U of G Hires New Turfgrass Faculty Member

DR. ERIC LYONS JOINS DEPARTMENT OF PLANT AGRICULTURE

Dr. Eric Lyons has accepted an offer to join the University of Guelph as a faculty member in turfgrass management. He will be leaving a post-doctoral position in turfgrass physiology at Rutgers University.

Dr. Lyons, a native of the state of Iowa, is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa where he received his B.Sc. with a double major in Biology and Philosophy. While at Northern Iowa he played several seasons as an offensive lineman on the University football team and later served as an Undergraduate Assistant Offensive Line Coach.

Upon completion of his undergraduate program, Dr. Lyons attended Penn State University where he completed a Ph.D. program under the guidance of Dr. David Huff and Dr. Dan Knievel. His graduate work investigated the seasonal competition and physiological responses of different ecotypes of *Poa annua* and *Agrostis stolonifera*. He was awarded both a National Science Foundation Fellowship and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Watson Fellowship. While at Penn State, he was actively involved as an instructor in the turfgrass management diploma program.

Dr. Lyons is scheduled to join the University of Guelph faculty in early July. His research interests are varied and his initial efforts at Guelph will be directed towards establishing new research priorities developed in collaboration with the turfgrass industry and colleagues at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Dr. Lyons will also be involved in University of Guelph professional development programs, undergraduate teaching and supervision of graduate students. He will be formally introduced to the turfgrass industry at the GTI Summer Research Field Day on August 17th. For more information, please contact: Rob Witherspoon, Director, Guelph Turfgrass Institute & Environmental Research Centre, 519-824-4120 ext. 56886, robwith@uoguelph.ca.

Editor's Note: Dr. Lyons will conduct a session entitled Managing Athletic Fields for Healthy Root Systems at the STA's 17th Annual Field Day, Thursday, September 16th at the Mississauga Valley Community Centre. See the inside front cover for details.