

Grass Is Never Greener On The Other Side

GENEVA, N.Y. — Turfgrass entomologists may live above ground, but a lot of their grubby friends don't.

More than 70 industry representatives, faculty, graduate students, and extension specialists from around the country attended the "Turfgrass Entomology 2000" conference at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, April 2-4, to talk about the grubs and other issues facing turf specialists and consumers.

The meeting was hosted by Michael G. Villani, professor of entomology at Cornell, and Patricia J. Vittum, associate professor of entomology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

The conference was also an opportunity to celebrate the release of the second edition of "Turfgrass Insects of the United States and Canada." Tashiro, who is considered the dean of American turfgrass entomologists, was the sole author of the first book. A dinner was held in his honor during the conference.

"It was especially gratifying for us to meet at the experiment station. The turfgrass entomology community here has been considered one of the focal points of turf entomology since the 1940s through the research efforts of Dr. Gambrell, Dr. Tashiro, and myself," said Villani.

The station was, and continues to be, one of a small handful of institutions working on both fundamental and applied aspects of turf entomology.

"This is a national meeting and one of the most useful ones I

go to," said Robert L. Crocker, associate professor at Texas A&M, whose current project is taping the sounds made underground by white grubs as a potential means of monitoring their numbers. "This meeting is a chance for us all to talk about environmental concerns, pesticides and alternatives to pesticides, to exchange new information on the ecology and biology of pest species, discuss new pests of turf, and talk about the effect of government regulations."

Seven topics were addressed during informative panel discussions over three days.

In the discussion on biocontrol, moderators Jennifer Grant (NYIPM/Cornell), Albrecht Koppenhofer (Rutgers University), and Parwinder Grewal (Ohio State University) took a look at the practical use of biological control agents for controlling turfgrass pests. The use of biological insecticides, predators, and parasitoids for insect control in turf was also discussed.

In a panel discussion on the transition of IPM from research to implementation, moderator Fred Baxendale (Univ. of Nebraska), Rich Cowles (Conn. Agric. Exp. Sta.), and Gary Couch (NYIPM/Cornell) discussed moving IPM from the classroom to the field to the end user, integrating biocontrol and traditional approaches in a realistic IPM program, and the status of action thresholds and sampling in IPM programs.

In university/industry/government/professional relationships, moderator Rick

Brandenburg (North Carolina State Univ.), Dan Potter (Univ. of Kentucky), and Chris Becker (American Cyanamid) talked about how funding shapes the message, whether roles, goals and responsibilities were clear, and how these relationships affect graduate education now and in the future.

Moderators Chris Williamson (Univ. of Wisconsin), and Wendy Gelerntner (Pace Consulting, San Diego, Calif.) talked about advances in black cutworm management, from traditional and emerging control tactics to action thresholds and laboratory bioassays.

Pheromones and their use as attractants, arrestants and repellants was the focus of the session moderated by Paul Robbins

(NYSAES/Cornell), Mike Klein (USDA/ARS), and Robert Crocker (Texas A&M).

Emerging Environmental Issues, such as the impact of FQPA on turf insect pest management, selective versus broad spectrum insecticides, homeowner use of products and local laws were addressed in a session moderated by Amy Suggars (TruGreen Chemlawn), David Cox (Novartis), and Gwen Stahnke (Washington State Univ.).

Conference organizers left one of the most interesting topics for last, as David Shetlar (Ohio State Univ.) talked about the emerging insect pests that have been reported in turf over the past year.

Ted Horton, superintendent

of the much acclaimed Pebble Beach Golf Course, in Monterey, California, spoke at Tashiro's dinner, and outlined ways in which a golf course/planned community can behave like responsible neighbors. "These include environmental stewardship, community outreach, and a long-range vision to the sustained improvement of the region," he said.

"The meeting went off without a major hitch," said Villani. "We all know that events that appear easy to stage require a great deal of forethought and attention to detail. Nancy Consolie and Paul Robbins are responsible for the logistics of the meeting and they should be proud of their efforts."

Ag Horizons 2000 July 25

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Retail Face of Agriculture is the title of the 11th Ag Horizons Conference, scheduled July 25 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey.

The audience will be informed about e-commerce, entertainment farming, niche marketing, and direct marketing presented by agribusiness people actively involved these alternative approaches to "getting product to market."

Lou Moore, professor of ag economics at Penn State, will begin the daylong program by introducing the concept of alternative marketing and will set the stage for the balance of the day.

The topic of e-commerce will be tackled by Terry Kile of

Weidenhammer Systems Corp. Stephen Quigley of Merrymeade Farm, Inc., Lansdale and Janet Finney of Jack Finney Corp. of Cambridge Springs will discuss their operations as entertainment farming.

Niche marketing will be the subject for Roy Brubaker of Brubaker Farms, Mifflintown, and Romaine Erb, Brooklawn Farm Market, Lancaster, will discuss Brooklawn's venture into direct marketing.

Rounding out the program will be another Penn State professor of ag economics, Jim Beierlein. Beierlein will conduct a workshop entitled "Developing A Business Plan."

The conferences are designed to build awareness of emerging agricultural topics and issues, to

provide a forum for information sharing, and to make available either take-home teaching tools or provide the awareness of those tools. Vo-ag instructors and cooperative extension staff are the target audience. Contributing cooperatives and Penn State, under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Council of Cooperatives, sponsor the conference series.

The location of the Holiday Inn (Grantville) is new this year. The program will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., includes lunch, and is anticipated to conclude at 3:30 p.m. There is a charge of \$10 with the mail-in registration or \$15 at the door.

Educators who need more information may call Carol Duncan, 610-693-5601.

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