TPI TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL

Turfgrass Producers International

E-Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

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TPI TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL

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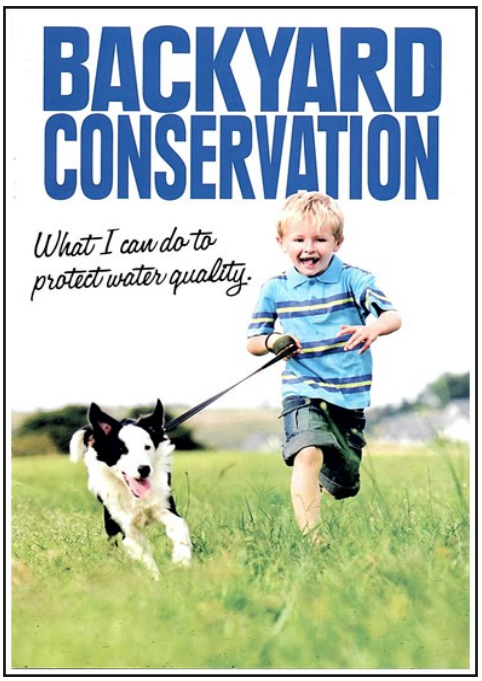
Volume 7 Issue 3 *May 2014*

Sometimes even the best of intentions have to be questioned.

"BACKYARD CONSERVATION – What I can do to protect water quality"

By Jim Novak

TPI member Matt Wimer of Sporting Valley Turf Farms in Manheim, Pennsylvania forwarded us a booklet titled ***"BACKARD CONSERVATION – What I can do to protect water quality"*** that was distributed by the East Hempfield Township in Landsville, Pennsylvania to local residents.



"We have an issue with some of the generalizations that are presented in the booklet and the omission of specific scientific research to support many of the statements . . . "

In a cover letter written by Bob Krimmel, Township Manager that accompanied the book the following statement appeared:

"The booklet enclosed, 'Backyard Conservation' originally printed and distributed by the Lancaster County Conservation District, is a quick and easy to read guide to begin practicing some simple and practical methods to improve your lawn and water quality in the Lancaster County Region of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Not only Lancaster County, but the whole Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is under strict regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to clean, improve and protect the rivers and streams of our state."

While we appreciate the effort and agree there is a need to educate and inform the public on the importance of proper lawn care and the conservation of our natural resources, especially water, we have an issue with some of the generalizations that are presented in the booklet and the omission of specific scientific research to support many of the statements that are either questionable, misleading or inaccurate regarding turfgrass lawns.

"BACKYARD CONSERVATION – What I can do to protect water quality" Cont'd

These are just a few of the statements in the booklet that seem worthy of questioning due to the broad generalizations they make:

"Lawns absorb only 67% of the rainfall a forest does."

"Every 1,000 square feet of new lawn requires 10,000 gallons of water."

"40% to 70% of fertilizers run off to surface waters or filters into groundwater."

"Our compacted lawns produce a lot of extra runoff to the [Chesapeake] Bay."

"Summer lawns irrigation is calculated to suck nearly 59,000 gallons per second of river flow to the Chesapeake Bay during the summer months."

Perhaps the most misleading statement is the following:
"An estimated 6.1 million 'grass farmers' and 50,000 lawn care workers exist in the watershed who collectively spend $600 million for fertilizers and chemicals alone."

RESPONSE: We believe there are about 2,500 turfgrass producers throughout the entire U.S. and that would be a generous estimate. Therefore we are not sure what is meant by "6.1 million grass farmers". The Chesapeake Bay Program reported that in 2012, 17.7 million people were estimated to live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. (http://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/issue/populationgrowth) To suggest nearly one-third of them are "grass farmers" is somewhat misleading.

Another issue with the booklet is that referenced source material that could have clarified numerous causes of water pollutants appear to have been omitted resulting in the suggestion that lawns are the major culprit. This simply is not true.

To reinforce our point, we looked at the list of referenced sources provided on the back cover of the booklet and randomly reviewed one of their listed sources. By chance, the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service's "*Soil Facts: Managing Lawns and Gardens to Protect Water Quality"* was selected. The referenced article was prepared by J.V. Baird and M.G. Vook, Soil Science Extension Specialists, and A.H. Bruneau, Crop Science Extension Specialist and current Executive Director of North Carolina Sod Producers Association.

In reviewing the referenced source, *"Soil Facts: Managing Lawns and Gardens to Protect Water Quality"* what surprised us the most was information that was omitted from the booklet that clearly illustrates it is not the home lawn or natural turfgrass that is the problem, but rather the need to educate homeowners on what really causes erosion and runoff - bare soil surfaces and the improper use of nutrients, pesticides and/or fertilizers.

These are just a few excerpts (unaltered) from "Soil Facts" that, for whatever reason, were omitted from the booklet:

SOIL EROSION: Whenever water, as intensive rainfall or irrigation, **falls on bare soil surfaces** in gardens or lawns, sand, silt, clay, and organic matter may be moved away from the site. The potential for erosion increases with slope, but unless there is runoff, raindrops cannot do much damage. It is the transportation of soil particles and organic matter in runoff that causes concern.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT: An attractive lawn, vigorously growing shrubs and flowers that show off the house, and a productive garden are the pride and joy of many homeowners. Fertilizer nutrients, especially nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, contribute to the health and beauty of these plants. Nitrogen and phosphorus, however, **must be managed carefully** to ensure that excessive amounts do not degrade water quality. Too much nitrogen and phosphorus along with carbon in surface water cause eutrophication (death from excessive algae growth) in rivers, lakes, and ponds. High nitrogen levels in groundwater and surface water can lead to the ingestion of nitrogen in its nitrate (NO_3) form, which can cause health problems in humans and livestock. Phosphorus accumulates in lakes and ponds primarily from inflow of sediment that has phosphorus attached to it. **Preventing erosion greatly reduces the likelihood of phosphorus being a threat to water quality.** Nitrogen, whether from compost or fertilizer, may leach past plant roots and accumulate in groundwater or eventually move out to surface impoundments if not used completely by grass, shrubs, or garden crops.

"BACKYARD CONSERVATION – What I can do to protect water quality" Cont'd

PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT: In addition to fertilizers, many homeowners use numerous conveniently packaged pesticides (herbicides, insecticides and fungicides) to ward off pests around their house, lawn and garden. **Excessive use of these products could lead to their deposition** in lakes and streams if they are carried off with sediments. Water-soluble pesticides may leach in sandy soils with subsequent movement to groundwater or surface water.

REDUCING WATER POLLUTION:
Strategies for reducing or preventing water contamination by sediment, fertilizers, and pesticides **are based on common sense**. Homeowners, gardeners, and professional plant managers should determine whether their activities cause sediment, fertilizers, or pesticides to move and concentrate in an environmentally unacceptable manner.

Erosion Control
Land-disturbing activities, **uncovered soil surfaces**, and the absence of water-retention structures may contribute to excessive amounts of sediment in creeks and streams and on streets, playgrounds, and neighbors' property. **Try to hold soil in place so that the amount of sediment generated from water erosion is small and does not become a nuisance**.

Nitrogen Management
Nitrogen is classified as a "mobile nutrient," meaning it is water soluble and moves with surface water. **To reduce the risk of water contamination when applying nitrogen to lawns, shrubs, flowers, trees, or vegetables, use modest amounts.**

This personal commentary is not intended to minimize the efforts of the Lancaster County Conservation District, but it does have to do with how we, be we concerned legislators, community organizations, green industry representatives, environmental activists, or concerned citizens, communicate to the general public in an effort to build awareness and educate them on proper lawn care.

A properly maintained lawn has many environmental, social, economic and health benefits, including but not limited to: Reduces storm water runoff, recharges and filters groundwater supply, controls soil erosion, restores soil quality, assists decomposition of pollutants, filters the air, reduces pollution, captures and suppresses dust, retains and sequesters carbon, produces oxygen, cools the air, dissipates heat, relieves stress, promotes outdoor activity, diminishes noise pollution, lowers allergy related problems, preserves natural wildlife habitat, serves as a fire barrier, etc.

They also neglect to identify the author(s) of the booklet although there is a reference that "Financial and other support for this project is provided through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation."

*Referenced sources and contributors are identified as:

- Environmental Protection Agency's "A Homeowners's Guide to Septic Systems"
- Lake George Waterkeeper's "Lake George Fact Sheet: Lawn Maintenance for Water Quality"
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's "Lawns and Landscapes in Your Watershed"
- Colorado State University Cooperative Extension's "Guide to Fertilizing Your Lawn and Garden"
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's "Taking Care of Stormwater: A Bayscapes Guide for Homeowners"
- North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service's "Soil Facts: Managing Lawns and Gardens to Protect Water Quality"
- USGS Researcher Peter Glaggett
- Chesapeake Stormwater Network

It should be pointed out that we were not alone in questioning information and/or omissions contained in the booklet. We reached out to several turfgrass specialists for their comments. The following are excerpts from their responses:

"Yes there are a lot of misleading and incorrect statements in the booklet and ones that the source would need to be known to comment on it. The big key to protecting the environment is dense perennial vegetation which reduces erosion/runoff and retains nutrients (and pesticides) before leaving the root zone."

A. Martin Petrovic, Ph.D.
Professor of Turfgrass Science
Department of Horticulture
Cornell University

"BACKYARD CONSERVATION – What I can do to protect water quality" Cont'd

"I read the "Backyard Conservation" booklet and the "Soil Facts" article from NC State and agree that there was some selectivity evident in the quotes from the NC State article which appear to alter their intended meaning. More importantly, there are some statements on non-point pollution from lawn cultural operations (e.g., 40% to 70% of fertilizers run off to surface waters or filters into groundwater) for which there is no substantiating evidence provided.

"While some lawns are over-fertilized, based on coloration and growth responses, most are not and many are under-fertilized. Generally, where we see evidence of leaching of nitrogen into ground waters, this occurs in sandy soils where large quantities of soluble nitrogen are used. Where reasonable nitrogen rates (0.5 to 1.0 lb/1000 ft^2) are used, this is not likely, even in sandy soils. Given the fact that many lawn fertilizers contain mixed nitrogen sources (i.e., some methylene urea along with soluble urea), the likelihood of nitrate leaching is reduced even further.

"One of the best-management practices (BMPs) recommended for farmers is to use grass waterways between farm land and surface water bodies to minimize surface runoff of nitrogen and phosphorus into adjacent lakes and streams. The basis for this recommendation is that dense stands of grass provide high absorptive capacity for these nutrients.

"It logically follows that a dense stand of lawn grass—compared with bare soil--would also provide a high absorptive capacity for these nutrients.

"While many of the statements and recommendations contained in the "Backyard Conservation" booklet are sound, the overall tone suggests that lawns are significant sources of surface and ground water pollution. I believe that this is greatly overstated and cannot be substantiated by actual data from research."

A. J. Turgeon, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Turfgrass Management
State College of Pennsylvania

If you would like to view the booklet in question go to: http://www.lancasterwatersheds.org/documents/Backyard-lawnBooklet.pdf

If you would like more information on lawns and lawncare we would encourage you to visit The Lawn Institute at http://www.thelawninstitute.org/

TPI Member Plans their 2nd Annual SOD-Urday Celebration

Last year, John and Ed Braddell of Lakeside Sod Supply in Clarence Center, NY had their first **SOD-Urday Celebration** when WBEN Radio 930 AM did a broadcast from their farm.

We've learned from Ed's daughter, Becky, that the event was so successful they're doing it again this year. Becky reports that they will have hosted their **2nd Annual SOD-Urday** event on Saturday May 17th.

This year WBEN Radio will be doing a live 2-hour broadcast during which time listeners can call-in and ask questions about lawn care and lawn problems. Listeners will also be invited to stop by and enjoy some light refreshments and participate in a raffle where they might win $50 gift certificates.

LAKESIDE SOD SUPPLY Co. Inc.

Becky plans to take photos and share a few of the questions that callers ask during the broadcast. We hope to do a follow-up story in next month's newsletter.

If you have an upcoming event at your farm or business location, or plan to participate in a community event to promote your business and turfgrass, tell us about it! You might be featured in a future issue of this newsletter!

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Do People Really Need to Pamper Their Lawns?

By Jim Novak

Water conservation is on everyone's mind today, as it should be. And when it comes to lawns, some people are quick to point a finger at over-water use. It's true that far too many homeowners often over-water their lawns in an effort to achieve and maintain a plush carpet of green. But the fact is, lawns don't have to be green to be healthy, and many lawns, including those in and around residential properties, our community parks, 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 dog 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 such as ground covers, shade loving perennials, ornamental grasses and various shrubs.

We're not quite sure 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.

Photo: Jim Novak

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

Natural turfgrass offers tremendous environmental benefits that need to be taken into account, and more importantly, homeowners don't have to pamper their lawns to enjoy the immeasurable benefits lawns have to offer.

Winterkill Damage To Turfgrass

Last September, Dave Johnson of Johnson Farms in Deerfield, New Jersey laid sod around his new cottage. When this winter's snow melted he saw that his freshly sodded lawn had suffered a plight similar to many lawns throughout parts of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, the culprit — winterkill. Dave put us in contact with Dr. Peter Landscoot, Professor of Turfgrass Science at Penn State who just released a paper on this very subject titled, *Winterkill Damage on Turfgrass in Pennsylvania.* Dr. Lansscoot has given us permission to share his comments.—JN

By Peter Landscoot—Penn State Extension

The bitter cold and icy conditions during the winter of 2013/14 revealed "spotty" instances of winterkill on Pennsylvania golf courses, lawns, and sports turf this spring. Whereas the exact cause is unclear, relatively warm temperatures in the third week of February (highs ranging from 45 to 50°F — 7.2 to 10°C) may have allowed crown tissues of annual bluegrass and perennial ryegrass to become hydrated and thus, more susceptible to freezing injury. Unfortunately, temperatures dropped to a low of -1°F (-18.3°C) the following week, and this may have resulted in freezing of crown tissue and plant death. A brief description of the causes and management of turfgrass winterkill is provided in the following paragraphs.

Dave Johnson provided these photos of the freshly sodded lawn he laid in September and what it looked like after this year's spring thaw.

Causes of winterkill

Winterkill is a generic term used to describe death of turfgrasses during the winter months, and can be caused by abiotic factors and/or disease. The four types of abiotic winterkill observed in the northern United States include desiccation, direct low temperature kill, ice encasement, and crown hydration.

Desiccation

Desiccation occurs when turf is unprotected by snow cover and subject to drying cold winds for extended periods during the winter. Under these conditions, the exposed turf can lose significant moisture in crown tissues (where new roots, leaves, and stems are produced), resulting in death of the plant.

This type of damage is most frequently observed on susceptible species growing on elevated sites exposed to prevailing winds. Desiccation is most common on annual blue grass putting greens, but can also occur on golf course fairways, lawns, and sports turf. All cool-season turfgrasses can suffer from winter desiccation injury.

Preventative measures to reduce winter desiccation include heavy sand topdressing applications in late fall, fabric covers, and various types of wind screens around sensitive areas.

Winterkill Damage To Turfgrass—Cont'd

Direct low temperature kill
Turfgrasses can sometimes be damaged by a phenomenon known as direct low temperature kill. This type of winterkill occurs during extremely cold temperatures early in the winter following a relatively warm period in late fall. Typically, plant tissues undergo a dehydration process in late fall in response to gradually decreasing temperatures and shorter photoperiods. The dehydration process is accompanied by an increase is cellular solutes (potassium ions, sugars, etc.), allowing the plants to "harden off" or tolerate freezing temperatures. Warm weather during late fall can delay the hardening process and allow plants to become susceptible to ice formation in crown tissues with the advent of a sudden and dramatic drop in temperatures.

Although direct low temperature kill is difficult to prevent, measures that may help protect plants include avoiding excess nitrogen fertilization in mid-fall before plants begin to harden off, and seeding susceptible species early enough in late summer/fall so that they have time to mature and develop an ability to acclimate to cold temperatures later in the season.

Ice encasement
Turf death due to ice encasement occurs when a thick covering of ice over turf causes a reduction in gas exchange between ice-encased turf and the atmosphere. As the semi-dormant turf under the ice continues to respire, oxygen is depleted and a buildup of toxic gasses such as carbon dioxide, butanol, and ethyl butyrate occurs. Oxygen depletion and toxic gasses can kill turf when thick ice coverings last for weeks or months during the winter.

The thickness of ice, duration of encasement, grass species, and condition of turf under the ice all dictate the degree of damage that will occur. Therefore, predicting damage based on the number of days that ice covers turf is not reliable. Nevertheless, some authors suggest removing substantial ice layers from annual bluegrass and perennial ryegrass after 30 to 45 days.

Dr. Landscoot provided this image of direct low temperature kill on a new stand of perennial ryegrass.

Creeping bentgrass can withstand longer periods under ice than annual bluegrass.

Various measures have been employed to reduce damage due to ice encasement. One preventive measure used in northern climates with regular episodes of winterkill includes covering putting greens with semipermeable covers, then adding insulating layers of straw, and covering the straw with impermeable covers. Whereas this method is somewhat effective, it is labor intensive and often not practical in areas where winterkill occurs only once in 10 or 20 years.

In Pennsylvania, it's more common to remove ice from putting greens using dark-colored melting agents, such as black sand or Milorganite fertilizer; or with aerators, hand tools, and small tractors equipped with scraping or lifting accessories.

Cont'd on next page

Winterkill Damage To Turfgrass—Cont'd

Due to the possibility of turf damage, extreme care must be used when attempting to remove ice from putting green surfaces.

Crown hydration

Crown hydration is the most common and destructive type of abiotic winter injury, and usually occurs in late winter following periods of thawing and freezing. During late February and March, temperatures often rise above freezing for a few days at a time. When this happens, some turfgrasses (most notably annual bluegrass and perennial ryegrass) begin to deharden and crowns become hydrated. If a rapid freezing event follows the thaw, ice forms inside the crowns of hydrated turfgrasses and either ruptures cell membranes (when ice forms inside of cells), or draws moisture out of cells (when ice crystals form between cells).

Crown hydration injury is most pronounced on turfgrasses growing in depressions and poorly-drained soils. During warming periods in late winter, surface soil temperatures rise and some thawing takes place. However, soil remains frozen beneath the surface and water does not drain from depressions. As water from thawed snow and ice collects in depressions, turf residing in these areas becomes super-hydrated. When water refreezes during a rapid and dramatic drop in temperature, these super-hydrated plants are killed.

Crown hydration events are impossible to predict, and there is very little turf managers can do to prevent these situations. The best way to reduce crown hydration problems is to avoid practices that force susceptible plants into early emergence from winter dormancy, and to employ measures that improve surface drainage on sensitive sites.

Crown hydration damage on annual bluegrass putting green. Green patches are creeping bentgrass.
Photo: P. Lanscoot Penn State University

Assessing recovery from winterkill

Sometimes an area of grass will appear dead, but many plants still possess viable crown tissues. Turfgrass managers can assess recovery potential by taking plugs of damaged turf and placing these in a warm, well-lighted area for several days or weeks to determine if regrowth occurs. Just because a few tillers emerge from the plugs does not necessarily mean the turf will fully recover, but this method can help turf managers decide on whether reseeding will be required.

For more information contact:
Dr. Peter Landscoot
Professor of Turfgrass Science
Penn State University
pjl1@psu.edu

Look for updates on TPI's 2014 Summer Convention & Field Days on TPI's website, Facebook page and in future issues of ***TURF NEWS***

SAVE THE DATE

Philadelphia
TPI SUMMER CONVENTION & FIELD DAYS
JULY 29 - AUGUST 1, 2014

TPI Field Day
July 31, 2014
JOHNSON FARMS SOD & NURSERY
Host Farm – Johnson Farms, Inc.
Deerfield, New Jersey

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Levi's® Stadium Home of the San Francisco 49ers Features West Coast Turf

"Once you step foot on newly planted grass within a newly built stadium the entire experience is suddenly a little more tangible."
Greg Dunn—West Coast Turf's local representative

The Santa Clara Stadium Authority and the San Francisco 49ers selected West Coast Turf's Bandera Bermuda for the playing field at Levi's® Stadium. Installation of 2.5 acres of sod took place in mid-April.

"The vision for Levi's® Stadium is to provide a world-class experience for everyone who visits the venue," said San Francisco 49ers President Paraag Marathe.

"Just as we strive to provide our customers the best viewing experience, we also strive to provide the athletes who compete on this field with a tremendous playing experience."

When the 49ers take the field for their first preseason game later this year, the countless hours of planning, mowing, fertilizing, watering, and painting will have all been completed. 49ers Sports Turf Manager/Head Groundskeeper Matt Greiner can be confident in the fact this field will match the standard of performance to which the 49ers are accustomed.

"Our long-standing relationship with West Coast Turf dating back to Candlestick Park, and their great reputation throughout the Bay Area, made them an easy selection to supply the playing field," said Greiner, "We ultimately chose Bandera Bermuda turfgrass sod because after closely monitoring it for a couple years, we found it has a faster recovery rate, as well as the tendency to stay green longer into the season. Most importantly, the Bandera Bermuda has good tensile strength so when a player plants his cleat, it holds together better."

Andrew Pentis, 49ers Associate Digital Editor reported the two-day installation required 106,000-plus square feet (9,847 sq. meters) of sod, including the playing surface, which is less than 70,000 square feet (6,503 sq. meters). West Coast Turf cut the sod into 42-inch strips and transported 20,000 to 30,000 square feet (1,858 to 2,787 sq. meters) of it on refrigerated trucks.

Pentis also reported that Bermuda Bandera is greener for the environment. It requires up to 50 percent less water than the average turf variety in the Bay Area.

Our thanks to Danielle Scardino of West Coast Turf for bringing this story to our attention.—JN

Photos courtesy of 49ers.com

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers needs 3,000,000 sq. yards of Bermuda turfgrass sod to strengthen Louisiana levees

By Jim Novak

Thanks to a phone call and follow-up correspondence that we received from Dr. Jeff Beasley, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University, we were made aware of plans underway to reinforce levees throughout the state of Louisiana with turfgrass sod.

The *"Turfgrass Sod (reinforced) with high performance Turf Reinforcement Mat (HPTRM)"* solicitation summary on the following pages may be of interest to all TPI members in and around Louisiana who are growing Bermudagrass.

We plan to track progress reports on this project and keep readers advised in future issues of the E-Newsletter.

In the interim, might we suggest that all interested parties click on the image below to see updates, to track this opportunity and to register as an interested vendor.

https://www.fbo.gov/?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=ca8488ac15c746b61d6af1b6293e2838&tab=core&_cview=0

Bermudagrass is considered ideal grass for armoring local levees because of its dense root mass holds soils and it grows well in the local climate. - Bob Marshall, The Lens

Successfully cultivated and mowed, the grass armoring on the protected side of a levee doubles as an aesthetic and recreational asset. - Bob Marshall, The Lens

Our thanks to Dr. Jeff Beasley of Louisiana State University for bringing this to our attention.

"I believe this can be a great opportunity for sod producers from Eastern Texas to Alabama. I will be more than happy to help answer any questions from producers. I want TPI to be a part of the process in disseminating this information. This is a unique opportunity. Sod provides an extremely resistant surface. Let me know how I can assist you and your membership."

Jeff Beasley
Associate Professor
School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences
Louisiana State University AgCenter
JBeasley@agcenter.isu.edu

See the Synopsis on the following pages.

87--Turfgrass Sod reinforced with High Performance Turf Reinforcement Mat (HPTRM) for the Armoring Program

Solicitation Number: W912P8-14-SS-0003
Agency: Department of the Army
Office: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Location: USACE District, New Orleans
Sources Sought Notice: W912P8-14-SS-0003

Turfgrass Sod (reinforced with High Performance Turf Reinforcement Mat (HPTRM)) for the Armoring Program of the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Project, Louisiana and the West Bank and Vicinity Project, Louisiana (Sometimes Jointly Referred to as the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS))

SYNOPSIS:
This is a SOURCES SOUGHT announcement; a market survey for information only, to be used for the preliminary planning purposes. THIS IS NOT A SOLICITATION FOR PROPOSAL AND NO CONTRACT WILL BE AWARDED FROM THIS SYNOPSIS. No reimbursement will be made for any costs associated with providing information in response to this synopsis or any follow up information requests. Respondents will or will not be notified of the results of the evaluation.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District has a requirement for the supply of large quantities of turfgrass sod (~3,000,000 sq. yds total). This sod will be placed on and reinforced with synthetic high performance turn reinforcement mat (HPTRM). This is part of the District's levee armoring program. The Government is looking for a single or multiple suppliers who can meet the requirements listed below:

1. Turfgrass sod shall be commercially grown Bermuda grass meeting the Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) 1995 Guideline Specifications for Turfgrass Sodding (revised 2006) (GSS).

2. The minimum quality grade for turfgrass sod shall be, quote mark commercial grade quote mark, as defined in the TPI GSS. In addition to commercial grade requirements, the Bermuda grass sod shall:
a. contain no disease or insects; and

b. have a thickness of attached soil layer of 3/4 inch to 1 inch thick classified as ML (silt) or CL (lean clay) according to USCS/ASTM D 2487; and

c. have an overall total sod thickness of 1-3/4 inch to 2 inch thick; and

d. have no weeds and/or patches of foreign grasses exceeding 5% of each sq. yd. of sod verified through digital analysis and/or field inspection before cutting; and

e. have a minimum 90% soil coverage for each sq. yd. of Bermuda grass sod, which will be verified through digital analysis and/or field inspection before cutting.

3. Bermuda grass sod shall be supplied in rolls, with a minimum width of 30 inches weighing a max. of 1500 lbs per roll;

4. Bermuda grass sod shall be delivered to a designated destination in the Greater New Orleans area within 24 hours of cutting and meet all state and Federal regulations governing shipment.

cont'd on next page

Corp of Engineers photo of grass-covered levee in Louisiana.

87--Turfgrass Sod reinforced with High Performance Turf Reinforcement Mat (HPTRM) for the Armoring Program—Cont'd

Sod farmers must have the capability of providing a minimum of 50,000 sq yds per month of Bermuda grass sod detailed below within a continuous 4 month period during one growing season (minimum of 200,000 sq yds). The Government will be installing this sod into the armoring program mostly within the 2015 and 2016 time period.

The proposed acquisition type has not been determined. The type of set-aside decision to be issued will depend upon the responses to this synopsis. The purpose of this synopsis is to gain knowledge of interest, capabilities, and qualifications of various members of industry, to include the Small Business Community: Section 8(a), Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone), or Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB). The Government must ensure there is adequate competition among the potential pool of responsible firms. Small business, Section 8(a), HUBZone, and SDVOSB businesses, are highly encouraged to participate.

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code for this procurement is 111421, which has a business size standard is $750,000. The Federal Supply Code is 8730.

Bermuda grass sod farms shall provide responses to the following:

1. Firm name, address, telephone/fax numbers, CAGE code, DUNS number, and proof of an active SAM registry, if applicable or available.

2. Identification of the company's size status (large business or small business). If small business, submit proper socioeconomic status, such as 8a, HubZone, Woman Owned, Service Disabled Veteran Owned. NAICS Code 111421 business size standard is not to exceed $750,000, if applicable or available.

3. Number of acres of Bermuda grass sod and soil meeting the above requirements currently grown and/or could be available for this project in 4 months during the growing season.

4. Maximum number of acres available for growing Bermuda grass sod meeting this Sources Sought.

5. Maximum sq. yds. of Bermuda grass sod that can be delivered per month.

6. Maximum sq. yds. of sod that the supplier has cut and delivered per month in the past two (2) years.

7. The type of Bermuda grass sod available such as Tifway, Celebration, or other cultivars of Bermuda grass sod.

IMPORTANT:
Responses shall be limited to no more than five (5) pages and received by the response time indicated below. This synopsis is for identification, evaluation and planning purposes only and is neither to be construed as a commitment by the Government nor will the Government pay for information solicited. Electronic submissions will be accepted and are preferred.

The responses to this SOURCES SOUGHT may be mailed to 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118-3651, Room 184, Attn: Michelle Lappen, or e-mailed to Michelle.Y.Lappen@usace.army.mil.

Responses must be received no later than 11:00 A.M. Central Time Zone, Friday, May 2, 2014.(*)

Contracting Office Address:
USACE District, New Orleans, ATTN: CEMVN-CT-W, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 701118-3651

Place of Performance:
Within the New Orleans, LA metropolitan area

Point of Contact(s):
Michelle Lappen, 504-862-1612
Contracting Office Address:
USACE District, New Orleans, ATTN: CEMVN-CT, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267
Place of Performance:
USACE District, New Orleans ATTN: CEMVN-CT, P.O. Box 60267 New Orleans LA
70160-0267
US
Point of Contact(s):
Michelle Lappen, 504-862-1612
USACE District, New Orleans

https://www.fbo.gov/?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=ca8488ac15c746b61d6af1b6293e2838&tab=core&_cview=0

* TPI has left several messages with Michelle Lappen regarding an extension on the proposed response date and has yet to receive a returned call. Because no contract will be awarded from their Solicitation for Proposal it is our recommendation that all interested turfgrass producers register as interested vendors on their website.—JN

THANK YOU!

TPI's FACEBOOK PAGE IS APPROACHING 500 LIKES

To visit the TPI Facebook page click the graphics to the left. You don't have to be a Facebook subscriber to visit the page. If you are already a Facebook subscriber, be sure to click **LIKE** on our Facebook page.

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

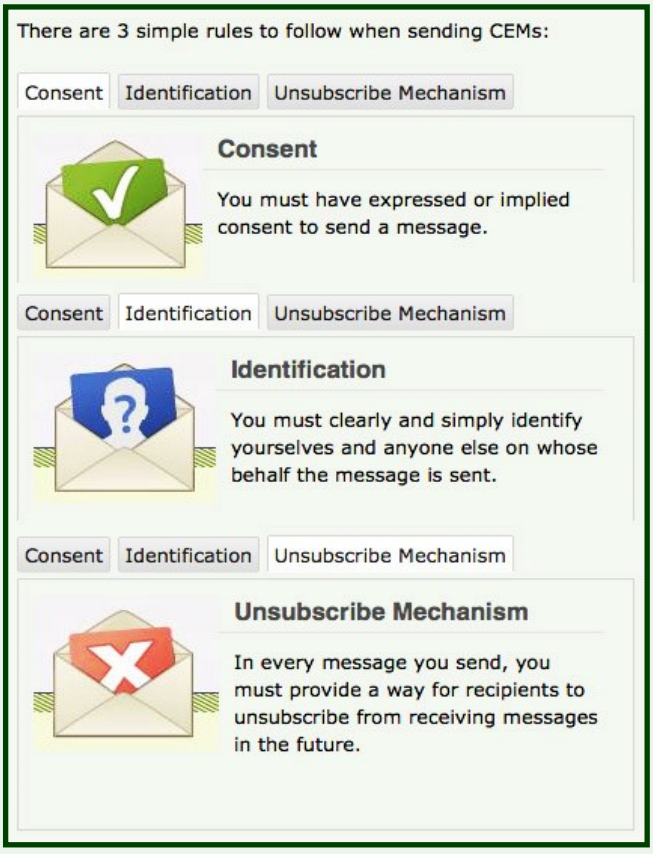
To our Canadian Members

Important information regarding Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation

The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission ("CRTC") has published final regulations related to implementation of Canada's anti-spam legislation, most of which take effect July 1, 2014. The legislation and regulations are intended "To protect Canadians while ensuring businesses can continue to compete in the global marketplace." Furthermore, "On January 15, 2015, sections of the Act related to the unsolicited installation of computer programs or software come into force."

The Act and regulations address "commercial electronic messages" or "CEMs" so they apply to text, email, telephone and other electronic communications. The Act, regulations and regulatory impact analysis statement are readily available on the CRTC website, at www.CRTC.ca

In order to comply with Canada's anti-spam legislation, this is what you must include when sending a commercial electronic message (CEM).



The CRTC is committed to reducing the harmful effects of spam and related threats to electronic commerce and is working towards a safer and more secure online marketplace. Canada's new anti-spam legislation will better protect Canadians while ensuring that businesses can continue to compete in the global marketplace.

A Great Sponsorship Opportunity

Support The Lawn Institute

There's something special planned for Field Day *Preview Jubilee* at Johnson Farms during TPI's 2014 Summer Convention. On Wednesday, July 30th, The Lawn Institute will host an Adult Tricycle Race.

Sponsors can decorate their bikes, select their teams and help to support turfgrass research and education.

This is sure to be an exciting, fun-filled event that will have attendees and competitors alike cheering for their team. Onlookers can make a donation to support The Lawn Institute, select the team they want to win and if they select the winning team and their name is drawn, they will be generously rewarded.

Tricycles will be auctioned off to benefit The Lawn Institute.

SIGN UP NOW!

Limited to15 Tricycles
Sponsors must place their order by

June 2, 2014

JULY 30, 2014

THE LAWN INSTITUTE TRICYCLE RACE

Sponsorship Opportunity - $750.00

Includes your trike* which we ship to you to deck out with your company logos, colors or whatever you wish! Trikes will be donated to The Lawn Institute for auction at the end of the race.

*Some assembly required.

Call the TPI office at 847-649-5555 for more details!

Turfgrass Water Conservation Alliance® 2014 Field Day in Oregon

Albany, OR—TWCA is excited to announce their Oregon Field Day will be on June 20th.

The Field Day will consist of informative keynote speakers including Dr. Michael Richardson from University of Arkansas, Dr. Cale Bigelow from Purdue University, Kenneth Hignight from Nexgen Turf Research, Crystal Rose-Fricker from Pure Seed Testing, and more.

The informational speakers will cover a wide range of topics related to the importance of water conservation, and how it relates to turfgrass selection, planting, and managing.

The Field Day will have organized tours of the research farm consisting of rainout shelters, shade trials, drought trials, salinity and low maintenance studies. This will give attendees the opportunity to see TWCA's science based research in person, and how it can relate to applicable use.

To learn more about the TWCA or if you have any questions regarding this year's Field Day please contact Nick Layton at nick@tgwca.org.

The Value of Volunteering - TPI Working Groups & Committee Meetings

The working groups and committees of Turfgrass Producers International and The Lawn Institute provide all members with an opportunity to play an active role in helping to shape the future of your association and support your foundation. Why not volunteer and get involved? It's a great way to network with your peers, get broader insight into how your association functions and your contribution can make a beneficial difference.

Working Group and committee volunteers are among the strongest assets we have as an association. The contribution, insight and efforts of members who volunteer their time to become actively involved help to enhance our programs, define our strategic plans, influence the direction of our association and serve as a voice for our membership so we can communicate clearly and effectively with TPI's Board of Trustees.

Serving on a TPI working group or one of TLI's committees is one of the best ways to become actively involved.

We invite all members to volunteer their time, become engaged, network with fellow members and provide your knowledge and experience to help your association grow.

All TPI members are eligible to sit on working groups and committees. A brief description of each volunteer group is available below and on the following page.

Conference & Education Working Group

Scope: The primary responsibility of this working group is the development and coordination of educational programs for TPI events including pre-conference seminars, panel/board discussions, general education and breakout sessions, tours, etc., along with the identification and recruitment of speakers.

Estimated Time Commitment: Volunteers are expected to participate in at least one in-person meeting every year (to be held at the TPI conference and/or convention) and conference calls as needed (quarterly or more often). Volunteers may also be called upon to contact prospective meeting speakers. Estimate: 5-12 hours/annually.

Join this Working Group Meeting in Philadelphia to learn more: Monday, July 28 at 4:00 - 5:30 pm

The Lawn Institute Fundraising Committee

Scope: The Fundraising Committee is responsible for developing fundraising activities for the foundation and for helping to secure donations.

Estimated Time Commitment: Volunteers are expected to participate in at least one in-person meeting every year (to be held at the TPI conference and/or convention) and conference calls as needed (quarterly or more often). Volunteers may also be called upon to solicit donations at the meeting(s). Estimate: 5-12 hours/annually.

Join this Committee Meeting in Philadelphia to learn more: Monday, July 28 at 5:30 - 6:30 pm

The Value of Volunteering - TPI Working Groups & Committee Meetings—Cont'd

The Lawn Institute Research Committee

Scope: The Research Committee focuses on reviewing research proposals and making funding recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The Research Committee is also charged with tracking the research being done in the turfgrass field and reporting on that research to the board.

Estimated Time Commitment: Volunteers are expected to participate in at least one in-person meeting every year (to be held at the TPI conference and/or convention) and conference calls as needed (quarterly or more often). Estimate: 5 -12 hours/annually.

Join this Committee Meeting in Philadelphia to learn more: Tuesday, July 29 at 8:00 – 9:00 pm

Membership Working Group

Scope: The focus of this group is to develop new programs and strategies that expand TPI's exposure and membership participation worldwide.

Estimated Time Commitment: Volunteers are expected to participate in at least one in-person meeting every year (to be held at the TPI conference and/or convention) and conference calls as needed. Volunteers may also be called upon to review new members applications. Estimate: 4-8 hours/annually.

Join this Working Group Meeting in Philadelphia to learn more: Wednesday, July 30 at 7:45 - 8:45 am

The Lawn Institute Scholarship Committee

Scope: The Dr. Henry W. Indyk Scholarship was established to honor a founding father of Turfgrass Producers International while demonstrating TPI's commitment to education and offering a valuable member benefit. The Scholarship Committee solicits, collects and reviews annual Dr. Henry W. Indyk Scholarship applications. The committee members use objective criteria to select scholarship winners.

Estimated Time Commitment: Volunteers receive the scholarship applications via email in February and must review each application and score it using the form provided by TLI. In late March or early April, the committee meets via conference call to discuss the applications, determine a winner (or winners) and discuss other committee business. Additional conference calls or meetings will be called as needed. Estimate: 8-12 hours annually, heaviest in the late-winter or early-spring.

This Committee will not be meeting in Philadelphia. To learn more, please contact the TPI Office at 847-649-5555 or info@TurfGrassSod.org

Public Relations Working Group

Scope: The primary goal of this group is to maximize TPI's effectiveness in developing marketing strategies that serve to educate the general public, convey beneficial information to producers, suppliers and end-users, address specific environmental advantages and/or concerns, enhance and expand TPI's relationships with turfgrass extension specialists, researchers and educators, and develop, review and revise various support materials specifically designed to achieve the intended objectives.

Estimated Time Commitment: Volunteers are expected to participate in at least one in-person meeting every year (to be held at the TPI conference and/or convention) and conference calls as needed (quarterly or more often). Estimate: 4-8 hours/annually.

Join this Working Group Meeting in Philadelphia to learn more: Wednesday, July 30 at 7:45 - 8:45 am

The Value of Volunteering - TPI Working Groups & Committee Meetings—Cont'd

VOLUNTEER

GET INVOLVED AND REAP THE REWARDS

Complete the form below by June 30, 2014 and return it to TPI offices at (fax) +847-649-5678 or email the information, with "Volunteer" in the subject line to: info@TurfGrassSod.org.

- -

Name ____

Company Name ____

Email ____

Phone ____

On which volunteer group(s) would you like to volunteer?

- ☐ **Conference & Education Working Group**
- ☐ **The Lawn Institute Fundraising Committee**
- ☐ **The Lawn Institute Research Committee**
- ☐ **The Lawn Institute Scholarship Committee**
- ☐ **Membership Working Group**
- ☐ **Public Relations Working Group**

Why would you like to volunteer on this/these groups? ____________________

____

____

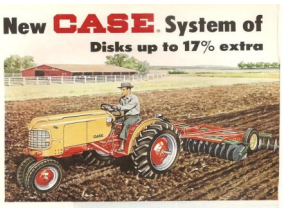
Submit by June 30, 2014 to TPI offices* *info@TurfGrassSod.org* *or fax +847-649-5678

Find us on: facebook

AND THE WINNING BID IS . . .

LIVE AUCTION at TPI's Field Day Preview Jubilee on Wednesday, July 30th

There's going to be a live auction at this year's Summer Convention during TPI's Field Day *Preview Jubilee* at Johnson Farms. A portion of the proceeds will help **The Lawn Institute** and support research and education. We want to thank everyone who is submitting items for the auction and we look forward to what is sure to be an exciting event.



As of this writing The Lawn Institute continues to solicit donations but we do know of two exciting items that will be up for bidding:

J.I. CASE 300 TRACTOR (1956-1958)

Fred Pittillo of Turf Mountain Sod is a collector of tractors and he has generously donated a J.I. Case 300 model tractor(the series was manufactured between 1956-1958) up for auction. It is our understanding that only 249* were built. J.I. Case and Company is one of the oldest tractor builders. When Case began to modernize their lineup, they started in 1953 with their first diesel engine tractor, the Model "500." The "500" produced 56 HP on the drawbar and became a respected engine. Two years later, Case brought out the "400" series tractors with 44 HP, and the "300" with 23 HP. As an added incentive, **Kesmac/Brouwer** will deliver the tractor to the winning bidder anywhere in continental North America.

* Source: TractorData.com

HUNTING TRIP

Ed Keeven of Emerald View Turf Farm has donated a hunting package similar to what the Keeven family donated several years ago at a previous auction to raise funds for The Lawn Institute. The winning bid at that time went to Ron Edwards and Ed Lee of Summit Seed. In a follow-up story featured in the April 2010 E-Newsletter Ron Edwards wrote:

Left to right: Ed Lee, Ed Keeven, Ron Edwards and Tom Keeven.

"I can tell you that this is a hunting trip that I will tell stories about for many years to come. It's not too often that you see a family so tightly knit and passionate about the outdoor world and the turf industry. The Keeven family has brought a lot to the turf industry and TPI over the years. This is truly a family to remember, one that gives back in so many ways." - Ron Edwards, Summit Seed

If you're interested in bidding on this hunting trip you just might find yourself bidding against the Ron Edwards and Ed Lee of Summit Seed!