Plant growth regulator fares well in waste study

PATERSON, N.J. — Passaic County (N.J.) officials have released results of a program geared toward reducing the amount of grass clippings entering landfills. "Grass — Cut It and Leave It" is part of a larger yard waste management effort to reduce total solid waste.

"Plant growth regulator (PGR) became able reductions in the amount of grass clippings before the plant growth regulator (PG) became part of the program. With this type of product added as an integral part of the program, we’ve seen an even larger reduction."

Professional applicators applied plant growth regulator to more than 20 acres of turf in a variety of settings, including a golf course, corporate landscapes, municipal properties, historic sites and private residences. On the golf course, the maintenance staff did not decrease the number of mowings, yet noted a 50-percent reduction in the amount of time spent mowing because of fewer grass clippings. On the other properties, the number of mowings decreased from between 50 percent and 62.5 percent.

Bruce Van Duyne, ornamentals management specialist with the Passaic County Office of Recycling and Solid Waste Programs, estimates that a 5,000- to 6,000-square-foot turf area produces one ton of grass clippings during an entire growing season. Based on an average of 25 mowings per year, each mowing produces 80 pounds of clippings. This equates to 640 pounds during an eight-week evaluation period. On the PG-treated areas in this program, the average clipping reduction during the eight weeks was nearly 60 percent, or 400 pounds. "Yard waste accounts for about 20 percent of Passaic County’s total waste stream, and that is fairly typical nationwide," says Scott Moffett, Ciba product manager.

"RGF NAMES REGIONAL REPS" WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — RGF Environmental Systems, Inc., a member of RGF Environmental Group based here, has appointed several new golf and turf representatives: Pan Pacific Turf Supply in Honolulu, Hawaii; Simpson & Norton with locations in Goodyear, Ariz. and Las Vegas, Nev.; and South West Toro in Albuquerque, N.M. The new appointments will allow RGF to expand representation, customer service and distribution in the U.S. market.

"Shop Talks" are designed to complement the two-day education conference at Golf Course Expo. The conference program, which does carry a fee of $295, includes three in-depth education tracks: Maintenance, Development, and Marketing & Management. Conferences can earn continuing education credits (CEUs) from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America by attending.

For more information on exhibiting and attending Golf Course Expo, call the Expo Hotline at 203-946-0600.