

It's Like Having 'God As Your Co-Author'

GENEVA, N.Y. — Imagine rewriting the Bible "with God as your co-author."

That's how Michael Villani, Cornell University professor of entomology, characterized writing the second edition of "Turfgrass Insects of the United States and Canada" with original author Haruo Tashiro, retired professor of entomology at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva.

Patricia J. Vittum, associate professor of entomology at the University of Massachusetts, also co-authored the recently released book.

The first edition, which was released in 1987 and written solely by Tashiro, is considered the "bible" of the turfgrass industry and is the manual of choice among golf courses from Pebble Beach to Silver Creek. In 1992, because of advances in such areas as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Tashiro decided it was time to write a new edition.

The second edition took three years to complete. Tashiro, who has been retired for over 15 years, thought the book would benefit

from having co-authors because he was not comfortable with more current topics like IPM, which was just an emerging field when he retired. Tashiro enlisted Villani, his successor in the department, and his last graduate student, Vittum, to co-author the new edition.

In addition to updating the original chapters, the second edition includes new or extensively rewritten chapters on areas such as: IPM, the principles of biological control, sampling techniques, setting thresholds, and chemical control strategies. The new edition also features more recent images featuring the life stages of nearly all turfgrass pests found in the United States and Canada.

According to Villani, "The book was a true collaboration. Vittum was the first author because she tended to tackle those distasteful tasks that go with the glory and responsibility of first authorship."

Before the rewrite started, the three authors sent copies of the original chapters to turf entomologists around the country with the request that they take a hard and critical look at the chapter(s) and offer feedback and suggestions.

Vittum and Villani then split up the original chapters and worked on improving readability, adding new citations, and reorganization.

Villani's responsibilities were the soil insect chapters. He credits graduate student Paul Robbins with having major input on several of the scarab chapters. New life-sized line drawings by Robert Jarecke, who worked in Villani's lab, were added to each chapter. Species distribution maps were drawn by Station graphic artist Elaine Gotham. Vittum and Villani then added new chapters on IPM, chemical and biological control tactics. Villani credits graduate student Jennifer Grant with major input on the biocontrol chapter.

After each chapter was rewritten, Tashiro read and made suggestions. All three authors then reviewed the entire text.

The 422-page edition features 576 photographs on 72 color plates. Many of the photos were taken by Tashiro himself who set up a photo lab in the basement of his home with the aid of Station photographers Joe Ogradnick and Rob Way. Although Tashiro

admits he is "very proud of the entire book," he is "most pleased" with the new plates. Ogradnick took those photographs that Tashiro did not.

The new edition appears to be as well received as the original.

"There is no book available that offers such comprehensive, yet in-depth coverage of turfgrass insects and associated pests," said Dr. Rick L. Brandenburg, professor of

entomology at North Carolina State University. Many others join Brandenburg in offering wholehearted praise of the book and believe it will continue to be regarded with respect by the turf community.

When asked about plans for a third edition, Tashiro gave the nod to Villani who said maybe he'll tackle that one in another 10 years.

New Seed Council Forms

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Seedsmen Association (PSA) fulfilled its desire to merge with Penn Ag Industries Association Jan. 17 when an agreement was made between the two organizations.

By dissolving their current association, the PSA, an unincorporated association, will benefit immensely through its affiliation with the larger Penn Ag, a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation. All current members of the PSA are recognized as members of Penn Ag. A new council, the Seed Council of Penn Ag, will be created for these members to

address their issues and special needs.

The new Seed Council will operate independently on issues of interest to its group and will have the full strength and support of the entire Penn Ag organization when needed. In return, Penn Ag will gain all of the PSA business assets and bring Penn Ag one step closer to its goal of consolidating the agribusiness community.

This is the third merger for Penn Ag in the last three years. Both the Agronomic Products Council and Poultry Council were formed for the benefit of uniting the agribusiness community.

Conference To Examine

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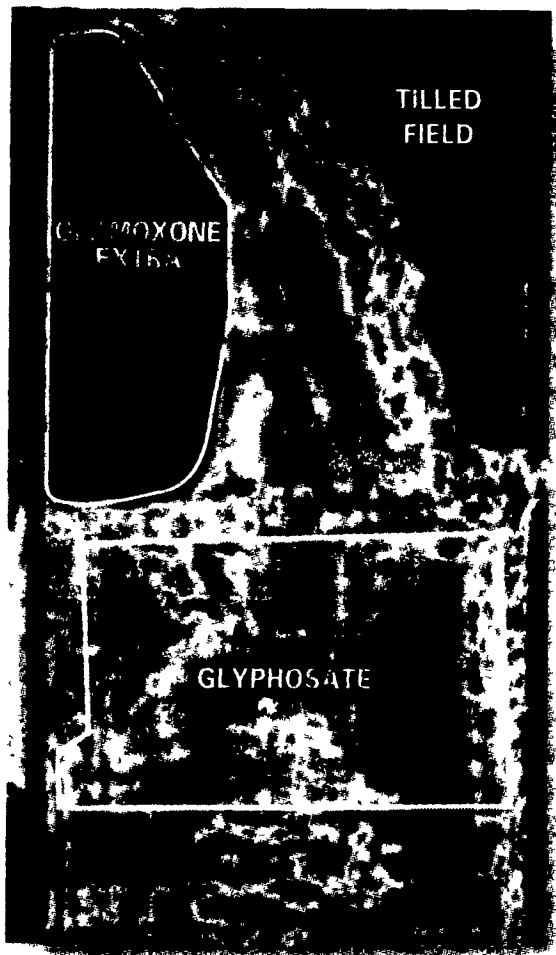
session on March 30. On the evening of March 28, a poster session and tabletop exhibit will be held, and an evening discussion session is planned for March 29. There is no additional charge for a university or government professional who registers for the conference to present a poster paper. Companies that sponsor the conference are also welcome to participate in the poster session. A post-conference workshop on developing comprehensive nutrient management plans will be offered with sufficient audience interest.

Companies interested in sponsoring the conference should contact NRAES. Sponsorship will include display space during the poster session, one conference registration, a link to the company web site from the conference web site, recognition in a news release, and recognition in the published conference proceedings. Maximum benefits result from commitment by Jan. 21. The cost of sponsorship is \$1,000.

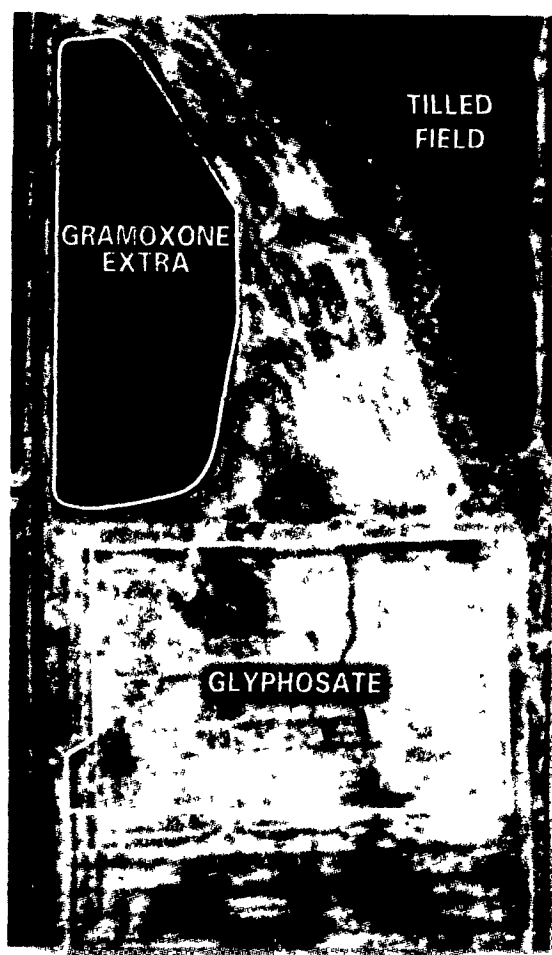
The conference registration fee will be set in late December after confirmation of Federal funding. The fee will include break refreshments, one lunch, a copy of the proceedings, admission to the reception/poster session, and a pass to the conference.

A conference brochure including the complete program, a registration form, and other information will be available in January. Conference information can also be found on the NRAES web site, <WWW.NRAES.ORG>. When the registration fee has been set, registrations will be accepted by mail or—for those who wish to pay by credit card—by Internet, telephone, or fax. For registration information or to receive copies of the free conference brochure, contact NRAES, Cooperative Extension, 152 Riley-Robb Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-5701; phone (607) 255-7654; fax (607) 254-8770; e-mail NRAES@CORNELL.EDU.

A block of rooms has been reserved for participants at a special conference rate at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center. To reserve a room, call the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel at (717) 763-7117 or (800) 333-3333. Reserve by March 6 and mention "Managing Nutrients" to receive the conference rate of \$68, plus 6 percent tax, for a single, double, triple, or quad.



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