

## Pesticide Use Continues to be at the Forefront of Concern in the Industry

This will no doubt be another challenging year for professional turf managers in the province of Ontario. The pesticide use issue continues to be at the forefront of concern within the industry. A number of municipalities across the province have introduced, or have plans to introduce, bylaws restricting pesticide use within their respective communities. Industry associations have been working hard to address this issue. Voluntary IPM Accreditation has been launched and is providing a reasonable alternative to municipalities seeking a middle ground in the debate. Responsible professionals should both support the accreditation process and promote it within their communities.

The GTI also offers a consulting service utilizing faculty and staff to examine specific turf management challenges.

The coming year promises to be one of significant growth in the turfgrass research program at the University of Guelph. We have interviewed five candidates for the proposed two new turfgrass faculty positions and hope to have the new faculty in place by spring or early summer.

The annual Turf Managers Short Course was fully subscribed again this year. Although the majority of course

participants are from the golf industry, sports turf professionals are encouraged to participate in this exceptional one month program. If you are interested in attending the course, we strongly recommend that you register as early as possible. The course, which runs the month of February at the GTI, is usually full by early fall.

With the closure of the Turfgrass Diagnostic Clinic operated by the Laboratory Services Division of the university, the GTI will begin to offer a new Turf Diagnostics service in 2004. Turf Diagnostics will provide a responsive diagnostic service out of the GTI research lab. GTI Research Associate Erica Gunn will be managing the lab. Erica spent part of last summer training with Marilyn Dykstra, former manager of the Turfgrass Diagnostic Clinic. Visit the GTI website for more details.

The Guelph Turfgrass Institute also offers a consulting service utilizing GTI faculty and staff to examine specific turf management challenges. We have been engaged over the past fall and winter with several municipalities evaluating their sports fields and working with staff to develop realistic recommendations for improving playing conditions.

If you are not a subscriber, now is the perfect time to sign up for our free e-mail advisory bulletin *The GTI Advisor*. Published every two weeks through the growing season, *The GTI Advisor* provides up to the moment information on turf and



### TURF DIAGNOSTICS @ GTI

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landscape management from OMAF and GTI sources, long range weather information, links to other on-line management resources as well as special features including reports from GTI research projects, featured new plants from the Annual Trial Garden and a list of coming events of interest to industry professionals. To sign up, simply send an e-mail to [advisor@gti.uoguelph.ca](mailto:advisor@gti.uoguelph.ca). All issues of *The GTI Advisor* are posted on the GTI website. The website also allows you to search past issues for articles of specific interest. ♦

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