LAWN
GRASS
SOD
BIG ROLLS
SMALL ROLLS
ROLLED TURF
GREEN
SODDING
SOD FARM
TURF MAN

E-mail your photos to inovak@TurfGrassSod.org or mail them to: TPI E-Newsletter 2 East Main Street, East Dundee, IL 60118 USA



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Where in the world is TPI represented?

EVERYWHERE!

An on-going series featuring photos and copy from TPI member websites.

Pattensen, Germany



http://www.rasenland.de/fertigrasen/index.htm (The following is a modified German to English translation)

Rasenland turf roll is a natural product!



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Rasenland (Country Lawn) produces top quality turfgrass at economical prices.

Rasenland rolling lawns omit the usual problems

of reseeding and with 4 locations in Germany and a history that spans 16 years, we are unsurpassed in product quality and flexibility.

From the smallest quantity to large-scale projects we are your partner for home gardens, landscaping, municipalities, parks, golf courses, sport fields, soccer associations and private users.



Rasenland is member in the federation of the TPI (Turfgrass Producers International) and the DRG (German Lawns Society).

TurfSide-UP

Stressed Out? Put A Little Spring In Your Step!



Summer has arrived in the northern hemisphere, but according to recent research the sunshine alone is not enough to lift the population's spirits. It seems that three quarters (72 %) of UK workers admitted they feel seriously stressed on a daily basis. Fortunately the antidote is close at hand – or more specifically at feet – with 81% saying that a simple walk in the park makes them feel instantly relaxed.



Krispy Kreme, known around the world for their tasty donuts, questioned over 1,000 UK workers and found that over half believed their stress levels are affected by a lack of contact with Mother Nature.

Each shoe has over 5,000 blades of grass and, if regularly tended to and watered, can last for over four months.

In response to the problem Krispy Kreme has created the world's first grass flip-flops to bring summer magic to the city – giving stressed out workers a spring in their step by creating an instant grassy park underneath their feet regardless of their urban location.

The flip-flops take up to three weeks to grow and each shoe is covered with over 5,000 blades of grass. If watered regularly the unique footwear can remain in season for over four months — they are the perfect, head-turning summer-accessory for stressed-out men and women.

Katie McDermott, Brand Manager, Krispy Kreme UK comments: "What better way to escape the concrete jungle than by slipping on a pair of grass flip-flops and walking around in your own mobile meadow. We cheer people up every day with our one of a kind doughnuts, but hopefully by providing them with their own part of park-life too we'll be able to bring a sense of natural calm to stressed-out workers."

For more information and images contact the Krispy Kreme press office at Mischief on 020 7100 9999 or visit krispykreme@mischiefpr.com



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WE'RE NOT JUST IN THE BUSINESS . . . WE MADE IT!



Native American Indian (First Nations) Proverb:

"Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children."



Photo courtesy of TPI Member Techstroy, Invest Ltd. Moscow, Russia

A TIP OF THE HAT to **Leonard DeBuck** - DeBuck's Sod Farm in Pine Island, New York

Congratulations!

The TPI E-newsletter would like to salute TPI member **Leonard DeBuck** of DeBuck's Sod Farm in Pine Island, New York for being named **Producer** of the **Year** (2008) by the New York Farm Viability Institute.

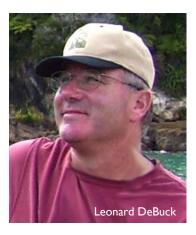
Leonard, who's farm covers 450 acres along the Wallkill River, was honored for his participation in a project to decrease time to harvest by experimenting with levels of nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous.

Upon receiving the award, Leonard was quoted as saying, "The award reminds me of my dad as I farm very differently than he did, which has challenged me to adopt new farming methods, and the ability to see 'change' work in a positive way."

The New York Farm Viability Institute is a farmer-led nonprofit organization that provides grant funding to applied research and outreach education projects that help farms increase profits and provide models for other farms.

The Institute is dedicated to working with farms of different sizes, sectors, production practices and locations in New York State. The Institute works to foster a vibrant agriculture business sector in New York by supporting applied research, outreach education, information transfer, adoption of technology, business planning and market analysis.





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RESHAPING THE FACE OF NATURE



The Brit's, Aussies and Yanks Know How To Have MOW Fun!

It started in Great Britain with the founding of the British Lawn Mower Racing Association (BLMRA) in 1973 at the Cricketers Arms in Wisborough Green, West Sussex. The Americans liked what they saw and followed suit in 1992. Today, the popularity of Lawn Mower Racing seems to have captured the hearts of fans worldwide. They're

racing in Australia, Holland, Germany and in little towns, villages and hamlets in between. Although the rules vary the ultimate challenge is the same - - try to

A sample of the rules for competing in a U.S. Lawn Mower Racing Association event appear below.









- Events are open to all self-propelled rotary or reel style riding lawn mowers.
- The mower must have been originally designed and sold commercially to mow lawns.
- It must remain suitable for lawn cutting, apart from the modifications permitted in the USLMRA Handbook.
- Every mower entered in any USLMRA event must be approved for competition by Technical Inspection.
- Any mower may be re-inspected at any time by the Chief Steward or Chief Technical Inspector.
- CUTTING BLADES MUST BE REMOVED COMPLETELY FROM ALL MOWERS.
- Non-stock mowers must be equipped with an automatic throttle closing device.
- All mowers must be equipped with an engine safety cut-off
- Mower brakes must be in good condition, operating on at least 2 wheels.
- Fuel must be pump gas. The only additive allowed is STA-BIL Fuel Stabilizer.
- Every driver must wear an automobile racing or motorcycle-type safety helmet.
- Every driver shall wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves and shoes on the track.
- It is MANDATORY that all drivers wear an "approved for racing" neck support.

Mow Info: Formed 1992 the U.S. Lawn Mower Racing Association is the nation's oldest and largest National Lawn Mower Racing Sanctioning Body. There are more than 600 USLMRA members nationwide. 32 Local Chapters and Affiliated Clubs host more than 130 sanctioned races nationwide in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Lawn mowers race in four road course classes with all cutting blades removed: Stock (10 mph), IMOW (20 mph), Prepared (50 mph) and Factory Experimental (60 mph).

Want mow information? Click on the images below:





Great Britain

United States







Australia

Canada

Australia



Premiere Advertiser

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 . . . Stetson "The Rocket Dog?"









Robert Byrd looks on as Stetson uses his Paw Activated Launch pad to fire a rocket.



Bill Murff of Murff Turf Farm in Crosby, Texas is quick to tell you that he has a friend who has something you don't have. No, it's not a new variety of turfgrass or some innovative way of doing business

... his friend, Robert Byrd has a dog named Stetson, a sable coated Sheltie (Shetland Sheepdog) who is a marvelous companion and according to Robert the fastest learning dog he has ever trained.

After exhausting his imagination and going through several dog trick books, Robert ran out of new stunts to teach Stetson - - that is until now. That's because Stetson has learned to launch model rockets by himself with what Robert describes as a P.A.L. (Paw Activated Launch).

Just how did Stetson become the now famous "Rocket Dog"? Robert says he got the idea when he saw how excited Stetson got when he took him to the field to launch rockets. "I would start counting down and Stetson would go crazy. So I thought, why not teach him to launch rockets," says Bill.

Scott Murff, Bill's son, says Robert and Stetson often launch rockets on their farm because it's a big open area with plenty of room.

By the way, Stetson loves fan mail. Send him an <u>e-mail</u> and tell him what you think. He doesn't always reply though; he prefers barking over typing. stetson@truewater.com



Stetson "The Rocket Dog" catches up on recent press coverage.

We aren't making this stuff up . . . you can find the entire story posted at http://www.therocketdog.com/ including great video footage.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu

PUBLICATION 8255

Lawns 'n' Dogs

ALI HARIVANDI, Environmental Horticulture Advisor, U.C. Cooperative Extension, Alameda County

If you feel you have to choose between your best friend and your lawn, you are not alone (fig. 1). Many homeowners face the familiar patches—either dark green and overgrown or else yellow and dead-looking—declaring to the world that they own or are visited by canine friends (fig. 2). What most people don't realize, however, is that it's possible to have both a green lawn and a, ahem, relieved dog!

Dog injury (i.e., "doggie spot") is a problem that almost every lawn owner experiences at one time or another. Although dogs can severely damage lawns through digging or other such wear and tear, it is what they must do naturally that most commonly affects the lawns of pet and nonpet households alike (fig. 3). And while dog feces are an eyesore and unpleasant to dispose of, dog urine is more damaging and can actually kill the grass.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Damage from dog urine usually appears as circular dead patches (rarely more than 3 inches in diameter). Each patch consists of necrotic, dried out, yellow to brown tissue, often encircled by a border of healthy, dark green grass. This margin is often a darker green than the surrounding turf. Because several lawn patch diseases cause symptoms similar to dog spots (e.g., dollar spot and brown patch), it is important to observe the behavior of one's own (or the neighborhood's) dog to confirm the origin of the spots. Otherwise, the appearance of such spots, especially if they increase rapidly in size and number, may indicate active lawn disease. Dog urine damage may not always include dead grass. Very small dogs or dogs releasing a slight amount of urine in one spot (e.g., "marking" behavior) may cause spots with very dark, taller growth compared to surrounding grass (fig. 4).

Burned spots may recover with regrowth depending on the amount of urine released, the type and health of the lawn grass, time of year, irrigation, and rain con-





Figure 1. Dogs love to play on lawns!



Figure 2. "Doggie spot" (lawn killed by dog urine). Older spots may remain dead, but the turf on the perimeter may turn dark green and grow faster due to nitrogen release.

ANR Publication 8255







Figure 4. Where dog urine does not kill grass, its nitrogen causes plants to grow faster and darker than surrounding turf, compromising lawn uniformity.

ditions during or after the "event." If the burn is severe, however, the spots may need to be reseeded or resodded; otherwise, weeds may eventually replace the lawn grass on these spots.

WHAT CAUSES THE DAMAGE?

Urine, consisting mainly of uric acid, delivers large amounts of nitrogen and salts to a small area. The result is similar to the "burn" caused by overapplication (e.g., accidental spilling) of lawn fertilizers. It is the soluble salts (primarily nitrogen compounds) in urine that kill the grass, essentially pulling water out of turfgrass blades and causing death of leaf tissue through dehydration. The darker green, fast growing ring around the dead spots is a response to moderately increased availability of nitrogen in those areas.

All dogs' urine contains salts and nitrogen that can kill the grass. But it is the way dogs deposit their urine on a lawn that determines the extent of injury. Dogs that squat to urinate deposit a large volume of urine in a small spot and cause more severe damage than dogs that raise their legs when urinating. Generally speaking, female dogs and young dogs of both sexes squat to urinate. Older male dogs raise their leg, spreading urine to a larger area. Male dogs are also more territorial and do more "marking" than female dogs, and so they tend to urinate small amounts in a number of different locations. Thus, dogs that are young, large, or female often do more damage than ones that are old, small, or male.

ARE ALL GRASSES EQUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE?

All lawn grasses are susceptible to dog urine burn. However, severity of injury and recovery characteristics vary among grasses. Generally, warm-season, aggressively growing grasses such as bermudagrass, kikuyugrass, and St. Augustinegrass recover from injury faster than cool-season or noncreeping grasses. Warm-season grasses have horizontally growing rhizomes or stolons which quickly grow back into the dead spot, filling it before weeds invade. Among cool-season grasses, tall fescue appears to tolerate dog urine damage better than either Kentucky bluegrass or perennial ryegrass.

Dog urine damage to lawns is exacerbated by hot, dry weather, which also contributes to leaf dehydration and thus increases the degree of burn. Damage is less severe during cooler months or when frequent rain can wash urine from grass leaves and leach excessive urine and salts from the root zone.

TPI COMMENT:

Dr. Ali Harivandi, University of California reports that for some reason there have been increased inquiries regarding damage to lawns by man's best friend - the family dog.

We would like to thank Dr. Ali Harivandi and the University of California for making this information available to our readers.

A PDF of this article is also available by visiting: http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8255.pdf

Additional articles of interest can be found by visiting http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu

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Photos by Ali Harivandi.

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CALIFORNIA

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HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM?

There are basically two approaches to dealing with dog injury on lawns. Preventive methods are often adequate. If not, then repair of the damaged area is in order.

PREVENTION

Training a dog not to urinate on the lawn may be possible if alternate locations for urination are available. Testimonials for dietary approaches to reducing dog urine's lawn burning effects are abundant. However, no such approach has been proved effective and such claims are not supported by research results. Most homeowners, therefore, must rely primarily on physical remedies after the fact.

Flooding the urine spot with large volumes of water immediately after the "act" is the most effective way to prevent lawn burn. The water will wash off the salts and nitrogen from the foliage, diluting and leaching them below the leaves and crowns of the grass plants. The sooner the water is applied after urination, the better. An observant, dedicated lawn and dog owner, with a hose or full watering can at the ready, stands the best chance of preventing spots on lawns caused by dogs! In some locations, motion-activated sprinklers designed to keep animals out of gardens may prevent neighborhood dogs from visiting one's yard. Once triggered, these sprinklers operate for a short period of time, but long enough to encourage the animal to take his/her business elsewhere. Check with your local garden center for the availability of such systems. Another effective option, if neighborhood dogs are causing the problem, would be fencing off the lawn area.

REPAIR

If lawn burn is mild, and especially if it is on warm-season, creeping-type grasses like bermudagrass and kikuyugrass, it is likely that the spot will eventually repair itself and lawn owners may not have much to worry about. However, if the burn is extensive or occurs on noncreeping grasses, then repair may be necessary to prevent weed invasion.

To repair individual burn spots, either reseed or resod. With either approach, begin by watering the spot thoroughly to leach urine salts from the root zone. Then remove the dead grass and, using a small spade or hand shovel, loosen up the soil. To reseed, mix a handful of lawn grass seed with potting soil and mix with the spot's loosened soil; gently pack it down. Water immediately and keep moist until seedlings emerge. A more effective and faster way to repair the spot is to resod. If repairing many spots at once, purchase a slab of sod from the local nursery and cut it into small pieces to fill the spots. If there are only a few spots, you may want to cut pieces of sod (2 inches deep) from an inconspicuous edge of the lawn and use these for repair. Remove dead grass and loosen the soil. Place cut pieces of sod on each spot and step on them gently to assure good contact with the soil. Water thoroughly and keep moist until the sod has rooted. Small pieces of sod dry out very quickly. You may need to irrigate the sodded spots several times during the day to keep sod from drying out.

Severely and extensively damaged lawns, especially where dogs are constantly active, may require total renovation: removal of dead grass, tilling, and soil preparation followed by reseeding or resodding. The best times to do this in much of California are either fall (mid-September to late October) or spring (mid-March to mid-April).

As frustrating as doggie spots may be to homeowners, it can help to remember that a damaged lawn is a lot easier to replace than a relationship with a beloved pet!

TPI Member's *Letter to the Editor*

Our thanks to TPI Member James Maulden of McCall Sod Farm in Southport, Florida for expressing his concerns on the proposed WaterSense specifications. His Letter to the Editor was published in the Tallahassee Democrat which is widely read in political circles and statewide.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee.com



Letters to the Editor TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT July 13, 2009

The federal Environmental Protection Agency is proposing guidelines that will impact what homeowners can choose in designing their yards. It's part of the "Outdoor Water-Efficiency Criteria" of the WaterSense program, which aims to add a landscaping component that limits how much grass can be planted.

As a sod producer and a business owner, I am concerned about the devastating impact these caps could have on our farms, which contribute hundreds of millions to the state economy and employ more than 5,000 Floridians.

Our association, the Florida Sod Growers Cooperative, is deeply committed to the wise use of water. Our Lawns Make Our World Greener

(www.floridalawn.com) program was launched to teach homeowners how to use less water and still maintain healthy turf in their Florida-friendly landscapes.

We would like to support the EPA's voluntary WaterSense program. However, we feel there is still work needed and questions left unanswered.

Does it take into account new research that shows grass needs much less water than homeowners typically apply? Are severe limits on landscapes needed before current rules and education targeting overwatering are given a chance?

We're concerned that setting a blanket cap on the percentage of grass allowed in a landscape is arbitrary, is not based on science and sends a resoundingly negative — and undeserved — message about turf that will impact an industry already suffering under the current economy.

We urge Floridians and our representatives in Washington to challenge the EPA to weigh these questions fully. Together we can find a sustainable solution.

JAMES W. MAULDEN
McCall Sod Farm Inc.

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Deadline Approaching to Renew your Annual TPI Membership Dues

If you have not renewed your annual TPI membership for 2009-2010, please do so by September 4, 2009. Your membership is a wise investment in the turfgrass sod industry. Support the only international association that continues to promote the benefits of turfgrass in this challenging economy and provides members with the resources, education and networking opportunities to help your business!

Be sure to renew promptly so no interruption in member services occurs including receiving *Turf News* magazine, newsletters and being listed in the printed and online membership directory.

How to Renew Your TPI Membership Dues?

- Mail check (U.S. funds) to TPI, 2 East Main Street, East Dundee, Illinois, 60118 USA
- Credit card Visa, MasterCard or American Express
 Wire transfer please email shall@TurfGrassSod.org to request instructions for a wire transfer

Do you need a copy of the invoice emailed or faxed? Contact Susan Hall at 847-649-5555 or shall@TurfGrassSod.org





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