Pace Turfgrass Research Institute (PTRI) has been granted an innovation award from the California EPA’s Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) for its work in developing alternative pest control measures. PTRI has developed integrated pest management approaches to turf maintenance that can be used immediately by golf course superintendents. PTRI has a research advisory board of 25 southern California superintendents who set turfgrass research priorities, offer their courses as subjects for research, and release the results by mutual agreement for use by the entire golf course management community.

"PTRI is an excellent example of the work we want to encourage," said Elin Miller, chief deputy director of the DPR. "We recognize that integrated pest management on golf courses can be difficult. Golf course superintendents who adopt IPM programs must maintain the beauty of a course while they balance their inputs to control pests. PTRI has created a viable way for superintendents to identify alternative methods, to research their efficacy and to implement them with success."

According to Larry Stowell, the director of PTRI, "For IPM to become widely adopted by the superintendent, it must be effective, cost-efficient and solve actual problems experienced on the course. Our research is driven by the superintendent."

Eric Lawrence, the golf course superintendent for Dove Canyon Country Club in California who serves as chairman of PTRI’s research committee, said, "At Dove Canyon, we used to rely on a preventative-type program, where every year at a specific time we would apply a product to ward off a problem we thought we might have. Now with PTRI, I can identify exactly what problems we have and find the appropriate means or method to control it."

Rutgers students earn Peter Loft Scholarships

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — This year’s tribute to the memory of Peter S. Loft took place here during the New Jersey Turf Expo, marking the 11th year Rutgers University students have received scholarship awards toward degrees in turfgrass science from the Peter Selmer Loft Scholarship Fund. Each year the number of recipients has increased. This year $1,000 and $2,000 were awarded to 14 people: Michael Candeloro, Scott Fretz, Joshua Honig, Darrell Chambers, Joseph Clark, Pedro Perdomo, Michael Ventola, Tracy Bunting, Stacy Ann Bonos, Suzanne Sollner-Figler, Dirk Smith, Joseph Guarino, Haibo Liu and Amy Clay.

Thompson teams with TWC in Fla.

CHINO, Calif. — Thompson Manufacturing Co. has named TWC as its exclusive golf distributors for west and central Florida. With offices in Orlando, Palmetto, Sarasota and Venice, Thompson anticipates TWS being able to service a broad number of golf courses.

Thompson has also named Coast Irrigation as its exclusive distributor for the Southern California and Nevada markets. Coast will serve the area from four offices in El Cajon, Marrietta, Westlake Village and Anaheim. Coast also has an office in Las Vegas which will handle Thompson products for southern Nevada.

For more information contact Thompson at 909-591-4851.