SPORTS AND COMMERCIAL TURF MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REPORT David M. Gilstrap Department of Crop and Soil Sciences Michigan State University

Program Update

Twenty-one incoming students helped maintain total program enrollment at nearly 40 students. Here are the program's student numbers since I arrived here in 1993.

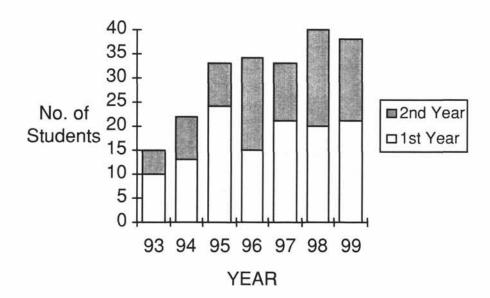


Fig 1. Fall-semester enrollment for first and second year Sports and Commercial Turf Management students.

Job offers upon graduation continue to be plentiful, especially in lawn/ landscape maintenance. A complete run-down of graduate placement appeared in the Fall 99 News Notes.

Research Update

With no research appointment and no external funding, I still find time and resources to conduct field research that may be useful to the sports and commercial turf segments of our industry. Two studies have been completed and will be presented by me during subsequent sessions of this conference. The first will be part on Wednesday at 9:50 A. M. as part of the Professional Grounds Management session. The presentation is entitled "How to Enhance Spring Green-up with Mowing". The other is entitled "Four-Year Nitrogen-Protocol Study" and will occur on Thursday at 8:30 A. M. during the Professional Lawn Care and Grounds Management session. My other two research projects are "works-in-progress" and are capsulated below.

Kentucky Bluegrass Height-of-Cut Study

This experiment has Kentucky bluegrass growing at 8 different mowing heights at half-inch increments from 1.5 to 5 inches. All the mowings are made according to the "one-third rule" and Figure 2 shows the mean mowing frequency and the shortest interval between mowings averaged over several