

Sites on the Web

Reviews you can use

Extonet Pesticide Profiles

<http://ace.orst.edu/info/extonet/pips/ghindx.html>

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Overview: This is a reference-type site created through the cooperative efforts of five universities that lists many commonly available pesticides and their information profiles (PIP). PIPs provide specific information regarding potential health and environmental consequences involved in the use of or exposure to specific pesticides.

Pros: The information provided closely parallels that provided on many MSDS fact sheets, but in considerably more detail. The PIPs list trade/common names, use, and regulatory status, as well as information on formulations, toxicological effects, ecological effects, environmental fate, physical properties, exposure guidelines and manufacturer(s).

Cons: None found

Reviewer: Christopher Sann, Contributing Editor, *TurfGrass Trends*

1999 Directory of Extension Plant Pathology and Nematology Specialists

<http://www.scisoc.org/opae/extdir.htm>

www.scisoc.org/opae/extdir.htm

Overview: This is a reference-type site hosted by the Office of Public Affairs and Education of the American Phytopathological Society that lists many of the USDA/CSREES affiliated plant pathologists and nematologists by state. Each listing includes name, address, organization/institution, phone and fax number, e-mail address, % of work devoted to extension and areas of responsibility.

Pros: This is an extensive listing of specialists who can be used as excellent

resources to help readers deal with difficult diagnostic problems. If a local expert is not available or known, a specialist in your area of need can be contacted. Knowing what % of the specialist's assignment is extension based can be an additional way of zeroing in on help.

Cons: Clicking on the "responsibility" link on the listing causes a new window to appear and deactivates the back arrow icon commonly used for navigation. To get back to the previous page or listing, close the new window by clicking on the X box in the upper right corner of the window.

Reviewer: Christopher Sann

Northern Light's search engine

<http://www.northernlights.com>

www.northernlight.com

Overview: A resource-type website that provides extensive and deep searches of multiple information sources (the Web and in-house documents and journals). It provides for simple, power, business, investment, stock quotes and news searches.

Pros: Northern Light's search engine is like a normal Web search engine on steroids. Unlike most other engines, it not only lists the top rated responses but it organizes all of the search results into Custom Search Folders where similar results have been grouped.

A simple search for "Brown patch" resulted in 2,412 items, which were grouped into 14 folders ranging from current news, fungicides, fungi, to pesticides, golf, and others. Clicking on the "fungicide" folder reveals 218 items from 92 sources arranged in 13 sub folders.

A search using a competitive search engine resulted in over 11,000 sites/pages, but the list of results was peppered with

items that had no relation to turfgrass/plant management such as a patch on a brown cable and a hand bag described as having a brown patch.

Cons: Download times can be slow on high traffic ISP sites. This may be due to the extensive nature of the results or just high traffic at the search site. Also, some items from their special collection (often journal articles) can cost from \$1 to \$4.

Reviewer: Christopher Sann

Irrigation Association's site

www.irrigation.org

Overview: To make accurate and reliable information about irrigation available from a not-for-profit, objective source.

Pros: Among many features, one of the most valuable is a link to irri-gate.com, a single subject search tool for anything that has to do with irrigation. It saves hours of time compared to searching irrigation on a general search engine. The irrigation.org site also features an on-line version of the association's magazine and a member finder (for manufacturers, designers, consultants, contractors, government personnel and university specialists). You can find dates and locations of irrigation training, certification information and industry standards for product types. An excellent overall tool when you need information on irrigation.

Reviewer: Bruce Shank, BioCom

Turfgrass Producers International

www.turfgrassod.org

Overview: TPI has gathered a wide assortment of information, largely for homeowners and turf amateurs.

Pros: While it is a useful locator of sod producers, the site also provides a wealth of information about turfgrass species, beneficial aspects of turfgrass and how to install and maintain sod. This site also includes the Turf Resource Center, a collection of general research about the turf industry, and links with The Lawn Institute, another gatherer of turfgrass

information for more than 30 years. You can use The Lawn Institute link to hook up with the websites of major seed growers. You can easily spend hours on this site.

Reviewer: Bruce Shank, BioCom

International Society of Arboriculture site

www2.champaign.isa-arbor.com

Overview : To promote the correct selection, care and management of trees.

Pros: A great tool for a turf specialist who faces a tree problem, the ISA site goes deep into subjects such as pruning, diseases, fertilization and proper planting. ISA publications include the technical Journal of Arboriculture and the more day-to-day Arborist News. Covers both institutional and private tree care perspectives. Also a member finder to help with contacting a local expert. Chat rooms provide interesting communication and debate.

Reviewer: Bruce Shank, BioCom

Plant Health Care Inc.

www.planthealthcare.com

Overview: To allow an open discussion of beneficial organisms in the planting and maintenance of landscape plants.

Pros: This site delivers an in-depth explanation of mycorrhizal fungi, beneficial bacteria and other natural products for plant health. The site also provides a good calendar of industry events, links to other important sites and a sophisticated on-line magazine covering the industry as a whole. Chat rooms will soon open up. Learn why it's not voodoo science at all but nature at work. Start understanding biotechnology better on this site.

Cons: Many facets still under construction but watch this space.

Reviewer: Bruce Shank, BioCom