



## Sports Turf Industry News...

KEEPING TABS ON COMPOST, PESTICIDE USE, TURF RESOURCES,  
AND NEW U OF GUELPH FACULTY & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

### Newly Released by CCME

#### **Guidelines for Compost Quality 2005**

Oct. 12, 2005. A new edition of *Guidelines for Compost Quality* was released today by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME). The guidelines serve as the national suggested standard for compost quality regulations for jurisdictions and are focused on environmental health and safety criteria for compost products.

Originally introduced in 1996, the guidelines detail requirements for compost product testing and identify limits on trace element levels and foreign matter as well as requirements for maturity and pathogen testing. CCME undertook a review of the guidelines during the past 18 months, assessing the need for any adjustments to the criteria based on new science and tech-

nical findings. The review paralleled the Standards Council of Canada's initiative to review the voluntary national compost standard, *Organics Soil Conditioners – Composts*, as managed by the Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ).

Copies of the guidelines may be purchased through CCME by visiting [www.ccme.ca/publications/newpublications.html](http://www.ccme.ca/publications/newpublications.html).

"The guidelines are fundamental to ensuring that composting develops across Canada in an orderly manner and with the proper focus on product integrity," said Susan Antler, Executive Director, The Composting Council of Canada. "We are

very pleased that CCME has devoted attention to the advancement of composting and compost production through these guidelines. We look forward to working with each of the provinces and territories to support the integration of the guideline updates into the composting regulations of their jurisdiction."

**Editor's Note.** It's worth revisiting the article *To Test or Not to Test...* by Dr. R.W. Sheard published on page 8 in the Winter 2004 issue. It is strongly recommended that some certificate of analysis be provided by the supplier before a contract to purchase is made.

### **Keeping the Greens Green: Research Projects Aim to Reduce Pesticide Use on Golf Courses in Quebec and Ontario**

Oct. 18, 2005. Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Andy Mitchell announced just over \$500,000 in funding for two collaborative research projects in partnership with the industry that aim to reduce pesticide use and promote non-chemical al-

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ternatives for protecting golf courses in Quebec and Ontario.

The research will be done in partnership with the Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation and the Coalition for Responsible Golf which will also invest an additional \$500,000 in this project. The two organizations have joined forces with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to study turfgrass pests, identify means to reduce the use of pesticides, and to develop an integrated pest management (IPM) network strategy to protect golf links from insects and diseases. The information will also benefit the farming community because many of the insects and diseases affecting golf courses are also found in agriculture.

"AAFC is pleased to partner with these organizations and to share scientific expertise that will help golf courses find effective pest control alternatives," said Minister Mitchell. "Reducing pesticide use is in the best interests of all Canadians and the development of new integrated pest management techniques could make an important contribution to keeping both our golfing greens and our crops healthy."

Under one project, researchers will lead a three-year study to increase knowledge of major insect pests and diseases that occur under eastern Canada climatic conditions. The research project, to cost \$750,000, will more accurately identify turfgrass pests and predict insect outbreaks in Ontario and Quebec. The data will help golf course superintendents better plan the use of pesticides, thereby reducing applications. The project will also include research on alternative pest control measures. An integrated pest management strategy will be developed to assist the industry.

The second project, a three-year study valued at \$277,000, will investigate the characteristics of winter freezing and snow mold diseases on bluegrass and identify more tolerant varieties. This information will help develop seed sources better adapted to winter stresses and contribute to the development of best management practices to improve winter survival and minimize pesticide use.

The turfgrass industry in Canada is estimated to be worth more than \$5 billion,

including golf courses, sod production, home lawns, commercial turf, sports fields and municipal parks. The information gained from these studies will benefit not only the entire turfgrass industry, but also those growing agricultural crops such as winter cereals and forage grasses which experience similar problems as well as farmers, producers, industry and communities.

For more information, contact Guy Bélair, nematologist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Horticulture Research and Development Centre at 450-346-4494 (ext.239) or Yves Castonguay, physiologist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Soils and Crops Research and Development Centre, 418-657-7985 (ext. 231).

### STRI Makes it Easy to Access Turfgrass Info

Back issues of STRI's magazine *International Turfgrass Bulletin* are now available on-line for easy access via STRI's website, [www.stri.co.uk](http://www.stri.co.uk). Content can be sourced from 1951 to 2004, right back to the original title, the *Sports Turf Bulletin*, first published in 1951.

This facility has been made possible through a joint venture between STRI and the Turfgrass Information Centre (TIC) based at Michigan State University in the USA. The TIC contains the world's largest publicly available collection of turfgrass educational material. They hold over 100,000 records in the database, the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF).

Last year, this joint venture successfully completed an online database to access back issues of STRI's annual journal, *The Journal of Turfgrass and Sports Surface Science*, dating back to 1929. This is the premier turfgrass research journal in Europe.

Clifford Haka, Director of the Michigan State University Libraries, stress that, "This is a wonderful example of how the research and information gathering process can be simplified. We are delighted to be able to add full-text access to the Bulletin to our Turfgrass Information File."

STRI spokesperson, Anne Wilson, Head of External Affairs, noted that this

would provide an enormous benefit to STRI subscribers and a welcome added bonus to their subscription.

For further details, contact Anne Wilson at T: 01274 565131, F: 01274 561891, e-mail: [anne.wilson@stri.co.uk](mailto:anne.wilson@stri.co.uk).

### Katerina Jordan Joins U of Guelph Turfgrass Faculty

The STA welcomes Katerina Jordan to the Department of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph. Katerina completed her Ph.D. program at the University of Rhode Island and has a diverse background with a B.S. in microbiology and an M.S. in agronomy, both from the University of Maryland. Her Ph.D. research involved the study of plant-parasitic nematodes and their antagonists in golf putting greens. She will bring a unique perspective to her turf teaching and research duties at Guelph. Katerina and her husband Sean, a Penn State turf diploma grad and golf course superintendent, recently welcomed Baby Vincent to their family. Congratulations Katerina and Sean and welcome to Guelph!

### Evan Elford Awarded NSERC Scholarship

The STA congratulates student member Evan Elford, recipient of a National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Industrial Post-Graduate Scholarship (IPS). Sponsoring support of the turfgrass industry is provided through the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation. The IPS provides financial support for highly qualified science and engineering graduates. The support allows them to gain research experience in industry while undertaking advanced studies in Canada. These scholarships are aimed at encouraging scholars to consider research careers in industry where they will be able to contribute to strengthening Canadian innovation. ♦

**Editor's Note:** Katerina, Sean and Evan will all be speaking at the 2006 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium: *Plant Parasitic Nematodes on Golf Greens in the NE United States; Internships: A Win/Win Situation; Competitive Turf: Overseeding For Weed Management*, respectively.

