TURFGRASS ADVOCACY 2021

NEW YORK STATE TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

VIA GoToWebinar

8:30 Welcome and Economic/Envionmental Impact of Turfgrass
Tom Kaplun - *New York State Turfgrass Association*
North Hempstead Country Club

8:35 Turfgrasses' Role In Climate Mitigation: A Sod Producers' Perspective
Laurie Griffen and Steve Griffen – *Co-Owners, Saratoga Sod Farm, Inc.*

8:45 Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund
Steve Whipple - *New York State Turfgrass Association*
West Point Golf Course
Summarize $150,000 Request

8:50 Best Management Practices for NYS Golf Courses
Ken Benoit, Jr., CGCS – *New York Golf Course Foundation*

CASE STUDIES

8:55 Water Quality Monitoring
Robert Nielsen, Jr., CGCS – *Bedford Golf and Tennis Club*

9:00 Best Management Practices for Protecting Pollinators on the Golf Course
Luke Knutson – *Rockville Links Club*

9:05 Rolling Approaches: A New Way to Suppress Dollar Spot
Andrew Eick – *Mohawk Golf Club*

IMPACTS OF COVID-19

9:10 Jim Hornung, Jr., CSP – *Great Lakes Athletic Fields*

9:15 Kevin Kline – *Metropolitan Golf Association*

THE ROLE OF PESTICIDES IN INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

9:20 Tom Kaplun, New York State Turfgrass Association/*North Hempstead Country Club*

LEGISLATOR PANEL AND COMMENTS

9:25 Rick Zimmerman – *New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns*
Senator Michelle Hinchey – *Chair, Senate Agriculture & Food Committee*
Leah Goldman – *Senator Michelle Hinchey's Chief of Staff*
Ashley Dougherty – *Senator Todd Kaminsky's Counsel & Legislative Director*
Mark Luciano – *Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner's Chief of Staff*

9:40 Wrap Up and Thank you
Tom Kaplun – New York State Turfgrass Association
North Hempstead Country Club

Turfgrass Advocacy 2021

New York State Turfgrass Association

THE TURFGRASS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP FUND

REQUEST

We respectfully request that a line item of $150,000 be appropriated for the New York Greengrass Association in the 2021-2022 budget for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund.

BACKGROUND

The turfgrass industry is an important industry in New York State. According to the New York State Turfgrass Survey, close to 3.5 million acres in the state are covered with turfgrass, consisting of lawns, parks, golf courses, sports fields, sod farms, industrial and institutional grounds, rights of way, etc. Five billion dollars of turf maintenance expenses contributed to the State's economy.

This past year with Covid, it was apparent as citizens enjoyed more outdoor activities that turfgrass has a major impact on the quality of life. Healthy turfgrass provides countless environmental benefits such as storing carbon, holding rainfall for groundwater recharge, reducing erosion, filtering pollutants, absorbing sound, cooling the air temperature and providing plentiful, clean oxygen. Dense, healthy turfgrass provides a safe playing surface for our children and athletes of all ages as well as beautifies and softens our urban landscapes.

A $150,000 appropriation for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund provides for education and outreach promoting environmentally sustainable and safe practices of turfgrass management.

The 2020-21 State Budget's Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund appropriation was to fund the following projects. However, despite the appropriation from the legislature our association was never extended a contract from the Department of Agriculture and Markets resulting in the projects not being performed.

Best Management Practices for NYS Golf Courses:
Continued Implementation of Golf Course Environmental Stewardship Efforts *(see reverse)*

Green Industry Educational Webinars

Promote Professionalism Through Research and Education - Covid-19 Hardship

New York Greengrass Association Education and Outreach

NYSTA PERSPECTIVE

It is the mission of NYSTA to promote professionalism through education and research while advocating environmentally responsible management. Supporting the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund assists in providing education to turfgrass professionals who are constantly challenged to meet expectations for quality, safety, and environmental sustainability.

New York State Turfgrass Association, PO Box 612, Latham, NY 12110
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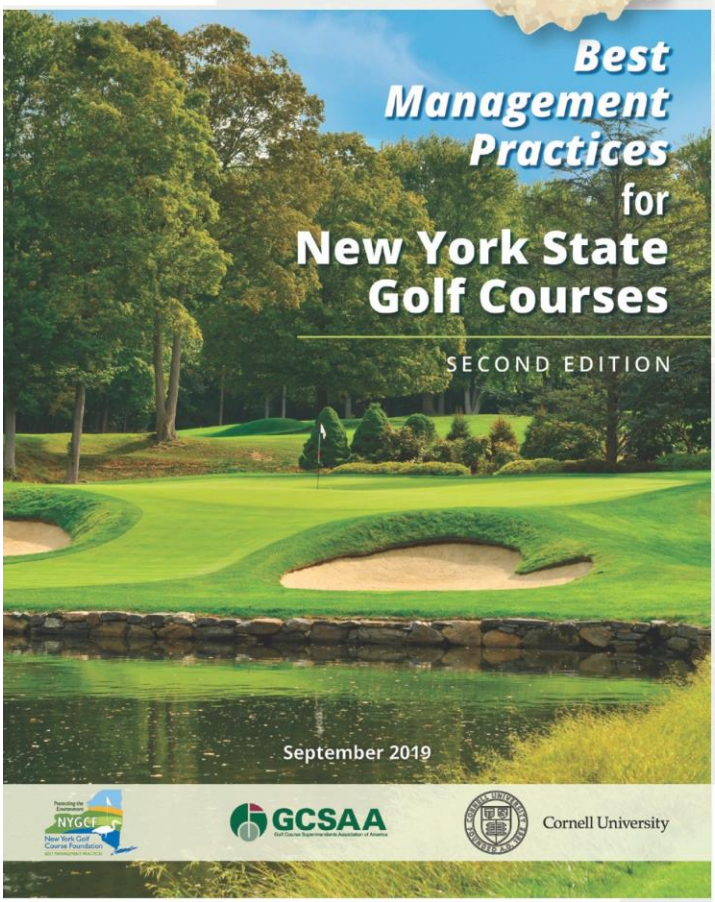
NEW YORK GOLF COURSE FOUNDATION

FACT SHEET

Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund

Supporting Best Management Practices

Since 2012, golf course superintendents and Cornell University scientists have been developing, implementing, and advocating the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on New York State golf courses to protect our natural resources. BMPs are methods or techniques found to be the most effective and practical way of achieving an objective, such as preventing water pollution or reducing pesticide usage. They are essentially a sustainable approach to providing environmental, economic, and social benefits to the game of golf and to society overall.



Since 2014, Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund (TESF) grants have provided critically needed financial support for the BMP initiative, including the following efforts:

- A comprehensive survey of the state's golf course superintendents, with the results used to create an education plan to address their needs.
- Ongoing outreach and education efforts, such as workshops, a dynamic website, and communication materials that give superintendents the information they need.
- Demonstration of a low-cost wash pad operation, which protects water quality from nutrient enrichment by filtering mower clippings.
- Case studies of the implementation of BMPs on golf facilities across the state.
- New publications that incorporate the latest research, providing superintendents detailed information on how to utilize new tools and methods to reduce fertilizer and pesticide usage.
- An update of the BMPs, which includes creating a template document that superintendents can access to create their own facility-specific BMP program.

Funding support has allowed the BMP initiative to grow into a robust, meaningful program that will continue to promote sustainable golf course management efforts in the years to come.

NYSGOLFBMP.CALS.CORNELL.EDU

THE ROLE OF PESTICIDES IN INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

BACKGROUND

The New York StateTurfgrass Association supports a definition of integrated pest management in line with the IPM Institute of North America's definition of IPM. This definition of IPM is driven by sustainable, science-based decision making. It combines biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to identify, manage and reduce risk from pests and pest management tools and strategies in a way that minimizes overall economic, health and environmental risk. New York's IPM Program, one of the best programs throughout the US, includes a "toolbox" of pest control tactics, coordinated into a management strategy guided by cost/benefit analyses that considers the interests of and impacts on producers, society, and the environment.

NYSTA PERSPECTIVE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency describes IPM as "an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment. The IPM approach can be applied to both agricultural and non-agricultural settings, such as the home, garden, and workplace. IPM takes advantage of all appropriate pest management options including, but not limited to, the judicious use of pesticides." Unfortunately, in past legislative sessions several State bills have been introduced to effectively define IPM as a method that essentially eliminates the use of all pesticides.

The goal of "A National Road Map for Integrated Pest Management," revised in 2018 and published on the USDA website, is to "increase the adoption, implementation and efficiency of effective, economical and safe pest management practices and to develop new practices where needed." The use of pesticides in an IPM approach remains an important tool to when pest damage thresholds exceed an acceptable level. Chemicals are also vital in the management of pests which pose a significant public health threat and significantly mitigate the impacts of invasive species. This was acknowledged by NYS in chapter amendment S899 to S6502A which banned the use of glyphosate on state properties to then allow its use at the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conservation. We now face this very same dilemma if S5816/A7639-A passes, banning the use of neonicotinoids. This bill will greatly reduce our control measures for white grubs in turf amongst a myriad of invasive insect pests threatening our parks, landscapes, and greenspace in NYS. These invasive species include the Asian longhorned beetle, spotted lanternfly, emerald ash borer, and hemlock woolly adelgid, all which are impossible to control without some chemical control when damage thresholds exceed scientifically backed acceptable levels.

Additionally, several bills have been introduced to prohibit the use of pesticide products in New York State. If passed these proposals will create significant harm to New York's agriculture and horticulture industry and ignore the science-based decisions made by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, New York State Departments of Health (DOH) and Environmental Conservation (DEC).

The following bills would ban the use of one or more pesticides in New York:

- S.372 (Hoylman) would define a treated seed as a pesticide.
- S.699 (Hoylman) bans the use of neonicotinoids in New York State.
- S.1001 (Hoylman) bans glyphosate and products containing glyphosate.
- S.1428 (Serrano) / A.311 (Rosenthal) bans nonemergency use of lawn pesticides on municipal property.
- S.1400 (Serrano) / A.3599 (Rosenthal) bans malathion and pyrethroid -based insecticides.
- S.4478 (Brouk) / A.528 (Paulin) bans pesticide use at children's day and overnight camps.
- A.4082 (Colton) bans the use of pesticides containing neonicotinoids.

In New York State, the Department of Environmental Conservation is charged with reviewing and registering pesticide products before they can be used in New York (Article 33, EnCon Law). The extensive review process requires determinations of no threats to water quality, wildlife, and humans. This review and evaluation process involves experts from the NYS Water Resources Institute, the Department of Health, the Division of Wildlife, in addition to the experts from DEC's Bureau of Pesticides. The economic impact of pesticide bans to the sustainability of New York's agriculture and horticulture industries would be overwhelming.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- We support a state adopted definition of Integrated Pest Management that encompasses all the elements of the IPM Institute of North America's definition for IPM— a definition driven sustainable, science-based decision making that combines a number of tools, including chemical controls, in pest management.

- We oppose bills that would establish a definition of Integrated Pest Management for the purpose of restricting or eliminating the use of pesticides.

- We support the current regulatory framework that was instituted by the New York State Legislature for the Department of Environmental Conservation to review pesticides and allow them to decide if a pesticide should be registered for use in New York State. We oppose any legislation banning pesticides.

- We support adequate funding for New York's pesticide review and registration program. New York is only one of two states in the US that extensively reviews and evaluates pesticide products before permitting their use. This unique program, which consists of a partnership between DEC and DOH, must be maintained and supported.

- We support the Executive Budget recommendation for $1,000,000 in the Environmental Protection Fund for Agriculture IPM.

- We support the Executive Budget recommendation for $550,000 in the Environmental Protection Fund for Community IPM