

# CIDODIOS CIATION

Issue 2 • 2018 | VOL 97

Ready for Turfgrass Field Days? Sign Up Now



Tuesday, July 31 - Golf & Fine Turf

Hort Farm 2, New Brunswick, NJ Wednesday, August 1 - Lawn, Landscape, & Sports Fields Adelphia Farm, Freehold, NJ

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Ph: (215) 796-0409
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### President's Message: DAVE SCHELL

David Schell NJTA President



For weeks now, everyone has been wondering when spring would arrive. Well, it apparently arrived just in time for a fantastic day of weather for the 23rd Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic. What a day of great weather, great sponsorship and great golf! For

everyone that had the opportunity to take part in this tremendous fundraiser for Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, I thank you on behalf of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association and Foundation. Without the sponsors and membership participation, this event would not be the success it is every year. The NJTA would also like to thank the staff at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club who do an outstanding job of taking great care of all their guests. In addition, the courses were in tremendous condition thanks to Matt Willigan and his staff. We should all be very proud of the fact that this event generates more than \$100,000 annually for the Center for Turfgrass Science. And because of your generosity, the Silent Auction is now a major factor in generating additional funds for the event. All the hard work that contributes to the overwhelming success of this event is spearheaded by *Shaun Barry* and the NJTA Board members and their committees. So, when you see Shaun, thank him for his dedication.

As we now march into spring, your researchers are getting prepared for the Field Days in late July. Please plan on attending this year's Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days, and learn the latest techniques and treatment options that may help you in your efforts to produce turf conditions that are demanded of you every day. I will only say that you will not be disappointed in what Rutgers Research will offer across these two days. I hope to see you there.

The NJTA thanks you for your membership. Without you, we would not exist. If you are interested in becoming involved on the NJTA Board, please communicate to any Board member or me your interest.

Have a great spring and I look forward to seeing everyone at Field Days July 31 & August 1, 2018.

Respectfully,

Jour Schiel

Dave Schell NJTA President



Do you have an article that would be great to share with other NJTA members about the turfgrass industry?

We would love to include a bio about you and your company. We would love to hear what's important to you.

Please consider connecting, sharing and sending your ideas, your thoughts, your perspectives and your articles.

Tell Us What You Think.

Email them to: execdirector@njturfgrass.org
Cece Peabody, Executive Director
Thanks in advance!

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#### JOIN US ON: || FACEBOOK || TWITTER





### UPDATE YOUR MEMBER INFORMATION

at

www.njturfgrass.org

Sign in with your email and create a password.

Check out the Member Directory.

NJTA
25 US Highway 46 West
Wayne NJ 07470-6801
(973) 812-6467
execdirector@njturfgrass.org

### **Just a Little Bragging**

Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP, NJTA Executive Director

Half the year 2018 is almost over and NJTA and NJTF wants to take the time to share successes...



- We continue to engage over 825 members through our members directory and our magazine, Clippings.
- The members directory was mailed in early March. We hope you will use this tool to stay connected to your colleagues and to find new connections as you may need.
- NJTF (the Foundation arm of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association) has completed another annual and successful Golf Classic. This event drives the financial train to assist the efforts of Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science for research, scholarships, and other projects.
- NJTA has, over the last year, redesigned and revamped the Field Days and NJTA logos. We will be looking to redesign the Golf Classic and Green Expo logos this year. Keeping our brand fresh is important!
- NJTF has engaged an investment company, HighTower, to help take our investments to a solid growth position that continues to grow.
- NJTA will be working to engage our members even more by sharing targeted emails about important historic moments of the association and Rutgers, as well as sharing some great turfgrass tips.
- The tour stops with world-class research have been determined for the two Field Days, and NJ credits (and other states) have already been approved.
- The Green Expo has already been accepting booth reservations for December. The education program is almost finalized, and the event will be even better than ever.

As you can see, NJTA keeps marching on and continues to provide the events, connections, relationships with allied associations, members, along with the opportunities to make your job better and better.

Thank you for your membership...it truly is appreciated.

Contact me at the office if you have any comments or concerns. It is our job to serve you and we hope we serve you well.

### 2018 Rutgers Golf Classic - Another Great Day!

by Shaun Barry, Golf Classic Chair

On May 7th, Fiddler's Elbow Country Club hosted the 23rd Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic, which is run by the NJ Turfgrass Foundation with lots of help from the Center for Turfgrass Science. The Classic Committee benefits from the superb efforts of Drs. Stacy Bonos, Bruce Clarke and Bill Meyer. Bill and Stacy reach out to their contacts in the seed industry and when these two world class turfgrass breeders ask for help, very seldom are they turned down. The results are the same when Bruce asks. Everyone recognizes what Bruce stands for and that the results are fair and accurate. The CTS results are the benchmark for cool season turfgrass and the scientists working in the program are always thinking of ways to keep expanding the horizons of turfgrass research.

The final number of golfers who committed to play was 372 which is our second highest number ever. Many of these people come from the 13 Premier, 2 Eagle and 10 Birdie Sponsors that Bill, Bruce and Stacy are responsible for signing-up. As expected we had several people whose schedules changed

and caused them to miss the day. We had 354 actual golfers who headed out to one of three courses, and it is awesome watching all of the carts leaving the staging area. Registration of these people were handled by Karen Plumley, Rich Buckley, Sabrina Tirpak, Classic Committee members and 10 volunteers from the Turfgrass program. As usual it couldn't have been any smoother.

The weather was excellent. The temperature was moderate and a nice thin layer of clouds kept everyone feeling comfortable. In a year that it seems rain is an everyday occurrence we were quite lucky.

Matt Willigan, Ben Messenger and Steven Saxe had to deal with lots of construction this Spring, and getting that completed in time with all of the rain was quite a challenge, but they did it. While the courses are always in great shape, this may have been their best year yet. They and their staff deserve a warm round of applause. In addition to their efforts our thanks go out to General Manger, Tom Hurley, Chef Michael and Ryan Buckley who is Fiddler's Outing Coordinator. These folks and everyone at Fiddler's is committed to making this day special.

Jeff Weld, Matt Lindner, Cece Peabody and her staff ran the biggest Silent Auction that I have ever seen. Last year we had about 85 items and

this year we had 125+ items. Anybody who took the time to browse through the items was sure to find something of interest.

The extended cocktail reception is always so popular most people don't even move inside for the introductions and awarding of the prizes. *Dean Robert Goodman* was introduced by Dr Clarke and he spoke for a few minutes expressing

the appreciation of the university for this event, and he touched on some of the new directions that are being considered. Bruce was very gracious in defeat as he acknowledged Dr Meyer's victory in their annual competition to see who can bring in the largest amount of support. Bruce got closer this year but it appears that the only way he will win is if Bill retires before he does.

I hope that anyone who has attended the Classic enjoyed it enough to make sure you are part of the day in 2019. The need for everyone's support grows every year and for the Center for Turfgrass Science to continue as a leader in research, it cannot do it without your help.

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic

# GOLF CLASSIC SPONSORS

### **Premier Sponsors:**

- BASF
- Bayer
- DLF Pickseed USA
- Grass Roots
- Landmark Turf & Native Seed
- Lebanon
- · Mountain View Seed
- PBI Gordon
- ProSeeds Marketing/ Alliance Seed
- Scotts Miracle-Gro
- SiteOne Landscape Supply
- Storr Tractor
- Syngenta Professional Products

### **Eagle Sponsors:**

- Finch Services
- Nufarm

### **Grand Reception Sponsor:**

A-LIST

### **Birdie Sponsors:**

- AMVAC Chemical Corporation
- Burlingham Seeds
- Columbia Seeds
- GCSANJ/ GCSANJ Foundation
- Helena Agri
- NJTA/ NJT Foundation
- Paige Electric
- Pennington Seed
- Rutgers Center For Turfgrass Science

### **Golf Classic Silent Auction**

by Jeff Weld, Silent Auction Chair

As with all golf outings in May we approached the 23rd Annual "Rutgers Research Golf Classic" (RRGC) on May 7th with a sense of anticipation and wonder. We anticipated a great day of golf, comraderie and another chance to support our industry through the silent auction. We wondered if the weather would cooperate. Not only did the weather cooperate, but it was the best weather I can remember for a RRGC.

As we reached the published closing time for the auction, a few bids appeared on the sheets. As anxiety grew, the outstanding support team from Cece Peabody and her staff decided to extend the silent auction bidding. They saved the day. As the sun slid behind the beautiful views from the Fiddlers Elbow veranda, the bids started to pour in. As the libations continued to flow, the activity at our silent auction intensified. At the end of the day we enjoyed a very successful silent auction.

There are far too many people to thank and to list in an article. We received bid items from fifty-five different companies and individuals. These fifty five donors gave so many items we set another record with 129 items offered for sale. Winning bidders totaled thirty nine individuals. Many of the bidders won multiple items. All of these companies and individuals combined to create a very prosperous event. The NJTA will net \$20,770.00 from the silent auction. All of that funding drops directly to the bottom line in support of New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation for exceptional turfgrass research at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Thank you to all the donors, bidders, those folks that chased down donations, and anyone else I am forgetting. I also want to send a big thank you to Cece Peabody, Executive Director, and the staff she brings. Without the ladies that do the mountain of work administering the silent auction, it would not happen.

### **New Jersey Legislative Updates: Active Time in Trenton**

by Matt Lindner, NJTA Legislative Chair

With the change of administration in Trenton, comes the reintroducing and introducing of many proposed bills and regulations that will affect the Green Industry in NJ. Below is a list of these possible changes that are before either the Assembly (A) or Senate (S).

#### LIST OF BILLS SSA IS TRACKING FOR NJGIC

A-474 Prieto (D32) — Permits landscape irrigation contractors to install backflow prevention devices under certain circumstances.

A-540 Mazzeo (D2) — Establishes requirements for sale and planting of running bamboo.

A-623 Wolfe (R10) — Prohibits sale, distribution, and use of urea as an ice melt.

A-718 McGuckin (R10) — "Barnegat Bay Protection Act"; establishes Barnegat Bay Protection Fund, dedicates portion of sales tax on lawn fertilizer, authorizes special license plates, and provides for donations.

A-732 McGuckin (R10) — Provides State income tax credit for removal of lawns near Barnegat Bay.

A-1204 Barclay (D5) — Requires person convicted of theft of bee hive to pay pecuniary damages and perform community service.

A-1271 Tucker (D28) — Establishes procedures to prevent and eradicate bedbug infestations in certain residential property.

A-1444 Benson (D14) — The "Safe Playing Fields Act"; restricts use of lawn care pesticides at child care centers and certain schools, playgrounds, and recreational fields.

A-1676 Dancer (R12) — Establishes certain requirements for a State entity planting vegetation in certain circumstances; provides for preferences for NJ businesses providing such vegetation.

A-1691 Dancer (R12) — Directs DEP to designate native bee nesting habitat areas in each State park and forest.

A-2273 Dancer (R12) — Provides corporation business tax credit to taxpayers that develop qualified native pollinator habitat on undeveloped property.

A2377 Prieto (D32) — Raises minimum wage rate to \$10.10, makes further increases over a four-year period, and maintains annual cost of living increases.

A-2393 Schaer (D36) — Requires certain notification prior to mosquito spraying applications.

A-2874 McKeon (D27) — Requires use of uniform silver flags to mark certain pesticide applications.

A-2894 McKeon (D27) — Requires water purveyors to develop and implement a drought interconnection system.

A-2916 McKeon (D27) — "Ocean County Stormwater Management System Demonstration Act."

A-3136 Dancer (R12) — Provides corporation business tax credit to public utilities that develop qualified native pollinator habitat in their rights of way.

A-3138 Dancer (R12) — Provides corporation business tax and gross income tax credits to farmers who develop qualified native pollinator habitat on farms.

A-3244 Andrzejczak (D1) — Prohibits Dept. of Agriculture from adopting any rules, regulations, or standards concerning bees or beekeeping until it properly and fully complies with requirement in law to consult with certain entities.

A-3496 Kennedy (D22) — Prohibits use of chlorpyrifos insecticide.

A-3564 Vainieri Huttle (D37) — Prohibits snowplow operators from depositing snow in front of certain access points used by persons with disabilities.

A-3814 Andrzejczak (D1) — Allows eligible landscape operators to make certain purchases of certain materials and supplies without payment of sales and use tax.

AJR-80 Taliaferro (D3) — Establishes "Healthy Pollinators Task Force."

AR-111 Dancer (R12) — Encourages NJ homeowners to plant native plants that support bee populations and create habitat for all pollinators.

S-2288 Smith (D17) — Directs DEP to classify neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides.

S-2315 Smith (D17) — Requires water purveyors to develop and implement a drought interconnection system.













### **2018 Golf Classic SNAP SHOTS**













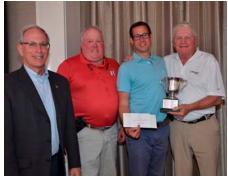






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More Golf Classic SNAP SHOTS

























### **Rutgers Research Field Days 2018**

by Craig Tolley, Field Days Committee

Mark your calendar! It's time for the annual **Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days**. This year field days will be held on July 31 and August 1 2018. The Golf and Fine Turf Day, July 31st, will be at the Rutgers Turfgrass Farm (102 Ryders Lane) in North Brunswick, NJ, while the Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day, August 1, is returning to the Rutgers Adelphia Farm in Freehold (594 Halls Mills Road, Freehold NJ). This will be, as always, one the best opportunities to tour the world class research facilities and learn about the most current developments in turfgrass management. The Rutgers' Professors and Extension Specialists will be available both days to share their latest findings. Both Days

will offer pesticide recertification credits, GCSAA Eduction credits, and Pro-FACT credits.

The NJ Turfgrass Foundation will be conducting a silent auction at each of the field days. Stop by the silent auction tent and help support the Turfgrass Foundation. All proceeds from the silent auction support the Rutgers Turfgrass program. Stop by the silent auc-

tion to see the impressive variety of items to bid on. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Tuesday, July 31, will be a busy day. The morning will begin with an optional early morning Core session for pesticide recertification credits. This morning session is limited and will be open to the first 80 people that register; so register early to secure your place. The field tours will include presentatons detailing the effects of plant health products on drought performance, as well as the the effects of Biostimulants on summer performance of creeping bentgrass. There will also be presentations detailing the latest research on Goosegrass and annual bluegrass control.

After lunch, on Tuesday the 31st, there will be the Basic Training for Professional Fertilizer Certification (from 2:00 to 3:00pm). Space is limited so register early; training is included as part of your field day registration. The Fertilizer Certification Exam will be given this day for an additional fee \$75. Sign up with your registration and select to take the training and the exam.

Wednesday, August 1, will be a full day. The field tours will include educational programs detailing advances in turfgrass breeding, low-input management systems, lD and Management of Landscape Turf Insect Pests, plus False-Green Kyllinga management. This day will also incude presentations on Broadleaf weed control and low maintenance Kentucky Bluegrass.

The Sport Field Managers Association of NJ will be holding their annual trade show before the tours and during lunch. The field tours will additionally include some equipment demonstrations throughout the day. The day will conclude with an additional opportunity

**RUTGERS** 

Turfgrass Research

for some core pesticides credits.

Pre-registration is now open! Members of the Turfgrass Association receive the early bird discount registration rate (\$65.00 pre-registration, members only pay \$50.00). Members of allied associations are also eligible to pay the member rate. The student rate is only \$20.00 (with student ID) for both days

so bring your interns; this special rate is available to any college or high school student.

Register today at http://www.njturfgrass.org. Early registration will be open until July 16,2018. After that day on site rates will apply (\$80.00 non-members, \$65.00 members). We look forward to seeing you there...and if you want to sit during or between the tour stops, bring a portable chair to enjoy the outdoors and the tours.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 43rd Annual New Jersey Green Expo December 4-6th,
The Borgata Hotel,
Atlantic City, NJ.

### From the NJ Green Industry Council

Buddy Freund, NJGIC Executive Director

The New Jersey Green Industry Council is recognized as a powerful voice for professionals within the Green Industry, providing Advocacy, Communication, and Education to its members. NJGIC is your voice before the New Jersey State Legislature. By monitoring New Jersey Legislation, NJGIC protects your right and methodology of doing business in the Garden State.

NJGIC membership aligns you with a strong force of Green Industry partners, including the New Jersey Turfgrass Association. These Allied Associations, thirty strong, represent very diverse segments of the New Jersey Green Industry. NJGIC provides an umbrella of legislative advocacy for each industry sector, promotes the industry, and represents the Green Industry as an advocate and leader of environmental stewardship.

Currently, NJGIC contracts the services of State Street Associates, Inc. to lobby on behalf of NJGIC and the Allied Associations. State Street Associates has claimed many victories for the Green Industry. They include...

- Licensed Tree Experts created a new licensing requirement for tree care operators
- Application of Fertilizer Law NJGIC gained concessions during the legislative process to lessen the burden on professional applicators
- Amended Pesticide Recognition Act the bill's sponsor agreed to amend language based on NJGIC's recommendations which focused on IPM rather than an outright ban
- Safe Playing Fields Act through strong advocacy from NJGIC and its allies, they were successful in preventing the bill from reaching the Governor's desk
- Neonic Ban Legislation again with strong advocacy, NJGIC prevented this bill from being posted for a hearing or a vote during the legislative session

• Healthy Pollinator's Task Force – NJGIC successfully obtained amendments to the bill which added industry representatives to the task force. Adding these representatives allows for fair, balanced, and science-based conclusions.

The team of NJGIC and State Street Associates continues to monitor more than 50 pieces of legislation currently in the state legislature. Raising the minimum wage, Safe Playing Fields Act, notification requirements, and Mosquito Spraying Applications to name a few are prime examples of current legislation that will greatly affect the Green Industry as a whole and New Jersey Turfgrass specifically.

Your contribution and membership are critical for the continued success of our advocacy efforts. NJGIC has multiple levels of membership starting at \$100.00 for Individual Membership to more substantial levels of support for Business, Corporate, and Association contributors.

Gain a seat at the table as we continue representing your issues and battles in Trenton. Please consider joining our efforts. www.njgic.org



Buddy Freund, Executive Director 609-403-0906 973-557-8674 (c)



### 2018 Rutgers Turfgrass Research FIELD DAYS



This form is Early Registration Only. If not received by 7/16/18, you must register Onsite.

## Tuesday, July 31, 2018 GOLF & FINE TURF Day

Hort Farm 2, 102 Ryders Lane, North Brunswick NJ 08902

### WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND:

- Meet the Rutgers Professors
- · Creeping and Colonial Bentgrass NTEP Trials
- · Advances in Disease, Insect, and Weed Control
- · Strategies for Pre and Post Emergence Goosegrass Control
- Latest on Management Strategies for control of Dollar Spot and Other Important Turf Diseases
- Evaluating Topdressing Sands and Coring for Putting Greens
- Basic Training for the Professional Fertilizer Applicator and for the Certification or Recertification Exam (\$75 fee) -IN ENGLISH and SPANISH

FOLLOW US: #NJTA\_Turfgrass · #RUturfdays 18

### SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

7:30 AM		Registration Opens
8:00 - 8:30	AM	CORE Session (Limit 80) - 1 Credit — OPTIONAL-
		— SILENT AUCTION OPENS —
9:00 AM		TOURS Begin
1:00 рм		TOURS End
1:00 – 2:00	PM	Lunch & SILENT AUCTION Ends
2:00 РМ		Field Day Ends (Unless staying for below)
		- OPTIONAL-
2:00 – 3:00	PM	TRAINING for ProFACT in ENGLISH and SPANISH (Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification) – Earn 2 CEU Credits
3:00 – 4:00	PM	Fertilizer EXAM @ \$75 per person In ENGLISH and SPANISH Pre-Registration Required for Training & Exam

### Wednesday, August 1, 2018

### LAWN, LANDSCAPE & SPORTS FIELD Day

Adelphia Farm, 594 Halls Mills Road, Freehold NJ 07728

SFMANJ (Sports Field Mgrs of NJ) Sponsored

7 Trade Show & Equipment Demonstrations

#### Pesticide Credits & NJ ProFACT

Awarded at end of Event

### WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND:

- Meet the Rutgers Professors
- Major Advances in Turfgrass Breeding and NTEP Trials
- Broadleaf Weed Control Programs
- · False-green Kyllinga Management
- · Low-Input Turfgrass Systems
- The Latest Sports Field & Grounds Products

**DIRECTIONS** to Farms on website - njturfgrass.org

### **SCHEDULE OF THE DAY**

7:30 AM	Registration & Trade Show Opens
9:00 AM	TOURS & Equipment Demonstrations Begin
	— SILENT AUCTION OPENS —
1:00 PM	TOURS & Equipment Demonstrations End
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Lunch & SILENT AUCTION Ends
1:30 – 2:00 PM	CORE Session (Lunch Area) — OPTIONAL— 1 Credit
2:00 PM	Field Day Ends

There will be NO Basic Training for ProFACT and NO Fertilizer EXAM on WEDNESDAY.

Attend on TUESDAY for the Training and/or Exam.



Questions? Contact Cece Peabody, NJTA Office: (973) 812-6467 • Anne Diglio, Rutgers: (848) 932-6396
NJTA Office Fax: (973) 812-6529 • execdirector@njturfgrass.org

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IELD DAYS



### 2018 EARLY REGISTRATION FORM

Pesticide Credits
Awarded
at end of day

THIS FORM IS EARLY REGISTRATION ONLY • If not received by MONDAY 7/16/18, you must Register Onsite.

I) New Jersey Turfgrass A 4) NJ Landscape Contrac	tors Assn (N	NJLCA) (5) NJ Nursery &	Landscape Assn (NJNLA)	·	-
			you belong to BELOW:		oject to verification.
_	_NJTA**	SFMANJ**		IJLCA** <u>N</u> JNLA**	
leed Special Assistanc lame:	e? Let us I	in advance.		FOR NUMBER ATTENDIN for 10 or more attendees	
<b>EARLY REGIST</b>	RATION	& FEES CHOICE	S	Tues. 7/31/18	Weds 8/1/18
** MEMBERS: Early Regis		(Before 7/16/18) - \$50 16/18 increases to \$65]	x \$50 Each Day Check attendees & fees	□ 1=\$50 · □ 2=\$100 □ 3=\$150 · □ 4=\$200	□ 1=\$50 · □ 2=\$100 □ 3=\$150 · □ 4=\$200
NON-MEMBERS: Early Re	_	(Before 7/16/18) - \$65	x \$65 Each Day Check attendees & fees	□ 1=\$65 · □ 2=\$130 □ 3=\$195 · □ 4=\$260	□ 1=\$65 • □ 2=\$130 □ 3=\$195 • □ 4=\$260
Student Rate: Rutgers Master Gardeners	Send/Sho	w copy of Student ID	x \$20 Each Day	□ \$20	□ \$20
<b>MEMBERSHIP CH</b>	OICES				
2018 NJTA Membership:  One (1) Individual Membership		- December 31)	x \$80 Each	\$	Print name in box below.
• Turfgrass Members: Go	olf Course, Lav	vn Care, Landscaper, more	x \$210 (1-3 Names)	\$	Print name in box below.
Business Members: Man	nufacturer/Su	pplier or Sod Producer	x \$275 (1-4 Names)	\$	Print name in box below.
Print Member Names:					
TUESDAY ONLY @ 2 PM: Pro Exam Fee: \$75 in English &			ProFACT EXAM Check for Training OR Exam or Both	Training: No Cost x \$75 Exam	No training or exam on Wednesday
<b>*</b> *				ė	_
·( )			Sub Totals	\$	\$
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The **Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days** are one of the finest and most respected two-day events in the country. Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science shareS the latest research with turfgrass managers and green industry professionals. This research helps professionals make improved turfgrass management decisions. We invite you to partner with NJTA and become a supporting **SPONSOR**. We accept multiple Sponsors in each category, with the exception of golf carts and water/ice. Fax or mail your form back. Thanks in advance for your support!

\*\*Tracy Wadhams\*\*, Field Days Chair\*\*

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* NEW! Complimentary Registra	ations for BOT	H Days (Previously or	ne!). Each level shows number of comped registrations.
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- S-284 Holzapfel (R10) Prohibits sale, distribution, and use of urea as an ice melt.
- S-293 Holzapfel (R10) Provides State income tax credit for removal of lawns near Barnegat Bay.
- S-294 Holzapfel (R10) "Barnegat Bay Protection Act"; establishes Barnegat Bay Protection Fund, dedicates portion of sales tax on fertilizer, authorizes special license plates, and provides for donations.
- S-665 Bateman (R16) Prohibits snowplow or de-icing service contract from indemnifying promisee against liability for loss or damage in certain instances.
- S-864 Sweeney (D3) Raises minimum wage rate to \$10.10, makes further increases over a four-year period, and maintains annual cost of living increases.
- S-1142 Singleton (D7) Raises minimum wage to \$10.10 and provides for certain other increases.
- S-1295 Bucco (R25) Establishes procedures to prevent and eradicate bedbug infestations in certain residential property.
- S-1498 Sarlo (D36) Transfers NJ Board of Tree Experts from DEP to Dept. of Agriculture.
- S-1809 Turner (D15) The "Safe Playing Fields Act"; restricts use of lawn care pesticides at child care centers and certain schools.
- S-1810 Turner (D15) Prohibits use of chlorpyrifos insecticide.
- S-1900 Beach (D6) Prohibits snowplow operators from depositing snow in front of certain access points used by persons with disabilities.
- S-2288 Smith (D17) Directs DEP to classify neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides.
- S-2315 Smith (D17) Requires water purveyors to develop and implement a drought interconnection system.
- SJR-42 Van Drew (D1) Honors 100th anniversary of NJ Nursery and Landscape Association.

Once again, it is not the responsibility of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association to either support or oppose any pending legislation; NJTA will inform members of possible rules and regulations that might affect our industry. I want to thank John Patten, President of the NJGIC, for keeping NJTA in the loop as Trenton is a very active city in 2018.





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### Minimum Wage Increase in New Jersey

Gail Woolcott, NJLCA Director of Operations

We hope that people don't hear the landscaping industry say we are against an increase in the minimum wage and think we are heartless scrooges. This is not the case and please hear me out as to why we feel this way.

Tens of thousands of small business owners working in the New Jersey green industry, including agriculture, landscaping, golf courses, nurserymen, sports field managers, irrigation contractors, turfgrass professionals, arborists, pest managers, pool and spa contractors and more feel that raising the minimum wage will cause undue hardship to all tax paying citizens statewide.

You see, the trickle-down effect of this legislation will negatively affect millions in the State of New Jersey. Everything from the cost of food and automotive fuel, to entertainment and insurance rates will rise because of an increase in the minimum wage. Salaries of unskilled employees, who may currently make \$12 per hour, will be raised to \$15 per hour, forcing higher level employee salaries to increase along with them. It will lead to a loss of jobs, as more employers turn to automation to handle their needs. Less hiring will occur, as small businesses will no longer be able to hire as many employees. And the very thing that raising the minimum wage is meant to do, help those who are in or near poverty, will be hurt the most! The skilled workers will be applying for the same minimum wage positions as the unskilled workers, pushing those unskilled workers right out of the market.

For the NJLCA members and the green industry, this legislation will not only require companies to reduce their workforce, putting both skilled and unskilled laborers into unemployment, it will also greatly reduce the amount of taxes generated by our companies and paid to the state, due to an increase in pricing which will result in the reduction in sales. In addition, an increase in the minimum wage will require these green industry companies to lose contracts and put additional pressure on an industry that is already working on very tight margins. Just as importantly, raising the minimum wage will increase the cost of agricultural products. Ultimately, this will reach grocery stores, restaurants, hotels and more. And as we all know, increased wages will also raise unemployment taxes and workers' comp insurance, creating an additional burden to employers.

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These negative minimum wage effects will continue to other businesses that work in conjunction with the green industry. Businesses such as automotive sales and service providers, equipment sales, rental and repair shops, insurance providers, banking, accountants, printers and gas stations will all experience cost increases. Moreover, the impact of a minimum wage increase to these supporting industries will be even more significant since they will have to absorb additional costs while also experiencing the inevitable reduction in sales.

While other businesses might be able to avoid the cost of a minimum wage increase by automating some of their work, the green and its supporting industries will be forced to bear the brunt of these proposals. Unlike restaurants and retail stores, a kiosk can't cut a lawn or trim a tree, so we will be forced to pass these costs on to our customers or go out of business. What further concerns us, is that many of the services our members offer are considered to be a luxury, and customers will likely cut back or eliminate using our services if we are forced to substantially increase our prices. Companies may have to lay-off employees and cut back on the purchase of products – which will have a negative impact on New Jersey's economy.

We know that not all of our members agree, but a majority have voiced to us that this increase would be detrimental to their businesses. Therefore, we understand and agree that people should earn a living wage, but in an industry where most employees are earning far more than the minimum wage, this will only hurt the citizens of New Jersey.

New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association



465 Mola Boulevard, Suite 4.
Elmwood Park, NJ 07407
Director of Operations, Gail Woolcott
Office: 201-703-3600
gwoolcott@njlca.org • www.njlca.org

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### New Jersey Turfgrass Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership shall be open to all interested in the development and maintenance of turf. It shall represent all facets of the turf industry, including persons or organizations that grow or manage turf, or supply materials and services to the Green Industry.

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		\$65.00 each \$210.00 \$65.00 each			
			☐ INDIVIDUAL MEMBER (ONE E	\$80.00	
			■ STUDENT MEMBER (Those enrolled in turf-related educational programs.)		\$20.00
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Since 1970, New Jersey Turfgrass Association's (NJTA) Mission is to promote the Turfgrass Industry and enhance the environment through education, professionalism, leadership, and our partnership with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

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Page 2 of 2 Updated 03/2018

# **SAVE THESE DATES - 2018!**

# Rutgers Turfgrass Research FIELD DAYS

TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2018 Hort Farm 2, New Brunswick

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2018
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December 4 - 6, 2018
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