



GOLF TURF NEWS

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State Extension Specialists in Turfgrass Production and Management are available to assist county Extension staffs in a variety of programs. A state specialist is utilized to provide information to county Extension staffs relative to all aspects of turfgrass management. Additionally, specialists assist county personnel in analyzing and interpreting facts and their meaningfulness to turf situations. They also help plan and participate in turfgrass educational programs throughout the state.

Florida currently has two full time Extension Turfgrass Specialists. Dr. Charles Peacock is located on the University of Florida main campus at Gainesville and Dr. Bruce Augustin is stationed at the IFAS - AREC at Ft. Lauderdale. These specialists devote 70% of their time to extension work and 30% to turf research. They are available to assist county personnel with every phase of turf programs and situations for commercial turfgrass.

Ideally, anyone involved in production and/or maintenance of turf on a commercial basis should work with local Extension agents within a county. However, many counties are without horticultural agents that are knowledgeable about commercial turf, especially golf courses. This is where state specialists can be of assistance. Someone involved with commercial turf when a problem arises, can contact the local county Extension agent, who can then request assistance from Extension Turfgrass Specialists to determine what information should be gathered and for help in analyzing and interpreting results of this information. In certain instances where county agent availability is limited, the specialists may work one-on-one with other people in industry.

State Extension Specialists from other disciplines such as soil science (which includes soil fertility and fertilizers), plant pathology (disease), entomology (insects), nematology (nematodes), and weed science have turf as part of their overall responsibility. These people are also available for consultation by county extension personnel.

Extension literature is available from the local Extension office on most areas of pest control for turf. Plant Protection Pointers outline control recommendations, and are available for plant diseases, nematodes, and insects. These are revised to update pesticide availability and efficacy on at least a yearly basis. Additionally fact sheets are

published on individual disease and insects for detailed information including identification, life cycles, and susceptibility of hosts. Information is also available on soil fertility and fertilizers, pesticides, sprayer calibration, pumping systems and irrigation systems.

Many services are available from the Florida Cooperative Extension Service. The Extension Soil Testing Laboratory makes chemical analyses on soil and water for growers, homeowners, and the general public. A variety of analyses are available at a nominal cost. The Florida Plant Disease Clinic within the Plant Pathology Department can identify and recommend control measures for common, recognizable disorders of plants. Control recommendations which need to be started immediately are made by a telephone call to county Extension personnel. The Entomology/Nematology Dept. offers an Insect Identification Service by the Extension Entomologist. This allows prompt identification of insects so that management or control recommendations can be made with little delay.

The Florida Nematode Assay Laboratory can determine kinds and numbers of plant nematodes in soil and plant samples. If necessary, they will also provide current control information and suggested procedures. The Herbarium maintains a Plant Identification Service which will provide information on plants including scientific names and authors for cultivated plants, weeds, and native species, their common names, range, date of flowering, and possible human or animal toxicity. The Chemical Information Center maintains latest information concerning pesticides and can provide information on concerns such as toxicity and antidotes.

All of these services and more are available through the Florida Cooperative Extension Service agent in your county. You are encouraged to contact these people when you have a need for or question about these services. The Extension service is here for your use, take advantage of its resources.

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