 creation of Super Journal by PACE Turfgrass Research Institute Is Boon to Data-Savvy Superintendents, Turf Industry

Many industries have them—journals of technical data. There's the New England Journal of Medicine, Art & Architecture Journal and even Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture. Today unpublished technical data generated by golf course superintendents, turf managers and researchers, interns and others now have a home in Super Journal, an online turf research journal published by the PACE Turfgrass Research Institute and accessible free-of-charge at www.paceturf.org.

Turf managers conduct virtually thousands of replicated experiments each year to evaluate products and practices. Until the creation of Super Journal, the technical data generated by superintendents and managers have been untapped by the turf community. PACE Co-research Director Wendy Gelernter, Ph.D., said, "This is a tragedy as far as we’re concerned. How many mistakes could be avoided if turf managers could share their experiences with problematic turf management strategies? Research conducted outside of university protocols may be less stringent, but it is no less important because the research seeks to solve the actual problems the managers are experiencing."

Super Journal’s submission requirements are not as rigorous as an academic journal’s, but Dr. Gelernter said PACE does require that the basic principles of experimental design, data recording and data summary be followed. For turf managers who are new to research protocols and writing data reports, a research guide has been provided at the www.paceturf.org website.

To introduce Super Journal, Dr. Gelernter said PACE has “primed the pump” with reports by researchers, including a just-posted article by Mary W. Olsen, Ph.D. and Michele J. Kohout, Ph.D., both University of Arizona plant pathologists. Drs. Olsen and Kohout discovered that bermudagrass is a reservoir for the inoculum of the cool-season turfgrass disease, rapid blight. Visitors to Super Journal will find this article, as well as others ranging from insect management to reclaimed water management to how to conduct your own research project to how to photograph turf diseases. Over time, superintendent and turf management reports will be added as they are submitted.

Super Journal, Dr. Gelernter summarized, seeks to provide a venue for:
— Superintendents to publish the results of their turf research projects and to share their conclusions with fellow turf managers
— Turf researchers to rapidly publish and disseminate their experimental results
— Superintendents who want assistance in designing, carrying out and interpreting and/or summarizing turf research experiments

The PACE Turfgrass Research Institute (PACE) is a membership organization that provides research, education and information services to the turf management community. Founded in 1993 by its research directors Wendy Gelernter, Ph.D. and Larry Stowell, Ph.D., the PACE mission is to generate and share independent and objective agronomic information among turf professionals so they may develop management programs that are effective, practical and scientifically sound. www.paceturf.org.

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