



Dr. Nick Christians

Dr. Nick Christians, University Professor of Horticulture at Iowa State University made the final education presentation of day, **"The Drought Effects of 2012."**

Dr. Christians (father MAGCS Member Tim Christians) started out with weather data from the summer of 2012. Some places of the country were hotter and drier than others but it was overall one of the hottest and driest summers on record.

His turfgrass management practices recommendations during a drought are:

1. Substitute rolling for mowing during periods of stress
2. Use solid rollers on mowers instead of grooved rollers
3. Minimize overhead irrigation
4. Use hoses for specific watering needs
5. Improve drainage
6. Use solid tines for venting

Some of Dr. Christian's observations during the course of the season were:

- High stress seasons are hard on new Superintendents
- Cutbacks in good years caused problems in 2012
- *Poa trivialis* was very problematic
- Perennial ryegrass did not recover well from the drought
- White grubs continued to feed until late fall
- Quackgrass, Windmillgrass and Goosegrass had a strong presence in established turf
- Dollar spot had a late surge, but otherwise low pressure for the year
- Yellow patch was present on fall seedlings
- Phosphite applications for *Pythium* prevention worked very well on older mature turf, but not so well on new seedlings. He recommended keeping *Pythium* labeled products on the shelf for a backup program
- Water shortages cause problems in certain locations. Some were severe.
- *Poa annua* has amazing recuperative ability even after drought and heavy traffic
- Water quality was a concern. Accumulated sodium became concentrated in soil systems during drought.

**For further information, Dr. Christians can be reached at: [nchris@iastate.edu](mailto:nchris@iastate.edu)**

The MAGCS Education Committee put together another great day of education, making it 60 in a row. Thanks to all the speakers who presented, Curtis Tyrrell and staff who hosted and to the MAGCS members who continue to support the association. **-OC**

**CS TURF**  
Common Sense Turf Management

CS Turf offers a complete service of **deep tine aerification operations** for all your turf needs.

**Renny Jacobson**  
[renny@csturf.net](mailto:renny@csturf.net)  
(815) 791-7404  
Frankfort, IL

WHY GO SHALLOW WHEN YOU CAN GO DEEP?

Let's talk turf - call today for a quote.