

Integrated Turfgrass Management Workshop



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The 2003 Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO, scheduled for January 6th-8th, will include a workshop on developing Integrated Turfgrass Management guidelines to satisfy plant health and protection needs, with an emphasis on the **entire turfgrass system**. It will guide you through all aspects of developing a management plan that will impact aesthetics and performance at your site, while considering environmental consequences.

The ITM workshop will provide operationally feasible, agronomically sound, and environmentally sensible guidelines to serve as a technical foundation for the development and implementation of a site specific program. ITM is the selection, integration, and implementation of a management approach for producing and maintaining quality, functional, and healthy turfgrass. ITM also involves understanding pests associated with turfgrasses. In fact, the idea of ITM is derived from the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) philosophy whereby all man-

agement strategies (i.e., biological, chemical, and/or cultural) are considered. ITM is about making knowledgeable, informed decisions based on the challenges presented by a particular turfgrass site.

Implementing an ITM plan at your facility is important for several reasons. Firstly, developing and implementing a strategy to accomplish the goals of your facility gives you a direction. Without a plan, it can sometimes be difficult to arrive at your destination. Secondly, it also provides a working document to justify actions and expenditures directly related to the management of your facility. Presenting a management plan to the powers that be indicates a manager with foresight and organizational skills to make objectives or goals happen.

Another reason to implement an ITM plan is the challenge of maintaining quality turf more efficiently. The ability to deliver high quality turfgrass with less inputs will require greater efficiency by turfgrass managers. To meet this

challenge, managers will require more than technical expertise of how something is done, but an understanding of proper turfgrass selection and what effects a cultural or chemical practice have on the turfgrass ecosystem, and the environment.

Topics of discussion at the workshop will include: identifying and mapping potential problem areas; developing and maintaining an organized library of turfgrass management materials; monitoring pest and environmental stress problems, and developing thresholds for a variety of pest or stress problems; keeping a record of weather conditions; implementing cultural practices that enhance turf health and pest resistance; and developing and evaluating a management plan that accomplishes state objectives.

For more information on how to register for this workshop, or on developing an ITM program for your facility, call (608) 845-2545, or (608) 845-6536. ♣



EXPO 2003 Workshop

Developing Guidelines for an ITM Plan

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The Integrated Turfgrass Management philosophy emphasizes an environmentally responsible management approach to plant health and protection.

The ITM is sponsored by the UW-Madison and O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility.