

FTGA, University of Florida and Environmental Turf, the company that licenses SeaDwarf and Aloha Seashore Paspalum to growers world-wide, hosted a field day at Emerald Island Turf sod farm in Avon Park. At the event, the university's Drs. Laurie Trenholm and J. Bryan Unruh presented the latest information on seashore paspalum as well as acted as guides on a tour of several seashore paspalum varieties at the sod farm.

Environmental Turf also presents CEU-approved seminars on seashore paspalum around the state at various FGCSA chapter meetings. (Call 772-460-5575 to schedule and event for your chapter.) Environmental Turf has also developed a book on the subject titled "Suggestions for the Care of Seashore Paspalum." The book includes research information as well as first-hand plans of action from superintendents who are growing the grass on a daily basis. The book is available for free to industry members. (You may call 772-460-5575 have a book mailed to you or it is available for free download as a PDF file at www.environmentalturf.com.)

"I think it's a revolutionary turfgrass," said Crown Colony's Tim Daniel. "We're using less water, we're using less fertilizer. There's less potential for nitrogen leaching. In this day and age with everyone's eye on the environment, it's prudent for golf managers to utilize every tool available."

(Editor's Note: The FGCSA is not advocating or endorsing the use of paspalum grass varieties to replace bermudagrass across the board. There is no doubt paspalum has applications in coastal regions where brackish water is available and fresh water is scarce. As noted in the article, "no grass is perfect," but because of the escalating interest in this grass and some of its reduced inputs, the grass deserves consideration as a selection. I asked Stacie Zinn to compile and present this information so that superintendents can have access to as much information as possible. Zinn is also a freelance writer who contributes regularly to turf industry magazines.

Federal Agencies Adopt New Process For Pesticide Approval

GCSAA launched a grassroots campaign at the 76th International Golf Course Superintendents Conference and Show in San Diego in support of proposed federal regulations to establish an appropriate regulatory process for registering pesticide products while protecting endangered species. The regulations have now been adopted.

Our sincere thanks to all of you who

took the time to provide a positive comment to the Federal Register docket as well as to all GCSAA chapters who actively promoted the campaign through chapter Web site postings and broadcast e-mails.

The adopted regulations aim to put a stop to lawsuits brought against the EPA by anti-pesticide groups. In recent years, anti-pesticide groups have sought to obtain court-ordered injunctions severely restricting access and use of vital pest control measures. This spring, activists were successful in using the Endangered Species Act to restrict the use of many pesticides used on golf courses in northwestern states.

The ESA requires a federal agency (such as EPA) to consult with other federal wildlife agencies when it takes any action with the potential to harm endangered species. In the past, not having a formal consultation process in place made it difficult for these consultations to occur. The new regulations, which define this consultation process, were developed following a comprehensive scientific review of EPA's risk assessment methodology.

The improved procedures, developed in cooperation with EPA and federal fish agencies, will provide a framework to ensure necessary measures are taken to protect fish and wildlife. They also will ensure that golf course superintendents have the pest control products they need. As finalized, the regulations provide:

- By using the most sophisticated scientific methodologies available to protect wildlife from potential pesticide risks, EPA can determine that the use of a pest-control product is "not likely to adversely affect" a listed species or its critical habitat without either concurrence of the services or informal consultation. The wildlife agencies can perform periodic reviews of the methods that EPA employs to arrive at these determinations to ensure EPA is making determinations that are consistent with the requirements of the ESA.

- When formal consultation is required, EPA may utilize an optional procedure to develop a determination of the effects of the pest-control product on listed species for the services' review. The procedure also allows EPA to request direct involvement of representatives of the services in the effects analysis. As required by law, the services would make the final determination whether threatened or endangered species are likely to be jeopardized by a FIFRA action.

GCSAA Greens & Grassroots

Plants of the Year

Common name: Shishigashira Camellia

Botanical name: *Camellia sasanqua* Shishigashira

Hardiness: Zones 7 – 9



Shishigashira Camellia

Mature height and spread: 10-15 ft. tall x 6-10 ft. wide

Classification: Evergreen flowering shrub

Landscape use: Shrub for

hedges or specimen/accent plant to tall ground-cover.

Characteristics: Compact long-blooming type with rose-red double to semi-double flowers in late fall and early winter. This evergreen shrub has multiple trunks, simple serrated leaves and a symmetrical crown.

Common name: Silverado Aglaonema

Botanical name: *Aglaonema Silverado ppaf*

Hardiness: Zones 10b & 11

Mature height and spread: 36 in. x 36 in.

Classification: Interior foliage plant/ornamental foliage plant

Landscape use: Interior/landscape (shade)/specimen

Characteristics: Aglaonema Silverado ppaf is a new hybrid Aglaonema in the Stars of India Collection. Interior plant enthusiasts, collectors, as well as professional interiorscapers will appreciate its full, regal appearance and beautiful



Silverado Aglaonema

tricolor leaves. This low-light performer is highly resistant to disease and is very cold tolerant into the mid 30s. Silverado

ppaf rarely flowers, a very unusual characteristic in aglaonemas which is appreciated by anyone who has spent time removing them.

Whether used as a stand-alone specimen or mass plantings, Silverado ppaf makes a bold statement.