



*Help Us Celebrate these NJTA Events  
in 2021!*

- Golf Classic - May 3, 2021
- Field Days - July 27 & 28, 2021
- Green Expo - December 7-9, 2021



# Rutgers Turfgrass Research VIRTUAL Field Day

## Wednesday, October 7

Only one of the NJTA events is being held this year, but in a different format. The Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day will be a VIRTUAL day on October 7th.

A link will be posted on the NJTA website and the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science websites - click and start watching!

These videos are being presented by several Rutgers professors and professionals and were filmed at Rutgers Hort Farm 2 or Adelphia Farm, and are complimentary to all.

Thanks to the sponsors of this event: BASF, Mountain View Seeds, A-LIST, Grass Roots, Bayer, Finch Services, DLF Pickseed, Helena, and Syngenta.

Some of the videos you can view :

- 1 NTEP Tall Fescue Trials – *Dr. William Meyer*
- 2 Breeding Improvements in Perennial Ryegrass – *Dr. William Meyer*
- 3 Biological Control of White Grubs – *Dr. Albrecht Koppenhofer*
- 4 2018 NTEP Tall Fescue Test – *Brad Park*
- 5 Optimal Seeding Timings for Fineleaf Fescue Test – *Brad Park*
- 6 2017 NTEP Kentucky Bluegrass Test – *Brad Park*
- 7 Crabgrass Control with Conventional and Alternative Herbicides – *Dr. Matthew Elmore & Daniel Tuck*
- 8 Effect of Irrigation Frequency on Annual Bluegrass Encroachment in Perennial Ryegrass – *Brandon McNally*
- 9 Kyllinga Control with Tall Fescue Seeding – *Dr. Matthew Elmore*
- 10 Fungicide Management of Dollar Spot on Bentgrass Cultivars – *Pingyan Zhang*
- 11 Soil pH and Calcium Effects on Anthracnose of Annual Bluegrass – *Zhongqi Zu*
- 12 Breeding Kentucky Bluegrass – *Dr. Stacy Bonos*
- 13 Summer Patch Efficacy Trial – *Dr. Bruce Clarke*
- 14 Dollar Spot Putting Green Efficacy Trial – *Kyle Genova*
- 15 Dollar Spot Fairway Efficacy Trial – *Kyle Genova*
- 16 Brown Patch Efficacy Trial – *Kyle Genova*
- 17 Breeding Bentgrass for Fairways 2020 Trials – *Dr. Stacy Bonos*
- 18 Breeding for Disease Resistance in Bentgrass for Putting Greens – *Dr. Stacy Bonos*
- 19 Anthracnose Efficacy Trial – *Dr. Bruce Clarke*
- 20 Gray Leaf Spot Efficacy Trial – *Dr. Bruce Clarke*
- 21 Pythium Blight Efficacy Trial – *Dr. Bruce Clarke*
- 22 Monitoring Annual Bluegrass Weevil Adults (Part 1)
- 23 Monitoring Annual Bluegrass Weevil Adults (Part 1)
- 24 Goosegrass Control Update – *Dr. Matt Elmore*
- 25 And more.....

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS VIRTUAL

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# President's Message: Rob Johnson

Rob Johnson  
NJTA President



Greetings,

I hope everyone is starting to feel a bit more normal as the restrictions in our area are slowly beginning to be lifted. I know it has been a trying time for everyone in our nation, as with the unique burden it has placed on us in the Turfgrass Industry. We have endured reduced staff and hours, limited resources and in some cases complete work stoppage, but we have stepped up, been proactive and proved we can overcome this together and come out stronger.

I would like to applaud the wonderful efforts our allied associations have made not only to keep us informed but to peacefully and respectfully campaign for our right to go to business. Without these efforts I'm not sure what the state of our industry would look like presently. A sincere thank you from the NJTA board and all of its hardworking members.

Obviously we here at the NJTA had to make some imperative decisions about our events for 2020, with the canceling of all our events -- Golf Classic and Green Expo, and changing our Field Day to a virtual event. Our committees closely monitored all things pertaining to these important events and felt the best option for the safety of all was to cancel. We have already started planning on our 2021 events and know that everyone will be glad to attend safely.

We hope with the warmer weather that you were able to enjoy the outside with your family and friends at a social distance.

Sincerely,  
Rob Johnson  
President, NJTA

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## Can we Celebrate?

**Your Executive Director  
Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP**

In the last issue, I mentioned that 2020 was going to be a year of celebrations...the 25th anniversary of the Golf Classic, the 45th anniversary of the Green Expo, and the 50th anniversary of NJTA. Things just haven't turned out exactly as we had planned. The Golf Classic and the Green Expo have been canceled, and Field Days has become a virtual video event on October 7th.

Some things one can never predict, and the COVID-19 pandemic was certainly just that. We have all been secluded, quarantined, stuck at home, kept from face to face time with family and friends. And the result of this isolation has been both negative and (hopefully) positive. We have each had to 'take time to breathe' and spend more time at home; we have found ways to stay in touch with others via Zoom, Skype, Face-time, or other apps; we have let our creative juices come out for work, home, or school projects; some of us have learned how to cook, have read more, have finally cleaned up and out the spaces in the office or at home that they 'always planned to get to' and now have. Some have attended church online -- and all of this has been part of a 'new normal'. We are all essential workers but the pandemic certainly has taken its toll on that; and many are going stir crazy, while others are enjoying the quiet.

Families have shown how they are coping by singing U-Tube songs; teachers have taught virtual classes, and Moms and Dads have homeschooled too.

So, are there lessons learned from all of this hibernation?

When the official pandemic eases up or has even gone, know this: we have learned to deal with adversity with a can-do attitude, with a creative sense of doing, and being thankful for the family and friends we have.

Now that's a celebration we can all share!



**Bruce and Ellen Clarke  
welcomed their first  
grandchild!**

**Anna Mary Garabedian**

**Born on April 14th  
Born at 3:34 pm.  
She weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz and  
was 21 inches long.**

**Katie's husband's name is  
Alex.**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



# RUTGERS GOLF CLASSIC 2021 IS ON!

by Shaun Barry, Chair

The Rutgers Turfgrass Research Classic was all set to celebrate its 25th Anniversary in May 2020. All preparations were completed and the list of attendees was approaching the record of 402 golfers achieved in 2019. Unfortunately, COVID-19 overwhelmed our world and almost every event was canceled or postponed. The Classic was no exception and was postponed to October 5, 2020.

Rutgers, the Center for Turfgrass Science, the NJT Foundation, and the Classic Committee responded with renewed enthusiasm. Postponement was better than cancellation. We were lucky that Fiddler's Elbow had that one date in October where all three courses still available. We knew that there was still a possibility that Covid would still be a concern and could reduce attendance but everyone was cautiously confident that the event would be held and that it would be a success.

As we approached October, it became apparent that cancellation needed to be considered. Changes were being made to every part of the day. The shotgun start was changing to 10 minute tee times. A Continental Breakfast was replacing our breakfast buffet and with coffee and pastries being available only for takeout. Lunch would still be available on the course but because the reception had to be eliminated the course would add extra stations offering different food choices.

Even with all of these cautionary changes, it became clear that many people were uncomfortable attending and almost every attendee from out of state was choosing not to attend or wasn't being allowed to attend. At our final virtual meeting, the decision was made to cancel. Safety was the determining factor along with the understanding that if we did celebrate our 25th Anniversary only a small number of our longtime sponsors and attendees would be there. We didn't feel comfortable leaving anyone out.

The Classic Committee called all of our Premier, Eagle, Birdie and Par Sponsors and teams that were committed to explain our decision. We didn't want them to hear about this secondhand. The responses were as would be expected. Everyone was in agreement with our decision and many were expecting us to make that decision. They are now looking forward to May 3, 2021 for our delayed 25th Anniversary.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this event. All of the money raised goes to support the Center for Turfgrass Science and will continue to do. The Classic Committee consists of volunteers who mirror the respect that you and the industry have for the work done by the scientists at Rutgers.

Please add the May 3, 2021, date to your calendar and join us as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the the most successful Turfgrass Research fundraiser in the world.



**25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Anniversary**



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# We Have All Lost a Great Friend

by Shaun Barry , Golf Classic Chair

When we first heard that *Fran Owsik* had leukemia it seemed impossible. Fran was a giant of a man who had never met a problem that he couldn't solve. He said the "The Owsiks" never give up and he spent his life living up to that belief.

As a young man he excelled in any sport that he tried. He was a great swimmer winning many competitions. He led his CYO basketball team to two state championships averaging 33 points a game. He played baseball and he thought it may have been his best sport. He was a pitcher with a sidearm delivery. He would start his curveball outside the plate scaring RH batters while relaxing LH batters because the ball was way outside the strike zone until the ball would snap across the plate for a strike. He was hard to hit but when he had a bat in his hand the opposing pitcher had to treat him very carefully. Matt Dobbie shared an old newspaper clipping declaring that Francis Owsik had won the game for Metuchen with a 4 for 4 performance at bat.

He took up golf because his dad Frank was an excellent golfer. Fran started as a caddy at Metuchen CC and eventually became an assistant professional at Metuchen CC. His dream of being a head pro did not happen but it wasn't because his game wasn't good enough. One year he finished in the top ten in the NJ State Open. Only really good golfers can do that. It doesn't happen by accident.

Fran started working on the maintenance crew at Metuchen CC. and he fell in love with his new job. This love affair lasted 40 years. He became the superintendent at Colonia CC, Tamarack GC and Lakewood CC. He retired from Lakewood after 21 years because of his leukemia but he never retired from being a superintendent.

Fran wanted to give back and help whenever he could. He joined the GCSANJ BODs and served on the PR Committee. He wanted to promote our association. You may still see a GCSANJ tie or a GCSANJ coaster or a GCSANJ decal around. These all were his promotional ideas.

Fran never stopped enjoying life. He had a memorable golf trip to Ireland with several friends and superintendents. He played in the Centennial Cup at Lahinch. This was a team event and he made a 15 foot putt on the last hole to beat a team that never lost. When the locals in the pubs found out what he had done he became a celebrity.

He couldn't drink all of the pints that his new admirers bought him. Even though he traveled to Italy. Patagonia (where he actually played golf) and other parts of the world, the trip to Ireland was his favorite memory.

Most of his industry friends know him for his excellent golf game. Fran and his cousin Joe were a formidable team. They won most of their matches in the Stanley and Leslie Cups. Fran however was much more than just a golfer.

He graduated in 1980 from the Rutgers Turfgrass Program ( along with future GCSAA President Sean Hoolehan ) and he could never say enough good things about the program and the instructors that he had. He was a proud graduate who gave back as often as possible.

When Joe Bianco asked Fran for some suggestions on how to build a golf green at Hort Farm, Fran shared his insights and then proceeded to bring some help and they built the green. Fran was given the 2010 Rutgers Turfgrass Alumni Association's "Achievement Award." He also was the Keynote Speaker for the 2017 Rutgers Turfgrass Awards Banquet and was surprised with their Award for Professional Achievement.

Fran also had a great need to keep learning. If you ever attended a seminar and Fran was there you heard Fran asking questions. These questions were timely and well thought out. We all learned from his inquisitive nature.

Fran tried to follow something that his dad told him. It was to "speak less and listen more." We agreed that this was something both of us could do better. He ran out of time but I will try to follow this good advice.

Fran learned how to "Line Dance" and he was excellent. Everyone wanted to dance with him. He also did a great job playing the accordion and was an excellent cook and baker. His apple pies were legendary. He wrote several articles addressing issues in the turfgrass industry. He read everything that he could find about turfgrass. He truly was a "Renaissance Man."

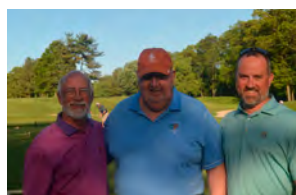
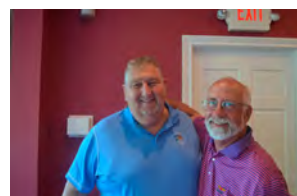
He was overwhelmed to find out that approximately 120 friends were constantly asking for updates. He couldn't believe it. He was proud of his sons Brett and Chris, their families and his ex-wife Sandy. Sandy was his choice to make medical decisions and he chose well because she was his best advocate.



He left this world without seeing Chris' triplets but their pictures were all over his room. They would have loved getting to know their grandfather but there are many family members and friends who have hundreds of great stories to tell.

Fran passed from this world knowing he was loved. If he were still here he would ask me to send his sincere thanks to Keith Bennett. Keith would never say no to any chance to help. It is beyond belief what Keith did to help. Matt Dobbie was also very involved. His phone calls never failed to brighten his day and Ken Krausz was there for anything that Fran needed when he was in Hackensack Hospital. He would also individually thank everyone who so generously donated to his GoFundMe Account and to his Scholarship Fund. I won't identify everyone here but Dennis DeSanctis Sr. can thank Fran's number one donor.

Don't let your memories of Fran fade because those memories will keep Fran alive in our hearts and minds. Once this world changes to allow gatherings there will be a low key opportunity for us to meet and officially say goodbye. His family is looking forward to meeting everyone.



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# Drones

The experience of flying a drone above a golf course or property, capturing details from above, risking for a look to the horizon, and experiencing the world from several hundred feet above the ground is an exhilarating experience. Anyone who has ever driven a remote-controlled car or launched a model rocket, can experience that and fly a remote controlled aircraft. The uses for drones are expansive and depend on what you as a user hope to accomplish. Recreational users can fly a drone to capture photographs and video while exploring places from a fresh new perspective. Commercial uses include photography for mapping, before/after photos, promotional materials, exploring out of reach areas, and documenting work.

Drones are quickly advancing with ease of use and simplicity, while also being a lot less impactful on your wallet. Drones became commercially available in 2013 with the DJI Phantom 1, but they were expensive and sometimes challenging to fly. In their infancy, most drones came with cheap stock cameras or required the additional purchase of an action camera, such as a GoPro. Now almost 7 years later, multiple manufacturers are producing easy to fly, less expensive, and ready out-of-the-box drones for both recreational and commercial purposes.

Drones can be daunting to a person who has ever crashed a remote-control car or even dropped their cell phone but as the price of drones has dropped, their durability and ease of use has increased. Crashes or mishaps are possible, if you have never flown a drone, but replacement parts and repairs are becoming affordable.

If you are new to flying a drone and do not know where to start, here are some introductory tips to get you flying:

**Start Small** - If you were learning to fly a plane, you wouldn't jump behind the stick of a Boeing 737 and fly across the Atlantic, you would be in a single engine plane at a small airport. The same size principle matters for drones, start small. I highly recommend the DJI Mavic Mini, my first drone. This drone weighs 249g and is extremely easy to fly. The controller connects with your smartphone, shoots incredible video and photos, and if you destroy it on your first flight, you will only be out several hundred dollars, instead of close to \$1000.

**Register Your Drone** - If your drone is 250g or heavier, you are required to register it with the FAA. You will be given a specific identification for your drone that must be displayed on the body or wing. One benefit to starting small, your drone may fall under this weight requirement and not require registration. (The DJI Mavic Mini weighs below this

by Donovan Maguigan

requirement and does not need to be registered)

**Be Safe** - It is critically important that you are obeying both federal and local laws when you are flying your drone. Know where you are flying, what areas surround your flight area, and make sure you are fully aware of the laws at your current flight location. You may be well within the bounds of federal laws when flying a drone but may be flying in an area such as a university, park, or in a jurisdiction that prohibits drone flights. The FAA has a great app called B4UFLY (Apple/Android) that provides you with maps of prohibited areas as well as restrictions on altitude and proximity. You do not want to get tangled into legal problems with acronyms such as FAA, NTSB, or FBI.

**Know the Law** - The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has a large resource library that will help you understand the laws behind drones and operating unmanned aircraft. It may only be a drone, but it is a small flying object that can cause damage and potentially put others' lives in danger.

**What Do You Want to Do with Your Drone?** - Do you want to fly the drone recreationally for your enjoyment, take photographs, and explore the world from the air? Go out there and fly your drone safely. Do you want to take photos for your golf club or business to use on their website for a commercial purpose? Want to shoot video for an event? You will need a license.

**Get a Remote Pilot Certificate from the FAA** - Navigating the legalese of flying a drone can get very confusing when you start to consider controlled airspace, above ground level, above sea level, air speed, and enough acronyms to fill a dictionary. The easiest route requires you to hit the books and learn about the FAA Small Unmanned Aircraft Rule (Part 107), take an exam, and become a licensed Remote Pilot. With this certification, you will be allowed to fly your drone commercially while being fully versed in the legal requirements. The information in this program can be overwhelming (see: Flight Charts), but there are many online schools for training and preparation to take your flight exam to be licensed. The exam and license certificate for two years cost approximately \$250 total.



*continued on next page*



# Drones

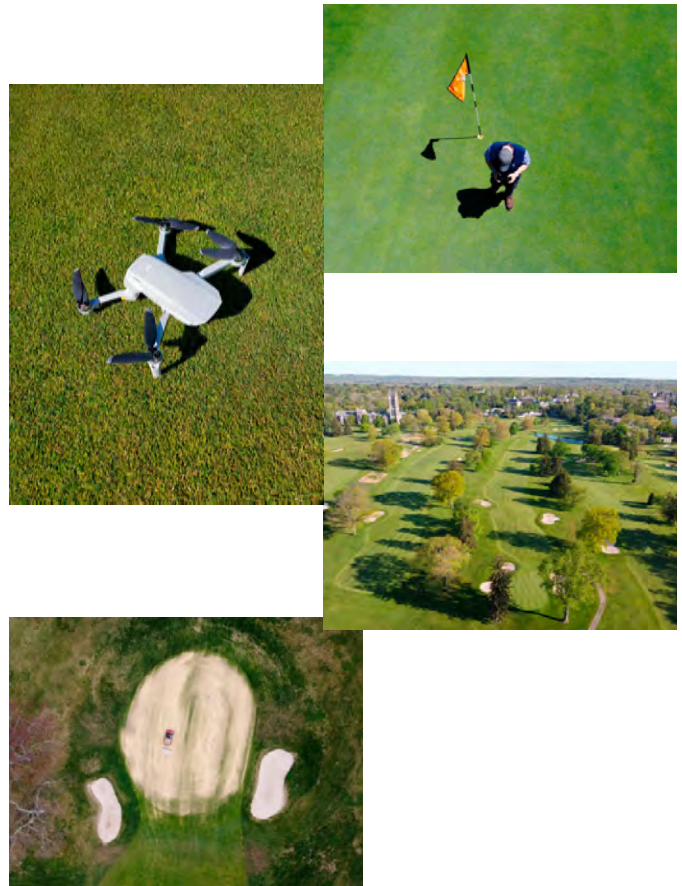
Showcase Your Photos - Since flying my drone at Springdale Golf Club and showcasing the results to our membership, we have received heaps of praise for offering a new viewpoint of the property. If you are operating the drone safely, share your photos on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Feel free to check out the drone images and videos that I share on twitter at @McBuckeyeAT.

Go Big - Three months into flying my drone, I am already considering an upgrade. Larger drones offer additional advancements such as tracking, object aversion, sound recording, and extended flight ranges. As with everything in life, those perks will cost more as well as the possibility of requiring FAA registration.

Have (Safe) Fun! - If you know someone who has a drone, ask them to fly it with you or pick their brain for what works for them. Drones may be getting cheaper, but that does not mean they are inexpensive. It is an investment, so weigh its usefulness.

## Resources:

- [faa.gov/uas](http://faa.gov/uas) - The FAA's site dedicated to drone operation, licensing, and laws. This includes recreational information, commercial users, drone registration, and licensing.
- B4UFLY - Android/Apple App that provides information on current air restrictions and advisories.
- DJI.com - Website for popular drone manufacturer.



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*Director*  
Harrell's



**Aaron Kurdyla**  
*Director*  
Garden State Landscapes



**Chris Carson**  
*Expo Chair*  
Echo Lake Country Club



**Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP**  
*Executive Director*  
NJTA/NJTF



**Dr. Bruce Clarke**  
*Advisor*  
Rutgers University



**Dr. James Murphy**  
*Advisor*  
Rutgers University

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Agronomically formulated for compatible color, density and texture to blend well when interseeded into existing bentgrasses, CENTER CUT™ is the ultimate generation blend for golf courses. Featuring improved dollar spot resistance, optimum density, and quick divot and ball mark recovery, CENTER CUT not only plays well with your existing grass, it plays well for golfers too.

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*Creeping Bentgrass Blend*

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## **2021 EVENTS**

**Monday, May 3, 2021**

*Rutgers Turfgrass Research  
Golf Classic  
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club  
Bedminster, NJ*

**25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary**

**Tuesday, July 27, 2021**

*Rutgers Turfgrass Research  
Field Day: Golf & Fine Turf  
Hort Farm 2, New Brunswick, NJ*

**Wednesday, July 28, 2021**

*Rutgers Turfgrass Research  
Field Day:  
Lawn, Landscape and Sports Fields  
Adelphia Farm, Freehold, NJ*

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021 -**

**Thursday, December 9, 2021**

*46th Annual  
Green Expo  
Turf & Landscape Conference  
The Borgata Hotel & Casino  
Atlantic City, NJ*

## **Rutgers Extension Offices & Numbers**

RCE of Atlantic County	(609) 625-0056
RCE of Bergen County	(201) 336-6780
RCE of Burlington County	(609) 265-5050
RCE of Camden County	(856) 216-7130
RCE of Cape May County	(609) 465-5115
RCE of Cumberland County	(856) 451-2800
RCE of Essex County	(973) 228-2210
RCE of Gloucester County	(856) 307-6450
RCE of Hudson County	(201) 915-1399
RCE of Hunterdon County	(908) 788-1339
RCE of Mercer County	(609) 989-6830
RCE of Middlesex County	(732) 398-5260
RCE of Monmouth County	(732) 431-7260
RCE of Morris County	(973) 285-8300
RCE of Ocean County	(732) 349-1246
RCE of Passaic County	(973) 305-5740
RCE of Salem County	(856) 769-0090
RCE of Somerset County	(908) 526-6293
RCE of Sussex County	(973) 948-3040
RCE of Union County	(908) 654-9854
RCE of Warren County	(908) 475-6505

*Please notify the NJTA office if any of the  
above numbers have changed. Thank you.  
973-812-6467 • [execdirector@njturfgrass.org](mailto:execdirector@njturfgrass.org)*



# clippings

## Features

- 2: Rutgers **VIRTUAL** Field Day - October 7
- 6: Rutgers GOLF CLASSIC 2021 is On
- 8: We Have All Lost a Great Friend!
- 11: Drones

## In each issue

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- 15 Rutgers Extension Offices

### New Jersey Turfgrass Association

25 US Highway 46 W • Wayne, NJ 07470-6801

Phone (973) 812-6467 • Fax (973) 812-6529

execdirector@njturfgrass.org • www.njturfgrass.org

Rob Johnson, President  
 Matt Lindner, Vice President  
 Jason Osterhoudt, Secretary  
 Matt Sweatlock, Treasurer  
 Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP, Executive Director  
 Dave Schell, Foundation President  
 Shaun Barry, Golf Classic Chairman  
 Chris Carson, Expo Chairman  
 Jack Higgins, Director  
 Josh Kopera, Director  
 Aaron Kurdyla, Director  
 Donovan Maguigan, Director  
 Dr. Karen Plumley, Director  
 Mike Reed, Director  
 Craig Tolley, Director  
 Tracy Wadhams, Director  
 Dr. Bruce Clarke, Advisor  
 Dr. Jim Murphy, Advisor

### Plant Diagnostic Laboratory

#### And Nematode Detection Service

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- ◆ Disease and Insect Pests
- ◆ Plant and Weed Identification
- ◆ Insect Identification
- ◆ Fungus and Mold Identification
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- ◆ Virus Testing
- ◆ Fungal Endophyte Screening
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<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/plantdiagnosticlab/> or call  
 732-932-9140 or email [clinic@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:clinic@njaes.rutgers.edu)

Mailing address:  
 P.O. Box 550, Milltown, NJ 08850-0550

Physical location:  
 Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Education Center  
 20 Indyk-Engel Way, North Brunswick 08902

# RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural  
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### Soil Testing Laboratory

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- ◆ Technical - permeability and ecological
- ◆ Individual / Specialized Tests
- ◆ Irrigation Water - pH, salts, nitrate-nitrogen, phosphorus, iron

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/soiltestinglab/> or call  
 848-932-9295 or email [soiltest@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:soiltest@njaes.rutgers.edu)  
 57 Rt. 1, New Brunswick, 7:30 am to 5 pm weekdays.