TURF SERIES: Thursday, February 11, 2021 • 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Natural Products in Lawn and Landscape, Do They Work?

Dr. James Simon, Rutgers University, Distinguished Professor of Plant Biology

OUTLINE:

1. Review of synthetic insecticides and pesticides now registered for us in tick and insect pest control for humans and animals.
2. Review of historic natural products used as insecticides and repellents.
3. New research and discoveries on natural products for lawn and landscape.
4. Efficacy, safety and toxicity considerations.
5. What are consumers asking/looking for?
6. Reflections on upcoming trends and applications

Biography:

Simon serves as the Director of the Center for Agricultural Food EcoSystems (RUCAFE), whose mission is to bring a uniquely diverse and holistic approach to researching food systems and designing innovative and culturally appropriate methods to sustainably nourish our growing human population in balance within our global ecosystems. The RUCAFE mission is to increase access, affordability, availability, and adoption of healthy, environmental, economic, and culturally appropriate and sustainable food. Simon, a Distinguished Professor of Plant Biology, also serves as Director of the New Use Agriculture and Natural Plant Products Program (NUANPP), in the Department of Plant Biology, which seeks to identify new crop opportunities, new applications of bioactive and nutritious plant compounds and new products from fruits, vegetables, herbs and marine organisms. Simon's research programs are funded by the NIH, USDA, USAID and State Department and focus on food systems, improving food security and using agriculture as the key economic driver to improve income generation and human capacity development. As a plant biologist, Simon's expertise is also in plant genetics and breeding for disease resistance, nutrition and flavor; community development; food safety and quality control. He has earned many national and international awards including The Chancellor's Award for International Impact, Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, Special Service Award, Association for International Agriculture & Rural Development, Recipient of the International Excellence Award for Scientific Excellence by a researcher in a USAID Collaborative Support Research Program. Board for International Food Agricultural Development (BIFAD), USAID, and many industry and academic awards for research excellence and impact. Simon and his team are researching the applications of natural products as safe and effective repellents against ticks, mosquitoes and other pests.