

Turfgrass Producers International

E-Newsletter

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Volume 3 Issue 6

June 2010



In addition to some of our regular features this **SPECIAL EDITION** of the TPI E-Newsletter provides our readers with an overview of the events and activities that will take place at the Turfgrass Producers International 2010 Summer Convention & Field Days in New York, New York on July 26 - 29, 2010.

On the pages that follow you will find an expanded look at some of the business activities, events and social functions that are scheduled to take place.

For those of you who have never been to New York City you're in for a treat. This unique city provides visitors with a wide variety of things to do and places to go. The city offers endless points of interest, internationally recognized landmarks, some of the nation's greatest museums, an endless variety of restaurants that are sure to delight any preference, incredible shopping, great entertainment and of course the bright lights and theatrical wonder of Broadway.

TPI's scheduled events are also broad in scope and include educational farm tours, a visit to a leading turfgrass research facility, the opportunity to meet with and talk to manufacturers and suppliers who serve the turfgrass industry, business meetings, educational presentations, networking opportunities, TPI's annual business meeting and a great deal more.

TPI's Field Day in scenic Pine Island, New York at Chip Lain's Pine Island Turf Nursery will provide you with an opportunity to see

Turfgrass Producers International 2010 Summer Convention & Field Days NEW YORK, NEW YORK

leading manufacturers demonstrate their equipment as well as numerous exhibitor displays where representatives can answer your questions, offer suggestions and explain the products and services they offer. The overall event is one that is well worth attending and you are sure to walk away with greater insight and knowledge that can help you manage your business more efficiently. The scheduled events offer something for everyone.

For Your Amusement:

WHY IS NEW YORK CALLED THE "BIG APPLE"?

NEW YORK

The origin of the nickname "The Big Apple" is subject to debate. Some people suggest that back in the 1920's when musicians were hungry for work they would often comment, "There are a lot of apples in the tree, but when you pick New York, you've picked the Big Apple". The thinking at the time was that work for musicians was plentiful in New York City. Another theory is that a sports writer for the New York Morning Telegraph, named his horse-racing column 'Around the Big Apple'. The phrase drifted away in the mid 1950s, and resurfaced in the 1970s when it was used in a tourism campaign for the NYC. Today "Big Apple" is synonymous with New York.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE

The Premier Turfgrass Sod Industry Event
Turfgrass Producers International
2010 Summer Convention & Field Days

EDUCATIONAL TOURS
NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
EQUIPMENT DISPLAYS
ON-SITE FIELD DAY EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATIONS
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
THEATER NIGHT RECEPTION
ROUNDTABLE FORUM

VISIT WWW.TURFGRASSSOD.ORG TO REGISTER TODAY!

SUNDAY, JULY 25

Registration opens.....5:00pm-7:00pm

MONDAY, JULY 26

Rutgers Research & Farm Tour w/Lunch.....8:30am-4:00pm

Welcome Reception.....7:00pm-8:30pm

TUESDAY, JULY 27

Prayer Breakfast*.....7:00am-8:00am
Louie D. Cacchioli, FDNY (Ret.), Engine Co. 47, VTC Tower 1

New York City Tour with Lunch*.....9:00am-3:00pm

Theater Night Dinner Reception.....4:30pm-6:30pm

Open Evening/Theatre Night.....6:30pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

Women's Forum*.....8:00am-9:30am

Working Group Meetings.....9:00am-10:15am

Information & Idea Exchange.....10:30am-2:45pm

*Keynote Presentation - Dr. Frank Rossi, Cornell University
Annual Business Meeting
Roundtable Forum with Lunch*

Working Group Meetings.....3:00pm-4:15pm

Tabletop Displays with Dinner (at hotel).....4:30pm-8:00pm

THURSDAY, JULY 29

Field Day - Pine Island Turf Nursery.....9:00am-3:00pm
includes complimentary round trip transportation

* Optional activity. TPI reserves the right to cancel any activity.

Let the city lights of the Big Apple and the rich green countryside of New York State illuminate a week of education, discussion, networking, tours, equipment displays and demonstrations at the premier turfgrass sod industry event!

In addition to in-depth education programs and networking events the program includes:

- Rutgers Research & Farm Tour - a unique opportunity for TPI convention attendees to see the science behind turfgrass sod research and learn about a wide variety of technologies and research advances.
- Expanded Field Days at Pine Island Turf Nursery with complimentary roundtrip transportation, breakfast, lunch and tours of DeBuck Sod Farm and A. Gurda Produce Farms, a grower and shipper of onions, lettuce and greens.

In lieu of our traditional banquet we are planning a theater night, offering discounted theater rates so you can enjoy all New York City has to offer!

In addition to specially negotiated rates at the convention hotel, the Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, we are also offering discounted parking.

All the details are available online.

REGISTER TODAY!

www.TurfGrassSod.org

Did you know? New York City was named 2009's most popular U.S. tourist destination and just kicked off it's 2010 affordable destination plan to help more people enjoy all the wonderful culture, history and entertainment available. Come to the TPI Summer Convention & Field Days and stay to take a bite out of the Big Apple!



Monday, July 26, 2010

Rutgers Research Tour

• Adelphia Research Campus

Rutgers Research Tour provides attendees with an opportunity to see the science behind turfgrass sod research and learn about a wide variety of technologies and research advances with hands-on demonstrations and a variety of topics.

**Turfgrass Producers International
2010 Summer Convention & Field Days
NEW YORK, NEW YORK**



Monday, July 26, 2010

Reid Sod Farm Tour (includes lunch)

Reid Sod Farm was established in 1965 and is a grower of quality sod for homeowners, landscapers, garden centers and golf courses throughout New Jersey and Staten Island areas.



Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Prayer Breakfast

Special Guest Louie D. Cacchioli, FDNY (Ret.) Engine Co. 47, WTC Tower 1



Louie Cacchioli was born in Borgo Val di Taro, a small town in Emilia, north central Italy. When he was 10 years old his family immigrated to the United States and settled in Queens, New York. After graduating from Long Island City High School, Louie

attended New York City Community College. He later graduated from the FDNY Fire Academy in April 1982. For two decades he rode with Engine Company 47 and fought some of the worst fires in New York City history.

On September 11, 2001 Engine 47 responded to the disaster at the World Trade Center. Louie was part of a four company rescue-team that responded to the North Tower. The death toll at the World Trade Center included 87 passengers aboard American Flight 11, 60 police officers and 343 firefighters several of whom were members of Louie's team.

Louie single handedly saved the lives of some forty civilians before being caught in the collapse of the North Tower. He barely survived. Due to the tragedy and injuries suffered from Ground Zero, he lost many close friends, his health, and his career.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, he has rebuilt his shattered life through physical therapy and a 9/11 survivors group. He has become an activist who is heavily involved in a variety of causes including 9/11 remembrance, charities, and the *World Police & Fire Games*. When possible, Louie volunteers his time giving guided tours at Ground Zero, which is coordinated through *Tribute WTC 9/11 Visitor Center*.

His inspirational story is one of survival, fellowship, overcoming personal loss and compassionate remembrance.

(For additional information, see: www.tributewtc.org)

NOTE: The Prayer Breakfast is non-denominational function and it is an optional activity that requires pre-registration.

Register Now

Tuesday, July 27, 2010 New York City Tour

Enjoy a "Facts, Fun and Figures" sightseeing tour of New York City. Weather and traffic permitting, our tour heads north towards **Columbus Circle** where you will see **Lincoln Center** and the famous **Metropolitan Opera House**. Then it's down 72nd Street to see the **The Dakota** building (where John Lennon lived) and enjoy the atmosphere of the Upper Westside. Our first stop will include time for a brief walk into **Central Park** to see "**Strawberry Fields**", Yoko Ono's tribute to John Lennon.

Then it's off to Manhattan's Upper Eastside to see prime real estate owned by some of New York's wealthiest families. Arriving at the **Guggenheim Museum** the tour will proceed south down Fifth Avenue, past the famous museums of "Museum Mile" including the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** and **The Frick**.

We will then drive south down Fifth Avenue, past **The Plaza Hotel**, **FAO Schwarz** (the largest toy store for children of all ages), past **Tiffany's** and the **Trump Towers**.

And then it's a ride up to the **Top of the Rock's** observation deck where you will have an opportunity to view New York City from one of the highest skyscrapers. The tour will finish with lunch at **Rockefeller Plaza** which is just a few blocks from the host hotel giving you time to explore the city on your own at your leisure.

Rockefeller Center



Trump International Hotel & Tower



Lincoln Center



Guggenheim Museum



TOP OF THE ROCK
OBSERVATION DECK
NEW YORK CITY

Register Now

SPECIAL PRICING FOR BROADWAY SHOW TICKETS

TPI wants your stay in New York to be an exciting one, so we have made it easy for you to book tickets to a Broadway show or visit a famous attraction!

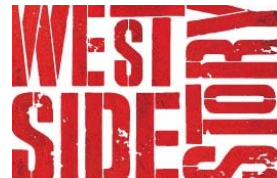
Special prices and services are available exclusively to attendees of the **Turfgrass Producers International 2010 Summer Convention & Field Days**. Come in early or stay later in order to take in all that New York City has to offer. Special pricing from July 23 - July 31. Many of the prices are 10% to 20% off the regular ticket price.



<http://www.broadwaygetaways.com/Packages/Packages.ta?Pid=134217>

Tuesday, July 27, 2010
Theater Night Dinner Reception 4:30—6:30 pm
Open Evening Theater Night

These are just a few of the many shows currently running on Broadway.



PLUS -

BLUE MAN GROUP
 IN THE HEIGHTS
 LA CAGE AUX FOLLIES
 LEND ME A TENOR
 MARY POPPINS
 MEMPHIS THE MUSICAL
 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
 PROMISE PROMISES
 COME FLY AWAY
 MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET
 THE 39 STEPS
 THE ADDAMS FAMILY
 AMERICAN IDIOT
 JERSEY BOYS

Register Now

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Women's Forum



The Women's Forum covers industry education and special interest topics specifically from a woman's perspective for attendees, paired with an opportunity to network and share experiences. Stay tuned for details!

Working Group Meetings



Limited to those TPI members who are active in various Working Groups. Morning and afternoon meetings are scheduled for various Working Groups. Participants will be notified of day, place and time via e-mail.

Keynote Presentation



Dr. Frank Rossi, Associate Professor, Cornell University, Department of Horticulture is sure to peak interest with his presentation titled, "Production and Marketing to an Environmentally Aware Generation—Thoughts from a Scientist".

TPI Annual Business Meeting

TPI's Annual Business Meeting provides members with an update on the association's activities, financial position and an opportunity to meet their Board of Trustees. All members are encouraged to attend.



Roundtable Forum



The Roundtable Forum provides TPI members with an opportunity to discuss various subjects with fellow members in an informal setting. Each table is assigned a topic. Members can select any topic that is of interest and join in the conversation. Ideas, suggestions and recommendations discussed during the Roundtable sessions are noted and summarized for the Board of Trustees for future consideration.

Tabletop Displays w/Dinner

This is a great opportunity to meet with and get acquainted with representatives of leading manufacturers, suppliers and service companies serving the turfgrass industry. An ideal setting for asking questions and learning about the wide variety of products and services available to TPI members.



Register Now



Turfgrass Producers International **FIELD DAY**

Thursday, July 29th
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Pine Island Turf Nursery
Pine Island, New York

Turfgrass Producers International 2010 Summer Convention & Field Days NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Field Day
Pine Island, New York

The TPI Field Day offers you a great opportunity to view equipment, see in-field demonstrations, talk to leading manufacturers and suppliers, view the latest in equipment, supplies and support services and interact with turfgrass producers from around the world. Includes breakfast and lunch.



Side tours to neighboring **DeBuck's Sod Farms of NY** and **A. Gurda Produce Farms**, a grower and shipper of onions, lettuce and greens will be available. In addition, **Dr. Daniel Peck, Assistant Professor, Soil Insect Ecology and Turfgrass Entomology, Cornell University** will have an educational display booth to address and answer questions about invasive crane flies. The larvae, known as leatherjackets, can be problematic in any grass-based system, from low and high maintenance turf, like home lawns and golf courses, to production-based systems like sod farms and grass seed

fields. The impact and range of invasive crane flies is expanding in the eastern U.S. and the movement of infested sod is one reason. The display booth will therefore address Best Management Practices for limiting four types of threat to sod producers: infestation of production fields, direct damage to developing sod, shipments facilitating invasive spread, and damage to sod following installation.

Register Now

2011 TPI Midwinter Conference Orlando, Florida

WANT TO WIN

Complimentary Conference
Package Registration

PLUS

TWO all day tickets to the
Disney® Theme Park of your choice for
the **2011 TPI Midwinter Conference?**

IT'S EASY!

When you **Reserve Your Room** at the
Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers
for the
2010 TPI Summer Convention & Field Days
you will be entered automatically into the drawing.
It's that simple!



The **Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers** is located between Central Park and Times Square in the center of Manhattan and just a few blocks from Rockefeller Center, 5th Avenue and Broadway's spectacular theaters.

The deadline to receive the Special
TPI Group Rate is July 2, 2010.

BOOK YOUR ROOM TODAY!

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=0911173169&key=617DB>





OHIO TURFGRASS WEEK

May 27 - June 3, 2010

OTF is currently seeking a legislative proclamation (Senate bill 51) naming the last week of May as Ohio Turfgrass Week.

The primary goals: Generate public awareness for the turfgrass industry in Ohio and create new funding sources for turfgrass research and education.

According to an Ohio Turfgrass Economic Impact Study, Ohio's turfgrass industry accounts for:

- \$4.6 Billion Total Economic Impact
- \$937 Million in Payroll, Payroll Taxes and Contracted Services
- 41,808 employed
- 4+ Million Acres of Maintained Turfgrass

Ohio's Turfgrass Benefits the Environment:

- **Capturing Carbon:** With the majority of its biomass below ground, carbon dioxide is captured by the leaves and sequestered into the soil by the roots - where it remains for decades.
- **Produces Oxygen:** 2500 sq ft of green turf absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and releases enough oxygen for a family of 4 to breathe.
- **Air Quality:** Turfgrass removes smoke, dust and other pollutants from the air.
- **Water Quality Protection:** Turfgrass reduces pollutants leaching through the soil into the water supply and reduces surface water runoff.
- **Reduced Soil Erosion:** Turfgrass holds soil in place, keeping sediments and other pollutants out of lakes, streams, storm drains and roads.
- **Reduced Temperatures:** On a block of 8 average houses, front lawns have the cooling effect of 70 tons of air conditioning and on a hot summer day, lawns will be 30 degrees cooler than asphalt and 14 degrees cooler than bare soil.
- **Fire Retardation:** A buffer zone of grass around homes and buildings helps retard the spread of fire.

According to EPA's *Healthy Lawn, Healthy Environment*, "Healthy grass provides feeding ground for birds, who find it a rich source of insects, worms and other food. Thick grass prevents soil erosion, filters contaminants from rainwater, and absorbs many airborne pollutants, like dust and soot. Grass is also highly efficient at converting carbon dioxide to oxygen, a process that helps clean the air."

TurfSide-UP

Attention Dog Walkers

Pick up after your dogs. Thank You

Attention Dogs

**Grrrr, Bark, Woof
Good Dog.**

**Per City and
County Regulations**

Okay, we realize that some pet owners need to be reminded time and again that they should clean-up after their dogs.

But when repeated reminders don't seem to work maybe we should go directly to the source of the problem. Who knows, maybe an assertive grrrr along with an affectionate woof, woof just might do the trick.

School's motto should be ... CAN YOU TAKE THE HEAT?



**Artificial Turf:
167 degrees!
We have a winner.**

"Folks, it looks like we have a winner! The measured temperature of **167.3 degrees** was taken last August at the AT field at Montgomery Blair High School, Montgomery County Maryland at 2:30 PM EST. The air temperature in the full sun was 93 degrees Fahrenheit."

Parents' Coalition of Montgomery County, Maryland

The Parent's Coalition of Montgomery County, Maryland expressed their appreciation to reporter Kathy Michels for the above photo. They also expressed their thanks (tongue in cheek) to the County Council, Board of Education and Planning Board who created this [heat island](http://parentscoalitionmc.blogspot.com/2009/08/artificial-turf-167-degrees-we-have.html) in the middle of the county. They also saluted them for their tremendous insight and their great planning. Hmmm . . . let's not forget to thank them for providing the student athletes with their own outdoor sauna too!

<http://parentscoalitionmc.blogspot.com/2009/08/artificial-turf-167-degrees-we-have.html>



Lawns Celebrate Earth Day Daily

April 22 was Earth Day with events planned to increase everyone's awareness of our environment and to serve as a means to heighten the public's consciousness about what is happening to the land, air, oceans, lakes, rivers and streams all around us. Earth Day promotes the benefits derived from recycling, conserving our natural resources, reducing pollution, and awareness education.

Perhaps you have never given it much thought, but your lawn when the grass is growing contributes each and every day immeasurably to the efforts of Earth Day by providing numerous benefits to our environment.

The following benefits are listed in an article by Jim Novak www.TheLawnInstitute.org.

- 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 and Reducing Pollution - Turfgrasses trap an estimated 12 million tons of dust and dirt released annually into the atmosphere.
- Recharging and 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, every day is Earth Day.

For more information on any of the above topics, call the Mississippi State University/Extension Service/ Madison County at (601) 859-3842, visit the office at 152 Watford Parkway, or e-mail: madison@ext.msstate.edu.

Madison County Agent Otis Davis can be reached at (601) 859-3842.

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<http://www.thelawninstitute.org/>



Environmental Turf Wins EIGHT National Marketing Awards

Environmental Turf was the proud recipient of eight national marketing awards at the 21st Annual Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA) award ceremony & conference held May 6, in Tucson, Arizona.

Environmental Turf won a total of four First-place awards and three Merit awards. Of those, the company swept the "Writing for Electronic Newsletter" category, winning both the First-place and Merit trophies. In addition, ET Company President Stacie Zinn was honored with the prestigious Gardner Award. This award recognizes the very best in writing/marketing communications for the year.

TOCA is comprised of editors, writers, publishers, photographers, public relations and advertising firms industry association leaders and others involved in golf course maintenance and other green industry communications. Judges received more than 300 entries from leading manufacturers, service companies and public relations agencies in the green industry.

The company's portfolio of environmentally friendly grasses includes: SeaDwarf Seashore Paspalum, Aloha Seashore Paspalum, UltimateFlora Zoysia, PristineFlora Zoysia, Hammock Centipede and DeltaShade St. Augustine.

Our sincere congratulations to Stacie and everyone at Environmental Turf for receiving such impressive recognition from their peers.

IS IT SAFE? Well uh...what exactly is your definition of safe?



Candid photos taken during the expansion of an artificial turf practice field at the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ show workers wearing protective masks as they spread silica sand. The harm caused by silica sand dust used in artificial turf fields is well documented and the warning labels are very clear as to the health hazards associated with inhaling the dust particles. Makes one wonder though, will the athletes be issued protective masks when they play on this field or will helmets and shoulder pads suffice?

Above photos provided by Danielle Marman

Turfgrass Producers International welcomes Geri Hannah as TPI's new Accounting & Office Manager



Executive Director Kirk Hunter announced the appointment of **Geri Hannah** as TPI's new Accounting & Office Manager.

In making the announcement, Hunter stated, "Geri not only has professional business experience that is sure to compliment our staff and benefit our members, she also has a warm and engaging personality."

Prior to joining TPI Geri served as the Project Coordinator for one the nation's largest independent suppliers of windows and doors in the Midwest. In addition to working and reporting directly to the president of the company she provided administrative and marketing support, addressed customer service related issues, maintained all business contact information, handled the updating of spreadsheets, oversaw cost analysis requirements and took on a host of other responsibilities.

Earlier in her career she was the President/Owner of Aldon Graphics, a full service printing establishment that provided services to commercial /industrial accounts in the greater Chicagoland area.

When calling the TPI office please extend a warm welcome to Geri.

Where in the world is
TPI represented?
EVERYWHERE!

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

SAN JOAQUIN TURF Ltda.
Sexta Region
Rancagua, Chile

<http://www.sjturf.cl>



San Joaquin Turf was founded in 2001 as the first company dedicated to the production and installation of turfgrass sod of the sixth region.

Our Mission is to produce, develop and design green areas of high quality with a staff of professionals, and respond to the high standards of quality that our clients demand and at a cost smaller than the system of traditional sowing.



Although the production of instantaneous turfgrass is a technique that has been in existence for only 40 years it has replaced traditional seedtime in evolved markets, and in our country more and more people, have decided to construct green areas using the instantaneous turfgrass of **San Joaquin Turf**.

Proud Member of
Turfgrass Producers International



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

TurfSide-Up

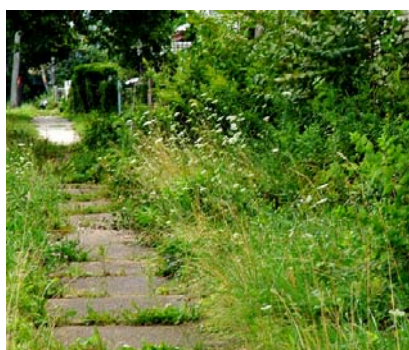


What were they thinking?

It seems the Village of Snoresville is having second thoughts regarding their 2008 ordinance that required all residents to plant native grasses, eliminate the use of all lawn chemicals and restrict the use of any gas powered lawn care equipment including mowers, blowers, trimmers, aerators, dethatchers, tillers, etc.



Village President, Sylvester Weedman was quoted as saying, "The decision seemed like a good idea at the time, but over the last 18 months there has been a steady increase in missing pets and some homeowners have reported getting lost just going to their mailbox."



Lester Lawnbedder (bottom photo) once had a successful lawncare business but he had to do away with his gas powered equipment including his business vehicle. He still does some side jobs but relies on a machete, a sickle, a large pair of pruning shears and his trusty bicycle.



Lawnbedder hopes they repeal the ordinance because some people are having problems finding their homes after dark.

The Snoresville Village Council is scheduled to vote next Tuesday on reversing their decision . . . if they can find the Snoresville Village Hall which is overrun with weeds.

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.



NCAE News Brief 2010, #18 May 7, 2010

As released by Frank Gasperini, Executive Vice President, National Council of Agricultural Employers (NCAE).

Child labor is in the press again, and will be all season.

If you do not have, and strictly enforce a policy of no children in the fields at your farm, you need to do so immediately. If you have, or soon implement, a policy be sure it is in writing, is clearly communicated to ALL employees, your communication is well documented, and that you strictly enforce the policy. Secretary Solis has clearly stated, repeatedly, that 2010 will see very aggressive enforcement of agricultural child labor issues. The Department of Labor, Department of Justice, members of congress, advocacy groups and

others believe there is still widespread (and forced) child labor in U.S. agriculture. They have enlisted the press and advocates to help them find examples this season. All agricultural employers must work hard to be sure you are NOT one of the examples. This issue is not going to go-away, the only defense is 100% compliance.

Intern or Employee?

I continue to read local newspaper articles about farms embracing "intern" or "apprentice farmer" programs. It is concerning that all of the articles I have read tend to openly admit that while the intern/apprentice benefits by learning about the real work of agriculture, usually specialty fruit and vegetable production, that the farm directly benefits because reliable farm workers are so hard to find. We do not want to discourage intern or apprentice programs, when run properly they can be an important learning opportunity for the next generations of farm and agri-business owners and managers. If you are using, or considering an intern/apprentice program be sure you fully understand the Department of Labor (DOL) and your own state's interpretations and enforcement priorities on the issue. If DOL and/or your state determine that your "interns" or "apprentices" are employees then you would become liable for minimum wages for hours worked, housing (including inspections/approval) and transportation if they have come farther than commuting distance, and they would be considered corresponding workers if H-2A workers are involved.

Based on comments by DOL relative to planned activity of their Wage and Hour Division enforcement people, they will be looking more closely for these programs as well as the "independent contractor" versus employee issue in 2010. States will certainly follow DOL's lead.

U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division
(April 2010)

Fact Sheet #71: Internship Programs Under The Fair Labor Standards Act

The following link will lead to DOL Fact Sheet #71.
<http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs71.pdf>

According to DOL, if you can answer YES to all six statements (listed on Fact Sheet #71) your intern program is probably okay, but if you answer NO to even one of the questions then the intern may qualify as an employee. I believe points #1 and #4 may be difficult for many agricultural employers to substantiate without careful pre-planning and documentation, and #3 has been stated by growers as a reason for bringing on interns in some local news articles published last season. The bottom line is that while internships and other training programs remain important pathways to encourage and train the next generation of agricultural workers and employers, this is another area the be extremely cautious so you do not set your operation up for DOL or state enforcement actions. As with all employer responsibilities the time to understand and plan for compliance and set up a policy of documenting your actions is before you begin the program rather than after the DOL or state regulatory enforcement letter or visit has occurred.

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

An Assessment of the Benefits of Turfgrasses

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

Advisor: Dr. Jim Kerns, Assistant Professor, 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 turfgrass and how we can help the public manage turf. Truth is, we know a lot! There is an 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.

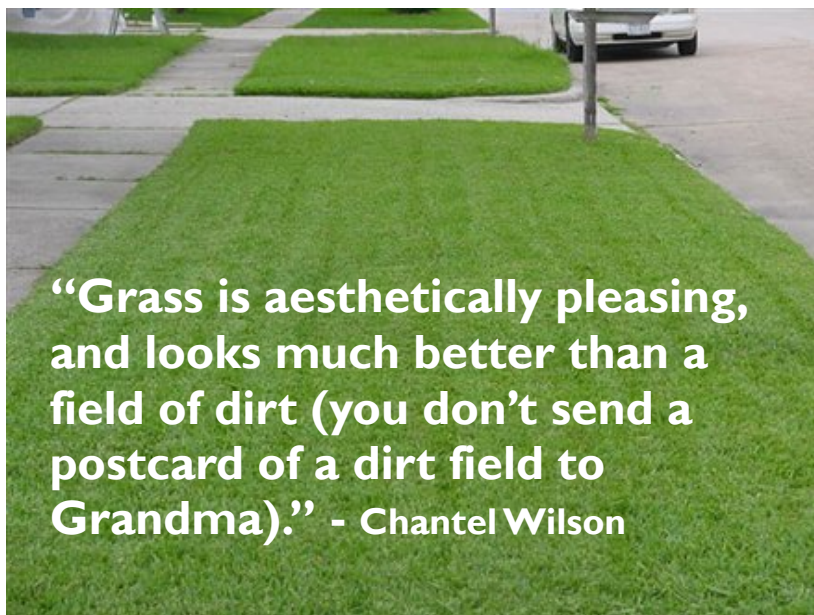
Perhaps the lesser-addressed question is: what does turf do for us?

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 memory¹.” 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. Turns out, 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 brain⁴. 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 hippocampus¹. 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.



“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).” - Chantel Wilson

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 Dr. 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 health⁵. 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” that is 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 asphalt³. 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

locals². 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, song-birds, 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 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 odors”⁽⁴⁾ by Nick Lavidis, 2007 Society of Neuroscience; and “The Role of Turfgrasses in Environmental Protection and Their Benefits to Humans”⁽⁵⁾ by Dr. James Beard and Robert L. Green, 1994, Journal of Environmental Quality.

TPI would like to thank Tom Schwab of the O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility in Verona, Wisconsin for bringing this article to our attention and to Dr. Jim Kerns, Assistant Professor and Chantel Wilson, Graduate Student, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison for giving us permission to reprint this article which appeared in the Spring 2010 issue of Wisconsin Turfgrass News.



Turfgrass Producers of Texas tout the benefits of turfgrass IN A BIG WAY!

Five billboards promoting the benefits of natural turfgrass have been placed at strategic locations throughout Austin and San Antonio, Texas by Turfgrass Producers of Texas (TPT).

The marketing campaign was made possible because TPT applied for and received a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's Marketing Service (USDA-AMS) with a grant administered through the Texas Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Grant Program according to John Cosper, TPT's Executive Director.

Cosper expressed his appreciation to **Turfgrass Producers International (TPI)** for their efforts in getting turfgrass included as a specialty crop in the farm bill and Cosper encourages other state turfgrass associations to apply for the USDA grant through their state department of agriculture. He also stressed the importance of maintaining good relationships with their respective marketing departments.



One of five billboards promoting the benefits of natural turfgrass that greet commuters in Austin and San Antonio, Texas area made possible through the Texas Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Grant Program.

For the complete story see page 33 of the May/June 2010 issue of TURF NEWS.



Just a Friendly Reminder

Membership Renewal Notice

Due date: July 1, 2010



By renewing your TPI membership you stay connected to the turfgrass sod industry.

You may renew your dues by personal check, cashiers check, credit card or by wire transfer.

Please submit your dues payment by July 1, 2010.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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