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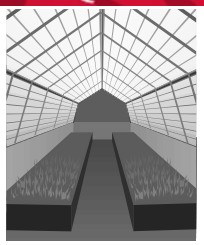

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Serving Monmouth County Commercial Clients

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Cicada Killer Wasps - Diane Larson

Arriving right on schedule, late July welcomed the emergence of cicada killer wasps in lawns, sparking fear and panic in homeowners, especially those with small children and/or pets. As **Albrecht Koppenhoffer** explained while discussing insects in turf at last week's Turf Field Day at Adelphia, the large wasps that seem to be fiercely protecting the underground nest are males, which have no ovipositor (stinger), therefore cannot sting. The female has an ovipositor, so can sting, however is usually so preoccupied with capturing an annual cicada upon which she will lay an egg that she rarely will sting unless physically handled.

Although your clients will be calling you to spray controls for these ground nesting solitary wasps, before doing so assure them that they are relatively harmless and are actually pollinators while being the only natural predator of cicadas. In sensitive areas such as entrances, play areas, and other high traffic areas, dust formulations of carbaryl, bendiocarb or pyrethroids should be applied directly in the entrance hole. Since the females tend to choose thinned turf areas to dig their nests, encourage overseeding in the next few weeks to promote a thick lawn, thereby discouraging the cicada killer wasp from reestablishing a nest next year. For more information on cicada killer wasps, visit http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS040.

Cicada Killer Wasp recently brought in to our RCE Monmouth County office for ID

The Summer Plant Symposium will be held on **Tuesday, August 14th** at Rutgers Gardens in New Brunswick. Presented by the New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Plant Association, participants can choose several sessions, including a garden center tour, landscape design tour, and landscape industry classes which will also offer pesticide credits. To register online and for more information, go to **http://summerplantsymposium.com/registration/**

Rutgers Turfgrass Research 2012 Field Days

Lawn, Landscape & Sports Field Day plus Trade Show - Diane Larson & John Neyhart

We hope you were able to attend the **Lawn, Landscape and Sports Field Day and Trade Show** at the Adelphia Research Farm in Freehold August 1, 2012 as we did. Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, New Jersey Turgrass Association, Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey and The Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey once again did a great job presenting current research along with new products and equipment turfgrass professionals can use to improve their management practices.

Although the day was cut short from a storm, there were some highlights of the day that we wanted to pass on.

Dr. Albrecht Koppenhöfer presented information on Turf Insect pest management. He brought several excellent insect ID books, one of his favorites that you may want to consider getting and leaving in your truck for quick reference is Destructive Turf Insects by Niemczyk and Shetlar. His information on the timing of various insecticide applications should be heeded. More information is available online at: http://www-rci.rutgers.edu/~insects/ManagingTurfgrassPart1.pdf.

Dr. Albrecht Koppenhöfer

Dr. Bill Meyer spoke of work being done with tall fescue. He said that since 1996 Rutgers has gone to European countries to bring back over 20,000 different turf seed types from which they perform their trials. Two very promising varieties of tall fescue that they're currently trialing actually came from a sheep pasture in Romania. They are specifically looking for varieties with drought resistance, brown patch resistance, better germination in cool weather, and a 'rapid tillering' growth habit instead of the standard clump forming habit most widely available. He also spoke of research looking into which is a bigger factor in summer decline of tall fescue, heat or drought stress. So far their research is leaning toward heat stress being the biggest factor. Suggested further information on tall fescue can be found at http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS990.

Dr. Bill Meyer

Fine fescues, while generally considered a shade tolerant turfgrass, can provide an excellent low maintenance lawn. **Dr. Stacy Bonos** presented information on the differences between the performance of creeping red, chewing and hard fescues. Overall hard fescues seem to be the favorite of the trials, with good bright green color and resistance to dollar spot, leaf spot and red thread. Breeding work continues to improve summer patch resistance in the hard fescues. Suggested further information can be found at: http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS688.

Dr. Stacy Bonos

There is a push to look for new sources of irrigation water, namely 'fluent water', which is wastewater that has been cleaned, however after doing so leaves a salt residue in the water. So, perennial ryegrass research is looking at germination and establishment of ryegrass using various salt levels in irrigation water. Interestingly, they are finding that salt tolerance also coincides with dollar spot resistance in the perennial ryegrass. Other research at these plots includes grey leaf spot resistance.

The equipment demonstrations and trade show received a lot of attention. Various mechanical aerators showing both shallow and deep aeration were displayed. These cultural practices should be a part of a good turfgrass management program.

It was unfortunate that mother nature cut the day short. We did not get to see the National Kentucky Bluegrass Test, The Crabgrass Control Strategies nor the Broadleaf Weed Control. To quote from the program "Answers to Turf questions never fall into place easily. It has been said that good research generates more questions than answers. Finding a solution to simple questions may require many years of research and might still give only limited answers. Moreover, opportunities in developing new varieties and better management practices abound."

New equipment for turfgrass

For more information on Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, visit
http://turf.rutgers.edu/

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Monmouth County
PO Box 5033, 4000 Kozloski Rd.
Freehold, New Jersey 07728
Phone: 732-431-7260 Fax: 732-409-4813
Website

RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station