

TPI Honors Trenholm With Inaugural Award

Dr. Laurie Trenholm, associate professor/Extension turfgrass specialist at the University of Florida was the recipient of the very first Turfgrass Educator Award of Excellence presented by Turfgrass Producers International.

"Dr. Trenholm's efforts to educate such a broad audience is reflected in her involvement as head of the Florida Urban Turfgrass Program," said TPI Executive Director Kirk Hunter, also noting "her commitment to the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force Subcommittee, her ongoing research in stress physiology on landscape grass species and the teaching of Green Industries Best Management Practices to lawn-care professionals throughout Florida."

"She has been the face of UF/IFAS turf science research at myriad city and county commission meetings bringing science and research data to the attention of local lawmakers and regulators in the discussions of fertilizer and water issues," said Joel Jackson, executive director of the FGCSA.

In addition to working with county Extension faculty members and educating the state's Master Gardeners at training conferences, she also participates in a wide variety of industry-related associations and organizations. Her frequent participation at turfgrass and/or lawn care conferences, seminars and community events, many of which are outside the state of Florida, reflect an immeasurable contribution to educating others with fact-based science. Among the many issues she has addressed are lawn care for drought conditions, pest control, water conservation through sound irrigation practices, appropriate fertilization issues and overall environmentally-friendly lawn management practices. As a result of her

efforts there has been a heightened awareness on matters that will have a positive impact on our environment for generations to come.

Dr. Trenholm has also been one of a select group of turfgrass Extension specialists from universities around the country who have met annually with representatives of TPI to address a wide variety of topics including advancements in research, environmental concerns and ways in which to enhance communication and build greater awareness of the environmental benefits of turfgrass to the general public, landscape professionals, educators, garden writers and government decision-makers.

A native of Rochester, N.Y., Dr. Trenholm received her B.S. in turfgrass science from University of Florida's Fort Lauderdale REC in 1994, her master's degree in turfgrass physiology from UF in Gainesville in 1996. She received several scholarships from the Florida

Turfgrass Association. She earned her doctorate from the University of Georgia's Department of Crop and Soil Science, researching turfgrass stress physiology and wear tolerance of seashore paspalum and bermudagrass.

She has been a member of the faculty at the University of Florida since 1999. She is a member of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America, The Agronomy Society of America, the Crop Science Society of America, the Florida Turfgrass Association, the International Turfgrass Research Society, Turfgrass Producers International, and the Florida State Horticultural Society.

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