



# Here to Stay!


By Dr. R. Chris Williamson, Turfgrass and Ornamental Entomologist, University of Wisconsin-Madison

My sincere appreciation and thanks go out to everyone involved in securing my position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I am now officially an assistant professor in the Department of Entomology. For those of you not familiar with the history of my position, Dr. Chuck Koval was responsible for turfgrass and ornamental extension activities, teaching, and research. However, Dr. Koval retired in 1994, as a result Dr. Dan Mahr and Phil Pellitteri diligently kept the program alive even though turf and ornamentals were not their areas of responsibility. Having no one specifically dedicated to turfgrass and ornamentals for approximately four years, the university realized the need for such a position. Subsequently, a national search was conducted, candidates were interviewed, and I was offered the position, accepted it, and was hired in December of 1998 by Dr. John Wedberg (former Department of Entomology Chairperson).

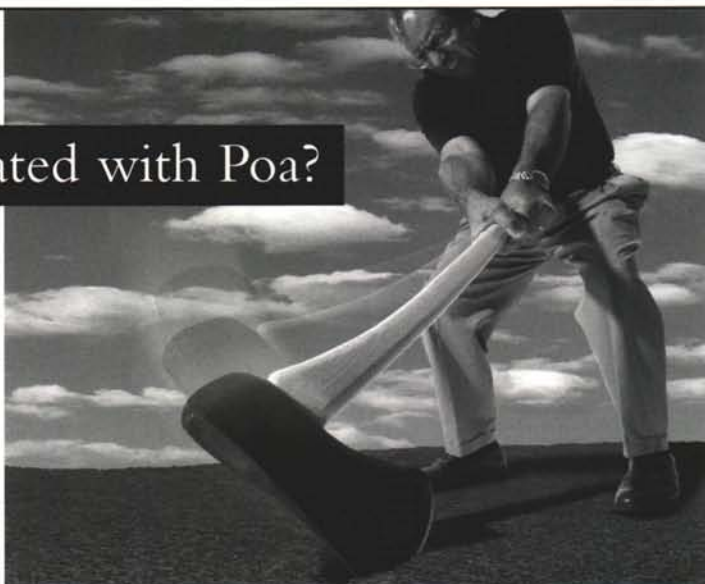
I was not hired as an official faculty member; my position was a short-term, interim position that was expected to be self-funded within three to four years. Nonetheless, I optimistically accepted the position with the goal of one day having the position converted into a permanent, tenure-track, faculty position. Through the efforts of many people, ranging from current and previous administrators, to industry constituents, to intra- and interdepartmental faculty, to county agents, this turfgrass and ornamental entomology position was developed into a tenure-track, faculty position.

As a result of the establishment of this "new" position, another national search was required; thus I had to

apply, interview and compete with other well-qualified candidates. Ultimately I was offered, and I accepted the position as assistant professor, Department of Entomology. My position appointment is 70% extension (outreach) and 30% research.

If it were not for the diligent efforts of everyone, I would not have the opportunity to serve you, nor would there be a turfgrass and ornamental entomologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. So, I want to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to everyone. 

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