

IN THIS ISSUE

- Is the City of Toronto becoming overrun with weeds?
- Mayor Bloomberg welcomes Turfgrass Producers International to New York City
- Letter to the Editor—TPI member expresses his thoughts to the City of Orlando.
- Who writes this stuff? Where to buy fake grass
- Proud parents of a Stanley Cup Champion
- Regional & State Association News
- U.S. Housing Starts Stall in May
- Where in the world is TPI represented? Aigues-Mortes, France
- How Turfgrass Affects the Environment
- Do We Really Need to Pamper Our Lawns?



Turfgrass Producers
International
2 East Main Street
East Dundee, IL 60118
Tel: 847/649-5555
Tel: 800/405-8873
Fax: 847/649-5678
Email:
info@TurfGrassSod.org
Website:
www.TurfGrassSod.org
Comments & Submissions:
jnovak@TurfGrassSod.org

Volume 3 Issue 7

July 2010

Is the City of TORONTO becoming overrun with weeds?



In last month's E-Newsletter the *Turfside-Up* column presented a satirical look at the fictitious Village of Snoresville, a town that had a growing weed problem because herbicides were banned. The column generated response from several readers who advised us that our imaginary town could very well have been the city of Toronto in Ontario, Canada.

We learned that Tom Hayes, a reporter for CTV News in Toronto provided a story on that city's weed problem late last year that stirred considerable interest.

The city of Toronto banned cosmetic pesticides in 2004, and the province of Ontario banned them in April of 2009. The consequences of that decision has some people wondering if it was the right thing to do.

According to the Hayes report, "What used to look like traffic islands are now infested with high growing weeds.



In some areas the weeds are simply out of control, and in terms of safety, fire fighters may have to grab a weed-whacker before they grab a hose."

Hayes went on to pose the question - "But what do we do with all the weeds, how do we get rid of them? We all agree that pesticides are dangerous, they're harmful, or are they?"

The reporter then introduced Dr. Clarence Swanton, a professor and author whose life's work at the University of Guelph has been in studying weeds.

Dr. Swanton commented that herbicides were developed to benefit mankind not to do harm. He added that Canada already had very strong guidelines on how herbicides could be used and landscape specialists adhered to those guidelines. He went on to suggest that the ban has presented its share of unexpected consequences.

According to Dr. Swanton, the negative results of the ban are just now being fully realized and it's likely things will get even worse.

Although Toronto is just five years into the pesticide ban Dr. Swanton predicts that ten to fifteen years down the road the city and the province could be in for costly repairs as weeds and roots grow deeper into the roadways and infrastructure.

Cont'd on page 2

Is the City of Toronto becoming overrun by weeds? Cont'd from page 1

He suggests that the cost to cities for maintenance has already increased tremendously and those costs will continue to rise.



Unightly weeds on city sidewalks and curbs eventually deteriorate concrete creating a safety hazard while taking a costly toll on municipal budgets.

In a related story, Peter Shawn Taylor, writing in The Record.com on May 27 also stated the ban has had serious consequences.

Taylor reported that after he wrote about Ontario's pesticide ban in the National Post, he was contacted by Dr. John Sorochoan, professor of turf management at the University of Tennessee. Sorochoan's specialty is the safety of athletic fields for school age children. He quoted Sorochoan as stating, "If you want a safer sports field, you want thick, healthy, natural grass. A field overrun with dandelions can't provide the necessary stability, consistency or traction." When weeds overrun a field, they leave a lot of soil uncovered. In wet weather this turns to soupy mud. In hot dry weather it gets rock hard.

According to Taylor, Sorochoan cited statistics showing that up to 20 percent of sports injuries may be attributed to poor field conditions. Without recourse to pesticides, sports fields and playgrounds will

inevitably lose their uniform grass cover and become more prone to causing injuries. And as the safety of grass fields decline, it seems inevitable they will be replaced with artificial turf. But "artificial turf is hotter to play on and it doesn't provide any environmental benefits," chides Sorochoan who went on to add, "It also needs to be thrown out at the end of its useful life. So the pesticide ban will likely increase the number of twisted ankles and blown knees among the province's soccer-playing youth. And it will have a negative impact on the environment. Hardly the outcome anti-pesticide activists promised."



Combine all this with the anger of homeowners who are watching their lawns disappear under a sea of yellow and the pesticide ban could become a major headache for the elected officials who proposed the ban in the first place.

In yet another story, police officer Tom McKay of the Peel Regional Police in Ontario commented in the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) newsletter

that he has been watching unintended weeds replace well-tended lawns and boulevards in the Toronto neighborhood where he grew up.



Weeds spread in front of grade school once attended by officer Tom McKay.

McKay wrote, "Make no mistake, there is a price to pay every time a maintenance budget is cut, a piece of graffiti is not removed and/or accepted and a principal means of weed control is banned without a viable alternative in place. People tend to feel less safe and avoid these areas and reputations have and will suffer. It has been years, for instance, since I heard a tourist refer to Toronto as a clean city, once a staple on local newscasts. As a concerned and lifelong resident of Toronto, I see examples of this deterioration on a daily basis".

SIDE NOTE:

A legal challenge regarding the banning of cosmetic pesticides in Ontario, Canada is currently before the court.



Mayor of the City of New York extends a warm welcome to Turfgrass Producers International and attendees of the 2010 Summer Convention and Field Days

OFFICE of the MAYOR

MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor of the City of New York

"It is a great pleasure to welcome all those attending the Turfgrass Producers International 2010 Summer Convention and Field Days . . . "

"On behalf of the City of New York, I offer my best wishes for a productive week and continued success."



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

July 25, 2010

Dear Friends:


It is a great pleasure to welcome all those attending the Turfgrass Producers International 2010 Summer Convention and Field Days.

New York City is the world's financial, cultural, and intellectual capital. Even in these difficult economic times, our City continues to lead the world in business and innovation, and I am proud to join you in applauding the hard work and ambition of everyone attending this week's convention. The exchange of ideas and information is critical to the well-being of individuals and businesses alike, and the people gathered here form an invaluable network of mutual support as we seek to emerge from these challenging times stronger than ever.

In addition, this week is a chance to embrace everything New York City has to offer. Just ask the 45 million visitors who came to our great City last year: there's no better way to experience the electricity and diversity of New York than by exploring the sights and shops in our neighborhoods. From Coney Island's boardwalk amusements to Flushing's bustling Chinatown to the beautiful green spaces of Central Park—and all points in between—there's enough here to see and do to last a lifetime!

On behalf of the City of New York, I offer my best wishes for a productive week and continued success.

Sincerely,


Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dave Dymond, TPI's Vice President - Elect wanted to share his thoughts with fellow Floridians regarding the Orlando City Commission's plan to convert the Florida Citrus Bowl from a natural turfgrass field to an artificial playing field. His comments featured below were submitted to the *Orlando Sentinel* for their consideration.

As an Orlando resident, a local sod grower and a sports fan, I'm disappointed in the vote this week by the City Council to spend a whopping \$1.5 million to turn the Florida Citrus Bowl into a field of fake grass.

But it's not too late for the rest of the sports fans of Orlando to ask City Hall to use our tax dollars wisely and to stay green with natural grass.

To be sure, the poor conditions at the Citrus Bowl during last year's bowl games were dismal. But this was an exception, not the rule, for a venue where natural grass has performed up to professional standards for decades. In fact, within weeks the East-West Shrine Bowl played out on sod that stood up to that professional football event.

While the idea of renovating the Florida Citrus Bowl has been in the news, the citizens have not had the opportunity to fully understand the choice before the city, especially the cost involved and the jobs at stake as Orlando faces key budget decisions.

Before any taxpayer money is spent, several factors should be openly examined to ensure that the project is feasible, economically sound, and most importantly, will achieve the goal of making the Citrus Bowl a draw for state and national sporting events. Those include:

- The true costs of natural grass installation, maintenance and care versus the same costs for synthetic surfaces. Correctly maintained natural grass fields can provide a quality playing surface at a fraction of the costs being discussed.
- The latest research on sports fields injuries on artificial surfaces and player preference

- The concerns, particularly in Florida, about extreme temperatures on artificial fields, which can be as high as 150 degrees or more and require significant amounts of irrigation for cooling the surface to make it safe to use, and

- The environmental aspects, including material content of artificial products, water and chemicals needed for cleaning, disinfecting and maintenance, and more importantly, the loss of the significant environmental benefits turfgrass provides. Natural turf produces oxygen, cools the atmosphere, absorbs carbon, and captures and filters rainwater and runoff. What is more "green" and fits better into the environmental "green movement" than responsibly managed natural turf?

Think about it - why do the Gators, Seminoles, Knights, Bulls, Canes, Bucs, Jags, Dolphins and Disney's Wide World of Sports complex all choose to play on natural grass? Why have several of these teams who've tried artificial surfaces switched back to natural grass? And what surface are the World Cup soccer championships being played on at this very moment? That's right - natural grass.

If City Commissioners want to make responsible budget and environmental decisions and continue to attract world class sporting events to our city, it's critical that these discussions take place fully and openly before a decision is made.

Respectfully submitted,
David A. Dymond
 1665 Lake Baldwin Lane
 Orlando, FL 32814

NOTE: Just prior to releasing our E-Newsletter we learned that the *Orlando Sentinel* did publish Dave's comments on June 29th.

TurfSide-Up

Artificial Grass

Where to buy fake grass

By admin | 2010/06/09 03:59

WHO WRITES THIS STUFF?

Much of what is featured in *TurfSide-Up* is intended to be tongue-in-cheek, but sometimes we run across little ditties that need no embellishment for added humor. The following copy has not been altered, edited or modified in any way and actually appears as is (typos and all) on the website - **ARTIFICIAL LAWN**

<http://artificiallawnsite.com/where-to-buy-fake-grass-2/>

Q. What does the word TURF mean? i am trying to buy fake grass to put in my backyard and i was wondering where is a good place to get fake grass? and is TURF fake grass? than what is fake grass called? just fake grass?

A. Turf is real grass however there are some patented inventions which serve the purpose for people to play sports on just like real grass but that are artificial and you can have them installed in your backyard, they are AstroTurf and FieldTurf.

AstroTurf is basically like a rug and is probably easier to install, is really smooth and you won't really hurt yourself if you fall on it, some big disadvantages are that you will be more prone

to injury like breaking your ankle, there's been many cases like that in the past and is not a good idea to slide on it because you'll get the same consequences of a rug burn.

FieldTurf has a technology that uses small black rubber pellets (that looks like pebbles) under the artificial grass reducing shock and strain when you run on it thus reducing your chances of injury. A disadvantage is those pesky little pellets getting in your shoes and is probably going to be harder to install since it looks complex.

To answer your question you should probably go to home depot or lowes.

AS FOR WHO WRITES THIS STUFF?

We think it's a fellow with artificial intelligence who goes by the name of Admin. - JNovak

TurfSide-Up is a satirical feature of the TPI E-Newsletter. Any similarity to persons living or dead is purely coincidental except in the case of prominent public figures, where actions and characteristics are used for the purpose of parody and satire. *TurfSide-Up* does not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of Turfgrass Producers International or its members. It is the satirical viewpoint of Jim Novak.



Admin (left) and two fellow researchers, (Chester Dumbcoff seen lying down and Felix Burpee who is about to kick Dumbcoff in the head) testing artificial turf at the Institute of Artificial Intelligence.

Proud Parents of a STANLEY CUP CHAMPION!

The Chicago Blackhawks and Chicagoans alike are proud to have won the Stanley Cup, but no one is prouder than TPI members **Neil and Sharon Boynton of Boynton Brothers Sod Farm** in Nobleton, Ontario, CANADA . Why? Because their son **Nick Boynton** is a defenseman for the Stanley Cup Championship winning Chicago Blackhawks.



Nick Boynton of Nobleton, Ontario savors a moment of pure joy as he raises the Stanley Cup after the Chicago Blackhawks defeated the Philadelphia Flyers in game six of the Stanley Cup finals. It had been 49 long years since the Chicago Blackhawks had won the Stanley Cup. Worth noting, Nick along with his team mates vowed not to shave until they won the Stanley Cup.

Neil and Sharon had an opportunity to attend some of the playoff games in both Chicago and Philadelphia. Sharon's comments, "We were in Chicago last weekend for a game and what an amazing city, did the boat tour and as much site seeing as we could in about 48 hours. We are very proud of Nick and truly all enjoying this. Actually just got back from Philly, oh my what a time!"

For those of you who are avid hockey fans we offer the following stats on Nick's career and send him our hearty congratulations.



Nick Boynton



**CHICAGO
BLACKHAWKS**

For Avid Hockey Fans

Nick Boynton was recalled from the American Hockey League's Rockford IceHogs earlier this year. He was acquired by the Chicago Blackhawks from the Anaheim Ducks in exchange for future considerations on March 2 before being assigned to Rockford. The Nobleton, Ontario, native has registered seven points (G, 6A) and 59 penalty minutes in 42 National Hockey League games with the Ducks this season and five assists and 22 penalty minutes in 15 AHL tilts with Rockford and the Manitoba Moose.

Boynton has racked up 135 points (33G, 102A) and 810 penalty minutes in 547 career NHL regular-season contests spanning 10 seasons with the Boston Bruins (1999-2006), Phoenix Coyotes (2006-08), Florida Panthers (2008-09) and Ducks (2009-10). Boston's first choice, 21st overall, in the 1999 NHL Entry Draft, Boynton appeared in three postseasons with the Bruins (2002-04), posting six points (G, 5A) in 18 Stanley Cup Playoff matchups. He was named to the 2002 NHL All-Rookie Team and skated in the 2004 NHL All-Star game as a member of the Eastern Conference squad.

Prior to turning pro, Boynton helped the Ontario Hockey League's Ottawa 67's capture the 1999 Memorial Cup and was named the most valuable player of the tournament. He tallied 144 assists, 185 points and 410 penalty minutes in 218 career regular-season games with Ottawa spanning four seasons (1995-99).

Regional & State Association News



Maryland Turfgrass Association and Virginia Turfgrass Association

Join forces for first ever
Regional Bi-State Field Day
in Maryland.

On June 5th, 2010 the Maryland Turfgrass Association in partnership with the Virginia Turfgrass Association held their first regional bi-state Field Day at Collins Wharf Sod Farm in Eden, MD. There were almost 100 people in attendance to enjoy the beautiful weather and the impressive display of machinery.

The hands-on demonstration of the equipment was enjoyed by several generations of sod farmers.

The day started with a continental breakfast during registration and open time for vendor visits with non-demonstrating vendors. TPI members **Doug Lechluder** and MTA President, **Doug Barberry** (both TPI members) shared the emcee duties as demonstrating vendors showed off an impressive display of harvesters, autostackers, forklifts, pallet movers, mowers, installers and rollers. The demonstrations were followed by a buffet lunch of North Carolina BBQ and all the trimmings.

The Field Day was held at the **Collins Wharf Sod Farm** in Eden, MD. Collins Wharf is a family-owned farm for four generations on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. They have over 500 acres of Tall Fescue, Bentgrass and Bermudagrass in production. The farm was started in 1921 by the current owner's (Fred Moore Jr.) grandparents. Fred's mother Connie still actively participates in the daily operations of the farm, as does Fred's son Eddie and Fred's daughter Renee. From Connie on down to Eddie and Renee's children, it was wonderful to see four generations enjoying the goodness of farm life. Collins Wharf Sod Farm is beautifully maintained. The family should take great pride in the wonderful job they did hosting the first joint Maryland Turfgrass Association/Virginia Turfgrass Association 2010 Field Day.



Attendees look over equipment during the Regional Bi-State Field Day.



The Fred Moore family of Collins Wharf Sod Farm in Eden, Maryland served as the host farm for the first Regional Bi-State Field Day conducted by the Maryland and Virginia Turfgrass Associations.

U.S. Housing Starts Stall in May



New-home production declined 10 percent in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 593,000 units, the slowest pace since December 2009, while permit issuance slowed 5.9 percent to a rate of 574,000 units, its slowest pace since May 2009.

"Not surprisingly, builders tapped the brakes on new-home production and pulled fewer permits for new homes in May in response to an expected lull in buyer demand following expiration of the tax credits at the end of April," noted Bob Jones, chairman of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and a home builder from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

"In the coming months, an improving economy, rising employment, low mortgage rates and stabilizing home values should play their part to keep the housing market moving forward," said NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe, while adding that the ongoing difficulties builders are having in obtaining financing for viable new projects and accurate appraisals of new homes are complicating factors that are slowing the industry's recovery.

The decline in housing starts in May was entirely on the single-family side. But meanwhile, multifamily starts, which can be more erratic on a monthly basis, showed a dramatic 33 percent gain in May to a rate of 125,000 units.

Permit issuance, which can be an indicator of future building activity, fell 9.9 percent on the single-family side to a rate of 438,000 units in May, which was also the slowest pace since May 2009. Multifamily permit issuance rose 9.7 percent to 136,000 units in May.

Regionally, housing starts were mixed in May, with the Northeast posting a 6.3 percent decline, the Midwest a 4.9 percent increase, the South a 21.3 percent decline, and the West a 10.8 percent increase. Permits fell in every region, with a 1.5 percent decline in the Northeast, a 9.6 percent decline in the Midwest, a 5.2 percent decline in the South and a 6.8 percent decline in the West.

Where in the world is
TPI represented?
EVERYWHERE!

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

Gazonnières Saint Sauveur
Mas de Saint-Sauveur
St. Laurent D'Aigouze
Aigues-Mortes, FRANCE

<http://www.gazon-en-plaque.com>



Saint-Sauveur is a family owned company going back three generations of farming. The turfgrass sod we produce is of the highest quality due to cultivation on sand and consists of exclusive blends.

Our growing area is located in the Camargue, an alluvial plain in the Rhône delta consisting of 95% sandy soil which gives us exceptionally efficient production capabilities and provides high turf quality. This substrate is unique in France and results in the turf's root system penetrating deep into the soil in search of water.

To produce quality turfgrass, we limit ourselves to a single planting each year. The sod is then matured for a minimum of nine months before being offered for sale. This allows us to deliver rolls of turf that are healthy and robust. We reserve an area of 63 hectares (155 acres) for the cultivation of turfgrass to meet your requirements whatever the size.

Our turfgrass provides a beautiful lawn - - dense turf, green, healthy and contains no weeds, diseases or moss.



BEFORE



AFTER

Note: Copy reflects an effort to translate original text from French to English.



How Turfgrass Affects the Environment

While industry and technology have provided jobs and goods to make life easier, the effect on the environment has been substantial. But we can help restore this precious earth with something as simple as turfgrass – the earth's living skin. The U.S. Congress has acknowledged these positive benefits to our environment.

"Turfgrass sod in urban areas and communities can aid in the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, mitigating the heat island effect, reducing energy consumption and contributing to efforts to reduce global warming trends."

Scientific research has documented the many benefits of turfgrass to our environment. Our turfgrass lawns, parks and open areas:

- Provide a natural, comfortable, and safe setting for fun and games
- Release oxygen and cool the air
- Control pollution and reduce soil erosion
- Purify and replenish our water supply

Our Environment

The satisfaction of creating beauty within the landscape can be rewarding for you and the environment. With turfgrass sod, the rewards are practically immediate.

- A well maintained lawn and landscape can enhance the "curb appeal" adding as much as 15 percent to the value of a home.

Pollution Control

Today's improved turfgrass varieties are very effective in reducing pollution.

- Turfgrass traps and removes dust and dirt from the air.
- 2,500 square feet of lawn absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and release enough oxygen for a family of four to breathe for a day.

Nature's Air Conditioner

Another benefit that everyone enjoys, usually without notice, is turfgrass' tremendous cooling effect.

- On a hot summer day, lawns will be 30 degrees cooler than asphalt and 14 degrees cooler than bare soil.
- The front lawns of eight houses have the cooling effect of about 70 tons of air conditioning. That's amazing when the average home has an air conditioner with just a three or four ton capacity.

- The cooling effect of irrigated turf reduces the amount of fuel that must be burned to provide the electricity which powers the air conditioners.
- Watered when the grass plant needs it, turfgrass will very efficiently and effectively use almost every drop.

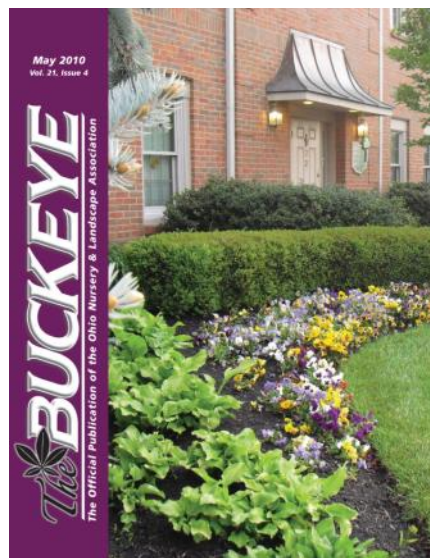
A Natural Filter

Runoff water in urban areas carries many pollutants.

- Turfgrass acts as a natural filter, reducing pollution by purifying the water passing through its root zone.

Soil Erosion

The clean gentle strength of turfgrass is the most cost-effective method for controlling wind and water erosion.



TPI would like to express its appreciation to **Jennifer Gray**, Associate Executive Director of The Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association for granting us permission to reprint this article. For more information on ONLA visit their website at www.onla.org. To view the current issue of "The Buckeye" click here — [The Buckeye](#)

How turfgrass affects the environment - Cont'd from page 9

- A healthy sodded lawn absorbs rainfall six times more effectively than a wheat field and four times better than a hay field.
- A sodded lawn will absorb greater amounts of rain than a seeded lawn; even after three years of growth.

Fun & Games

The soft resilient surface of turfgrass is the safest and least expensive place to play.

- For backyard ball games or the Super Bowl, athletes of all sizes prefer the green cushion of turfgrass.
- Turfgrass is the only place for putting, picnics or just plain relaxing.

Our Mental Health

Turfgrass quietly adds to the beauty of our lives and even our mental and physical health.

Doctors have shown that people recover faster in a hospital when given a landscape view, rather than seeing only the walls of adjoining buildings.

Turfgrass

- a continuing source of oxygen and cool air.
- a cleansing answer to our environment.
- a source of beauty and comfort.

With the benefits of turfgrass working their wonders for us, we will be able to share a beautiful and healthy planet with our future generations.

About the Turfgrass Sod Industry

According to the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture, 2007 Census of Agriculture, the U.S. turfgrass sod industry experienced a considerable increase in both acres in turfgrass sod production and overall sales over a five-year period. Turfgrass sod producers now generate sales in excess of one billion dollars annually.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture reported that there were 1,881 turfgrass sod farms in operation throughout the United States at the time of the census. This number reflects an 11.4 percent decrease in the number of turfgrass farms when compared to the 2,124 reported in the 2002 Census.

Acres in production increased to 409,440 in 2007 as compared to the 386,504 reported in 2002. This represents nearly a 6 percent increase in total acres. Along with an increase in acreage, there was a considerable increase in dollar sales when compared to five years ago. Whereas 2002 sales were \$1,001,250,000, 2007 reported sales were \$1,353,422,529, which represents an increase in sales of 35 percent. ✱

Information courtesy Turfgrass Producers International, www.turfgrassod.org.

onla.org

Do We Really Need to Pamper Our Lawns?

In response to last month's article in *The Buckeye* titled, "Sustainability – How Much Lawn Do We Need?" by Bobbie Schwartz, we offer several comments worthy of consideration. Many of the issues presented by Ms. Schwartz were well stated and we tend to agree with her observations on some of those issues.

What we find troubling is that some of the issues she addresses stem not so much from lawns themselves, but rather how people maintain their lawns. Excessive watering or irrigating a lawn during or after a rain is certainly inexcusable; but to suggest the solution might be in the form of legislative action is cause for concern. In fact many lawns, including those around residential properties, in our community parks, our school playgrounds, etc., rely solely on the water that nature provides.

Everyone associated with the green industry, regardless of the service they have to offer or the product they choose to sell, has a responsibility to educate the public on proper water or chemical use. We don't believe legislative action should be necessary to restrict lawns any more than we believe there should be a ban on dogs because some owners neglect to clean up the mess their pets leave behind.

We also believe there can be a balance between the use of turfgrass and the other options Ms. Schwartz refers to such as "ground covers, shade loving perennials, ornamental grasses and various shrubs."

We're not quite sure who, if anyone, has ever made the claim that "only lawns" add to curb appeal. We do however know that lawns and turfgrass offer many environmental benefits that are often overlooked or of which the public is unaware, such as: cooling the air, producing oxygen, filtering the air, reducing pollution, capturing and suppressing dust, recharging storm water runoff, controlling soil erosion, retaining and sequestering carbon, assisting in the decomposition of pollutants, restoring soil quality, dissipating heat, lowering allergy-related problems, reducing home cooling costs, serving as a fire barrier, etc.

The environmental, community, human health and economic benefits of turfgrass lawns are considerable and everyone involved in the green industry – be it nursery stock growers, landscape contractors, maintenance firms, garden center owners/managers, arborists, horticulturists, master gardeners, extension specialist, educators, allied suppliers, manufacturers and turfgrass producers – need to work together to keep the general public informed, educated and aware.

Perhaps the question isn't so much the one posed by Ms. Schwartz – "How Much Lawn Do We Need?" – but rather, "Do We Really Need to Pamper Our Lawns?" ✱

Jim Novak

Public Relations Manager

Turfgrass Producers International

May 2010 **21**