

New York Turf Assn. seminars planned

Dr. Michael Raupp, University of Maryland.

• **Build Your Skills** — Basic Turf Soil Management, Joann Gruttadaurio, Cornell University; Turfgrass IPM, Kevin Trotta, North Rockland CSD; Weed Identification and Control, Joann Gruttadaurio, Cornell University.

• **Lawn & Landscape** — Advances in Integrating Biological Controls Into Plant Health Care, Dr. Michael Raupp, University of Maryland.

• **Golf** — Turfgrass Disease Review (Including New Diseases Such a Gray Leaf Spot), Dr. Peter Landschoot, Pennsylvania State University.

• **Environmental Issues** — The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System & Stewardship Where You Live, Work, and Play, Joellen Zeh, Audubon International; DEC Certification Regulation Changes, Ed Hanbach, NYS DEC; Dow Does 48-Hours Notification Affect Your Business,

Bob Ottley, One Step Lawn care; Legislative Process/Current Legislation, Pat Hooker, New York. Farm Bureau; 48-Hour Notification: Working With Your Legislator, Michael Maffei, CGCS, Back O'Beyond, Inc.

Conference hours are from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with registration beginning at 7 a.m. For more information, call NYSTA at 800-873-8873, 518-783-1229.

BUFFALO, N.Y. — On March 9, the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) will present its Western Regional Conference, a one-day seminar designed to share with grounds managers the latest information, research, and techniques.

In addition to the educational sessions, this one-day conference will include a trade show with vendors representing various interests.

Seminars will include:

• **General Session** — Weather or Not, Stan Levine, National Weather Service Forecaster; Using Weather Conditions to Predict Pest Outbreaks,

Native, niche turf

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hards, creeping reds and sheeps. They are also low-maintenance/low-fertility grasses.

“You can do just about anything with fine fescues that you can do with Kentucky bluegrass,” Lynch said. “They are excellent in shade and blend well with bents.”

“A mixture of five pounds of chewings fescue with a pound of bent can re-establish an area in six weeks. As you lower the mowing heights, the chewings fescues mow out and give way to the creeping bentgrasses that are starting to establish themselves. They can also be used in conjunction with natives.”

NATIVE GRASSES

Besides requiring little maintenance, native grasses are prized for their aesthetic qualities, Lynch said. Their seed heads, fall color and diverse texture make them attractive.

Natives are best used in out-of-play areas and as accents around tee boxes, specimen gardens and slope stabilization areas.

There are several keys to establishing native grasses, Lynch said.

“Don’t cultivate too deeply, otherwise you’ll bring weeds to the surface, especially in areas that were formerly pasture,” he explained. “Don’t prep the soil down more than 2 inches.”

“Minimize pre-planting fertility regimes to less than half of what is used in in-play areas because natives will suck up the nutrients as quickly as they can find them.”

“Keep seeding rates low. The idea is to give each individual plant enough room to establish itself.”

“And finally, be patient. It takes three to five years to establish a mature-appearing area. If you’re expecting results in a year, you’ll spend a lot of money and be very disappointed.”

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