

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) SYMPOSIUM

Net proceeds are donated to lawn care research or a suitable alternative.

Monday, January 11, 2021

Produced by Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association

Location: Full-Day Webinar (as Ontario Government is not permitting large scale events at this time)

8:00 am - 9:30 am (1.5 hrs)

TOPIC: Turning on the Landscape

The green industry understands the importance of healthy actively growing urban landscapes. Turfgrasses are essential components of urban landscapes because of their dual functionality of ecosystem services combined with providing usable space for leisure activities or sport. One criticism of turfgrasses is the inputs that go into the creation and maintenance of healthy lawns and sports facilities. Through developing carbon calculators and other modelling tools it is becoming apparent that there is a benefit to turning on the landscape through management techniques. The session will focus on the benefits of maintaining turfgrasses and compare and contrast different management strategies and landscapes in the context of carbon sequestration, other ecosystem services, and societal benefit. The attendee will have a better understanding of the turfgrasses in the environment and be able to make better decisions to increase the sustainability of management of the urban environment with regard to fertility, pest management and other management decisions.

SPEAKER: Eric M. Lyons, Ph.D. | University of Guelph

Associate Professor, Department of Plant Agriculture

Director, Guelph Turfgrass Institute

Post Doctorate, Rutgers University

Doctorate, Penn State University

Author and executor of more than 30 articles and 30 presentations of turfgrass and related matter

9:45 am - 10:45 am (1 hr)

TOPIC: Invasive Species Management

There are numerous invasive species in Ontario that grounds maintenance professionals must deal with each season. This talk will familiarize you with some of the key invasive weeds that are poisonous for your clients or present a risk to natural habitats in Ontario. This includes the plants that sneak in through the fencerows, blow in from neighbouring properties or are brought

in inadvertently. In some parts of the province, one species is a major issue, while a mixture of species can appear in other areas.

You will learn some basic biology of these weeds and where to find out more information. The challenges of control of these weeds will be reviewed so you understand key biological and timing issues. Whether you are carrying out control in-house or with contractors, there are also worker safety, land use and licencing issues that create challenges beyond the onerous work of controlling these plants.

SPEAKER: Nancy Cain, Cain Vegetation

Nancy Cain, Cain Vegetation Inc. specializes in vegetation management and pest control. She brings a blend of horticulture and weed science to vegetation management issues. Her projects deal with integrated vegetation management and invasive weed control on rights-of-way including power lines, pipelines and roadsides as well as pest control projects in woody crops, fruit crops and reforestation. She was instrumental in the development of Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) programs for highways in Ontario as a Research Scientist with MTO. Nancy carried out a review of wild parsnip for TransCanada Pipelines, reviewing the biology, toxic nature and spread of this noxious weed on their pipeline corridors. She and a colleague currently develop IVM programs for municipal clients which include the control and management of the various invasive weeds present across Ontario.

10:45 am - 11:45 am (1 hr)

TOPIC: Is Turfgrass Fertilization Threatening Our Water Bodies?

Turfgrass plays an important role in urban and residential landscapes, providing functional, recreational and aesthetic benefits. However, in the last few years, there has been increasing concerns about the potential negative impacts of intensive turfgrass management on the environment, specifically on water quality. Although turfgrass increases soil water infiltration and contaminants retention, the application of fertilizers on turf can lead to nutrient losses through volatilization, runoff and leaching. Even though these losses generally tend to be low when good fertilization practices are implemented, several municipalities in Canada have adopted different by-laws to control or even ban fertilizer use on turfgrass areas. This session will present results from two different research projects conducted by our team in the last few years, during which we monitored nutrient losses in leachate and runoff following different fertilization strategies applied to turfgrass.

SPEAKER: Guillaume Grégoire, Ph.D. | Université Laval

Dr. Guillaume Grégoire holds a bachelor's degree in agronomy from Université Laval, a master's degree in horticulture from the University of Guelph and a Ph.D. in plant biology from Université Laval. He has close to 20 years of experience in turfgrass research and has primarily worked on the environmental impacts of turfgrass management. Before obtaining his current position as an associate professor in ornamental horticulture at Université Laval, Dr. Grégoire

was a technical and scientific analyst at Fédération interdisciplinaire de l'horticulture ornementale du Québec (FIHOQ).

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm (0.5 hrs)

TOPIC: MECP Update - Amendments to the Pesticide Act and Regulations

This presentation will provide an overview of recent amendments to the Pesticides Act and Ontario Regulation 63/09. Scott will outline the amendments that came into effect in early 2020 focusing on those most relevant to the landscape industry and what you need to know to stay in compliance. The presentation will also provide an overview of recent compliance findings by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

SPEAKER: Scott Olan B.Sc. (Agri) | Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Scott has been a Regional Pesticides Specialist with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks in Eastern Region since 2005. Prior to joining the Ministry, Scott spent many years working in landscape maintenance, pest control and snow removal. He has been a licensed exterminator for over 35 years, holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Degree (Horticulture) from the University of Guelph and continues to learn at workshops and conferences. Scott works with pesticide licence holders, the public, committees, groups, and agencies providing guidance on Ontario's pesticides legislation.

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm (1 hr)

TOPIC: What's Bugging Your Trees?

This session is an excellent pre-season warm up to arm you with the latest information on new and recurring plant health issues in the Ontario landscape. Jen will discuss significant plant health challenges that affect trees and shrubs plus she will alert you to new invasive insect and disease pests that threaten Ontario landscapes. You will leave this seminar with a clear understanding of diagnosing current woody plant health issues and a strategy for how to manage them.

SPEAKER: Jennifer Llewellyn M.Sc. ISA Cert Arb | OMAFRA

Jen is the Provincial Nursery and Landscape Specialist with OMAFRA and has been in this role since 1999. She holds a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Horticulture from the University of Guelph. She is also an ISA Certified Arborist. Jen has the privilege of working closely with the nursery, landscape and arboriculture sectors to troubleshoot issues regarding the production and maintenance of woody and herbaceous ornamental plants. She writes for several industry publications and is well known for her column, What's Bugging Your Trees? in the Ontario Arborist as well as her blog and Instagram as "ONnurserycrops". She is also co-author of

“BugFinder”, the ultimate scouting app for nursery and landscape. Jen also lectures and delivers plant health workshops across the province.

2:45 pm - 3:45 pm (1 hr)

TOPIC: Effects of Mowing on Turf

Good mowing practices are perhaps the most important single factor contributing to a well-groomed appearance and the longevity of any turfgrass area. The ability to withstand mowing is what makes turfgrasses different from other plants, which is why mowing is an essential part of maintaining high quality turfgrass stands. Mowing heights are dependent on the use of the grass and the individual cultivars or varieties being used. Although the mowing height differences are often small, do not underestimate their importance for maintaining healthy turfgrass stands. Frequency of mowing is also an important consideration in the maintenance program. This session will discuss the effects of mowing on turf, comparing rotary vs reel, height of cut, frequency of cut and everything else you need to know about mowing best practices.

SPEAKER: John R. Bladon PAg, ISSP | The Chimera Group

John R. Bladon, president and founder, has been immersed in turfgrass, horticulture and the environment since childhood. His love affair with the environment and sustainability was nurtured by his mother and father, the latter of whom was a forward-thinking Horticulturist and the Manager of Grounds at the University of Guelph. Since graduating from University of Guelph and studying at Cornell, John has helped construct and grow in two golf courses and in the early part of his career, spent nine years as a golf course superintendent. Of late, in addition to having done work for a large multinational within Marketing, Innovation and Agronomy, John has since become an active participant both inside and out of the industry. John completed his PAg and has since become a sustainability professional. He has authored and published in excess of 50 articles and executed more than 50 presentations ranging from business and agronomy, to physiology and chemistry to communications and sustainability. He has lectured to students, golf superintendents, boards of directors and club memberships, food and beverage operations, retail operations, growers and farmers, governments, municipalities and golf course owners alike on a “common sense” approach to management with a focus on sustainability. After having done a series of site consultations on a part time basis, and numerous continued requests from professionals in the field, John launched The Chimera Group; his own management, communications and consulting firm with a small group of strategic partnerships and affiliations. With a clear need for practical solutions in and out of the industry, work began with end user professionals and a wide variety of industry interest groups through on site consultations, strategic communications training, technical support, education and management of data. Chimera also works in partnership to bring industry professionals together with contracted PhDs to educate and problem solve in the field. Collectively, this group is largely thought of as Canada’s authority on sustainability and turfgrass management. They are dedicated to stewardship projects primarily with golf and sport turf facilities from coast to coast and furthering research and education on turfgrasses nationally and abroad.