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OLCA NEWS



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! **OLCA FIELD DAY** **OARDC, Wooster, OH**

The Ohio Lawn Care Association will hold the 12th Annual Northeast Ohio Lawn Care Seminar and CEO Forum on Thursday, June 19, 2014 at The Ohio State University/OARDC Fisher Auditorium in Wooster, OH.

OLCA invites those involved in lawn and landscape maintenance to attend. Registration will begin at 8:00 am. Continuing education sessions will begin at 9:00 am and station rotations to begin at 12:15 after lunch.

A complete list of continuing education sessions and the online registration will be available soon. Watch for emails from OLCA with registration details. If you have any questions, please contact OLCA at 800-510-5296. You can also register online at www.ohiolawnca.org.

A MESSAGE from your President, Ray Iacobucci, TruGreen



I am privileged to be the incoming president of the Ohio Lawn Care Association! Continuing in the footsteps of past-president Matt Ellis will be no small feat but I am up to the challenge! With the addition of our Executive Director, Mark Bennett, and a few new Board members, OLCA has a renewed

focus on providing value and benefits not only to our membership but to the green industry as a whole.

The direction of our association is summarized in our revised mission statement: "Serving the lawn care industry by providing essential resources for its members." You'll see this mission carried through to for the 12th Annual Northeast Ohio Seminar being held June 19 at the OSU/OARDC in Wooster – it is a revised and revitalized blend of value-added educational topics sure to be a great return on investment for all those attending. I hope you plan to attend this year's event – I promise you will be glad you did!

With another season of providing lawn care services beginning, I would like all green industry service-providers to realize what outstanding stewards you are of our environment. Through your efforts and diligent, responsible lawn-care applications, you are creating tremendous acreage of healthy turfgrass. In turn, healthy lawns deliver enormous benefits to us all. A short list of these benefits includes:

- Oxygen production: a 50' x 50' lawn area produces enough oxygen for a family of four
- Noise reduction: Lawns and other green plants can reduce noise levels by 20 – 30%
- Cools the environment: Eight average-sized lawns have the cooling power of 70 tons of air conditioning
- Rainwater absorption: A 10,000 square-foot lawn can absorb more than 6,000 gallons of rainwater
- Reduces dust: Lawns trap as much as 12 million tons of dust per year
- Natural air cleaner: Lawns take in carbon dioxide and break it down into oxygen and carbon
- Increased property value: A well-manicured lawn can increase the home value of a normal-sized property by \$1,400

Carry-on good stewards and continue to improve our environment through responsible lawn care. The Ohio Lawn Care Association will be with you every step of the way!

FROM YOUR Executive Director, Mark Bennett, CAE, IOM



I'm sure many of you are busy now that the weather has finally started to warm up after our unusually frigid winter. Your Board of Trustees met this past January to discuss the future of the Ohio Lawn Care Association (OLCA) and focused on enhancing

the value its members receive for their dues. This is an ongoing dialogue and we'll continue to explore ways to strengthen your lawn care business.

There aren't many investment opportunities where you can annually receive a \$20 return for every \$1 you invest. With OLCA, the average member company saves more than \$2,500 annual on its workers compensation premium. Additionally, members receive discounts on customer lead generation, free plant/pest diagnostics and discounted soil sample analysis. Make sure you're taking full advantage of your membership to save your company money and grow your business.

I hope you will join us for one of OLCA's Field Days this summer. The first will be held on June 19 at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center at the Ohio State University Wooster campus. The second will be on August 7 at the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Research & Education Facility at OSU in Columbus. These days are a great opportunity to learn the latest in lawn and pest research as well as help grow your business and enhance your company's operations. Plus you can earn pesticide recertification credit.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 800-510-5296 x 3187 or mbennett@offinger.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JUNE 19: Northeast Seminar • OARDC, Wooster

AUGUST 7: Outdoor Summer Seminar • OSU, Columbus

NOVEMBER 8: A Grateful Embrace

Dayton National Veterans Cemetery – Dayton, OH

Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery – Rittman, OH

OLCA 2014 Officers and Trustees Spotlight

The Ohio Lawn Care Association (OLCA) 2014 Officers and Trustees were recently elected to the Board of Directors. Officers serve a one-year term and Trustees serve three-year terms beginning March 1.



**RAY IACOBUCCI,
TRUGREEN**

How long have you been in the industry? 30 years
Why did you get involved with OLCA?

I was asked to serve on the Board by an existing Board Member Dave Hofacre. **Where do you see the lawn care industry headed in the next five years?** Increased attention to proper lawn nutrition; probably more lawn treatments using various types of small-to-mid-sized ride-on application equipment; and possibly higher demand for natural organic programs.



**GINA ZIRKLE,
THE SCOTTS CO.**
How long have you been in the lawn care industry? My interest in Turfgrass started when I picked my college focus – Plant

Health Management with a minor in turfgrass science. My lawn care experience started in 2005 with my internship at The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. **Why did you get involved with OLCA?** I thought it would be a good way to network with industry peers. After I graduated, I continued my membership for some of the member benefits as well as a way to continue networking.

Where do you see the lawn care industry headed in the next five years? As trends in lawn and landscaping continue to change, so will the needs of the customer. It is continually important to share the environmental, social, and economic benefits of a lawn. The real reason lawns were established around homes in the first place was to keep down on dust, soil erosion and provide a place for rain to filter. These are important aspects of turfgrass that the everyday homeowner may not realize or seems to be long forgotten.

Two new Trustees were elected to serve three-year terms beginning March 1, 2014.

BRETT GARRARD, DOW AGROSCIENCES

How long have you been in the lawn care industry? I started in 2005 with Dow covering New Jersey and Eastern PA. **Why did you get involved with OLCA?** Dow has been a member of the OLCA for years and my predecessor was actively involved on the OLCA Board, so naturally when I came to Ohio, I wanted to get involved as well. I served on the Board of the New Jersey Green Industry Council during my time on the East Coast so getting involved with the OLCA seemed like a natural fit for me. **Where do you see the lawn care industry headed in the next five years?** As the economy and housing markets improve, I see an increased demand for high quality lawns and landscapes. We all know the great

effect a thick healthy lawn can have from an air quality and cooling of the air aspect, but it also does a great deal to improve the value of a property. Those of us in the industry are going to be on the leading edge of being able to deliver these results to homeowners. I expect new products that will allow lawn care operators to operate more efficiently and effectively to deliver the expert results their customer's desire.

**COREY PANGHORN,
SCOTTS LAWN SERVICE**

How long have you been in the lawn care industry? 4 Years. **Why did you get involved with OLCA?** To become engaged with others in my field and to begin giving back and helping to shape the industry. **Where do you see the lawn care industry headed in the next five years?** Lawn and landscape companies are adapting really well to the increasing emphasis that's being placed on sustainability and the environment. I think that whatever new challenges lie ahead, we will continue to adapt and will be in a very good place.

- President – Ray Iacobucci, TruGreen
- Vice-President – Gina Zirkle, The Scotts Co.
- Secretary/Treasurer – Jeff Benton, St. Clair Lawn Care
- Immediate Past President – Matt Ellis, GrassMaster, Inc.



A GRATEFUL EMBRACE

On November 8, OLCA, ONLA and the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery in Rittman, OH will partake in the annual community service of beautifying the hallowed grounds at the Dayton National Veterans Cemetery in Dayton, OH and Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery in Rittman, OH. Please contact Lori Landry at llandry@offinger.com if you would like to participate.



Ohio Lawn Care Applicator of the Year Nomination Form

Mail your completed nomination form and required documentation by November 10, 2014 to:
OLCA Applicator of the Year • 1100-H Brandywine Blvd • Zanesville, OH 43701 • Fax: 740-452-2552

Rules and Regulations:

- Must be a member company of OLCA
- Must be recommended by company owner, manager or supervisor
- Can only win the award one time
- 1 employee submission per company
- Must have proof of State of Ohio License
- Minimum 2 years experience

Nominated By:

Company Name, Person and Title _____

Name of Manager (if nominating self) _____

Company Address _____

Company Phone _____

Applicators Name, Years of Experience _____

Applicators License _____

Describe why you think this person deserves the honor and recognition from his/her peers as Ohio Applicator of the Year?

(Leadership, Customer Relations, Knowledge of Job, Job Performance, Problem Solving)

APPLICATOR OF THE YEAR: Grant Birchfield



It's now easier than before to nominate an Applicator of the Year. Visit the OLCA website at www.OhioLawnCare.org under the Membership tab and click on Applicator of the Year. Nominate an Applicator online or print and return the nomination form by November 10.

The 2013 Ohio Lawn Care Association Applicator of the Year was awarded to Grant Birchfield of Ziehler Lawn and Tree Care, Centerville, OH. Grant was presented the award during the OLCA Annual Meeting on December 3, 2013, at the Columbus Convention Center.

When Andrew Ziehler nominated Grant in 2013, he was quick to recognize him as a "role model for fellow employees to live up to when it comes to work ethic, quality, professionalism, team work, moral ethics and most importantly customer service." Grant takes time to learn about current issues facing the profession which enables him to give the customer up-to-date and important information. Grant "not only produces the most volume of work on average, but he has the lowest service call percentage and the lowest cancel rate," continued Ziehler; a trait every employer values!

For a complete listing of past recipients, visit the OLCA website at www.OhioLawnCare.org. Nominate someone for 2014. An application is located in this issue and also available on the OLCA website.

12TH ANNUAL NORTHEAST OHIO LAWN CARE SEMINAR: Thursday, June 19, 2014 The Ohio State University/ OARDC, Fisher Auditorium

Everyone involved in lawn and landscape maintenance is invited to this informative event. To allow for hands-on instruction and personal interaction, registration will be limited to the first 200

participants. The group will be divided into sub-groups that will spend 30 minutes at each station. The format allows for hands-on instruction followed by questions and answers. The seminar will feature the following presentations:

8:00 am – **Registration**

9:00 am – **Welcome** – OLCA Benefits, A Grateful Embrace and Legislative Update

9:30 am – **Assessing Soil Nutrients to Maximize Turf Performance & Minimize Environmental Impact: How to Interpret Soil Test Results**, Dr. Chuck Darrah, CLC Labs

10:30 am – **Ornamental Trees, Shrubs and Flower Disease Update**, Nancy Taylor, Director of Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic, Department of Plant Pathology (ODA Category 6A, 5 hours)

11:30 am-Noon – **Lunch**

Station Rotation Times: 12:15 pm-12:45 pm; 12:50 pm-1:20 pm; 1:25 pm-1:55 pm & 2:00 pm-2:30 pm

Station #1 – Current Diseases & Lawn Problems and How to Identify & Manage, Joe Rimelspach, Department of Plant Pathology, OSU (ODA Category 8, 5 hours)

Station #2 – Lawn Insect Update – Chinch Bugs, Billbugs and Grubs!, Dr. Dave Shetlar, Department of Entomology, OSU (ODA Category 8, 5 hours)

Station #3 – Key Guidelines for Accurate Lawn Applications to Achieve Effective and Safe Results, Corey Pangborn, Technical Manager, Scotts LawnService (ODA CORE, 5 hours)

Station #4 – Weed Control in the Field – Identify, Manage and Product Update, Jamie Heydinger, Regional Sales Manager- Great Lakes Region, Nufarm Americas, Inc. (ODA Category 8, 5 hours)

Station #5 – Supplier and Equipment Showcase

2:00 pm-4:00 pm – **Ohio Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicators License Testing** – If you are planning to take the Pesticide Applicators Licensing Test, you need to schedule with the ODA by calling 800-282-1955 or online at www.ohioagriculture.gov. Select Regulatory Programs and then Schedule an Exam. You must bring a photo ID with you.

Registration is available online at www.OhioLawnCare.org or by contacting OLCA at 800-510-5296.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS: Strategies for Optimal Outcomes

by Ron Lucki, CareWorks

By utilizing workers' compensation best practices employers can achieve a higher level of control over their workplace injuries, which can result in reduced severity and claim costs and better outcomes.

Early Reporting & Transitional Work

Early claim reporting is a crucial first step in controlling costs. Numerous national studies have shown the longer it takes for a claim to be reported, the costlier the claim. That's why it's important to work with an Ohio Managed Care Organization (MCO) that has efficient options for reporting new workers' compensation claims. These can include fax, telephone, online or email reporting.

A second key step is developing a plan to bring injured workers back to work by offering transitional duties. A Transitional Work Program enables injured employees to perform valuable work during their recovery as opposed to staying home from work.

There are four benefits to an effective Transitional Work Program.

1. Employees remain active and productive during recovery, helping prevent loss of physical fitness and muscle tone due to inactivity.
2. Employees can earn full or partial wages during the transitional period, bringing income closer to pre-injury wages and helping alleviate concerns about continued employment.
3. Getting employees back to their day-to-day routine helps them experience less disruption to their life and provides contact and support from co-workers and friends.
4. Having an experienced staff member back in the workforce can help employers avoid expenses associated with hiring and training new employees.

These advantages are in defense of the widely accepted philosophy that the longer an injured worker is off work, the harder it is for them to return.

Injured Worker Recovery

Should I let injured employees stay home to recover? Today, the strategy of having employees only work when fully

recovered can be considered a non-progressive approach. National studies report that work is generally good for health and well-being. While employers often focus primarily on physical recovery, the time an injured employee spends away from their career and peers can be just as traumatic as the injury itself.

Often times an injured employee may be limited in what tasks they can perform when they first return to their job based on work restrictions prescribed by their healthcare provider. Yet, today's occupational health providers are more receptive to working with employers and focusing on an injured employee's abilities as opposed to their disabilities. They share the same goal of returning an injured employee to productivity as soon as medically possible because of the positive impact work can have on achieving a healthy long-term recovery.

Don't Have Time/Budget for Early Return to Work?

The truth is many employers don't have the time or the budget to afford even just one lost time claim. Transitional and alternative duty programs are designed to give employers the tools they need to eliminate the occurrence of costly lost time claims.

Implementing early reporting procedures and a transitional duty process will more times than not result in injured employees returning to healthy, productive lifestyles quickly and safely. The optimum outcomes are improved employee morale, a healthier workforce and a financially stronger organization.

For more information about this article or CareWorks, please contact Ron Lucki, Director of Business Development at 1-888-627-7586, Ext. 3510 or email ron.lucki@careworks.com.

NEW TURFGRASS FUNGICIDES AVAILABLE in 2014 for Residential Use

by J. W. Rimelspach, T. E. Hicks and
F. Peduto Hand
Department of Plant Pathology
Ohio State University

Two new fungicides are now available to the lawn care industry. These are from BASF and were registered in Ohio in the winter on 2014. These materials can be used on ALL turfgrass sites and there are no restrictions on the use site. These are Xzemplar™ and Lexicon™.

Both products contain the active ingredient fluxapyroxad, brand name Xemium®, a new and versatile SDHI (succinate-dehydrogenase inhibitor). Fluxapyroxad is a highly mobile and very effective active ingredient that provides both preventative and curative activity on key turfgrass pathogens. Lexicon fungicide contains a 1:2 ratio of fluxapyroxad and pyraclostrobin (Insignia® SC). Field trial results for Lexicon Intrinsic brand fungicide have shown management/control on a variety of turfgrass diseases, including brown patch, dollar spot, summer patch and fairy ring, in addition to 22 other diseases.

Xzemplar™

- **Active ingredient:** 26.55% fluxapyroxad (Xemium®)
- **Formulation:** SC (suspension concentrate) delivers 2.47 lbs. of air/gal
- **Use Rates:** 0.16 oz. to 0.26 oz./1000 (Low rate is for 14 day dollar spot control only)
- **Application Intervals:** 14-28 days

- **Signal Word:** Caution
- **Site Use:** Golf courses, Residential lawns, Commercial lawns, Athletic fields, Schools and parks, Sod farms, Cemeteries, and Other turf areas
- **Diseases Labeled For:** Dollar spot, Brown Patch, Zoysia / Large Patch, Gray and Pink Snow Molds, Summer Patch, and Algae

Lexicon™ (a combination of two fungicides)

- **Active ingredient:** 14.33% fluxapyroxad (Xemium®) + 28.58% pyraclostrobin (Insignia)
- **Formulation:** SC (suspension concentrate)
- **Site Use:** Golf courses, Sports and athletic fields, Parks and recreational areas, Residential lawns, Commercial and municipal lawns, Institutional lawns, Sod Farms, and Cemeteries and other maintained turfgrass areas
- **Use rates:** 0.34 and 0.47 fl. oz. / 1000 sq. ft.
- **Application Intervals:** 14-28 days
- **Signal Word:** Caution
- **Diseases Labeled For:** Anthracnose, Bentgrass Dead Spot, Bermudagrass Decline, Brown Patch, Brown Ring Patch, Dollar Spot, Fairy Ring, Fusarium Patch, Gray Leaf Spot, Gray Snow Mold, Large Patch, Leaf Spot, Necrotic Ring Spot, Pink Patch, Pink Snow Mold, Powdery Mildew, Pythium Blight, Pythium Root Dysfunction, Melting Out, Rapid Blight, Red Thread, Rhizoctonia leaf and Sheath Blight, Rust, Summer Patch, Take-all Patch and Yellow tuft

There have been few new fungicides available in recent years to the lawn care industry since most have been label only for golf course use or have restrictions against use on residential turf areas. These offer the lawn applicator additional options. Both of these new products require applications to be made in a liquid form. If you prefer a granular product, consider Pillar G™ from BASF (pyraclostrobin and triticonazole), this is an excellent broad spectrum granular formulation.

CAREWORKS CONSULTANTS Offer Workers' Compensation and Safety Seminars in June

This year's CareWorks Consultants seminars will take place from 8:00 am – 4:15 pm with topics such as: Prospective Premium Payment System; Program Timelines, Lowering Claim Costs and more. Claims administrators, safety coordinators, financial officers, payroll and human resource administrators and supervisors are encouraged to attend. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. **There is a \$40 fee to attend.** These seminars fulfill BWC's group two-hour safety training requirements for policy year 2013 for group-rated and group retrospective employers with a claim in 2012.

DATES/LOCATIONS:

June 23 – Cincinnati/Dayton, Elements Event Centre, 11974 Lebanon Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45241

June 24 – Cleveland, Holiday Inn Independence, 6001 Rockside Rd. Independence, OH 44131

June 25 – Canton, Courtyard Marriott, 4375 Metro Circle NW North Canton, OH 44720

June 26 – Toledo, Hilton Garden Inn, 6165 Levis Commons Blvd. Perrysburg, OH 43551

June 27 – Columbus, Quest Business Center, 8405 Pulsar Place, Columbus, OH 43240

To register, contact Sarah Crouthamel at sarah.crouthamel@ccitpa.com or visit the website at www.careworksconsultants.com/about-cci/seminars.

THE EFFECT OF ORGANIC & INORGANIC FERTILIZERS on the Quality of Kentucky Bluegrass Turf and Soil Chemical Properties 2010-2015

by Pamela Sherratt, Dr. John Street and Emily Horner
Dept. of Horticulture & Crop Science
Ohio State University

Objectives: To compare the quality response of Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) following the application of fertilizer with various nitrogen (N) sources and to monitor soil chemical and physical changes over time.

Introduction

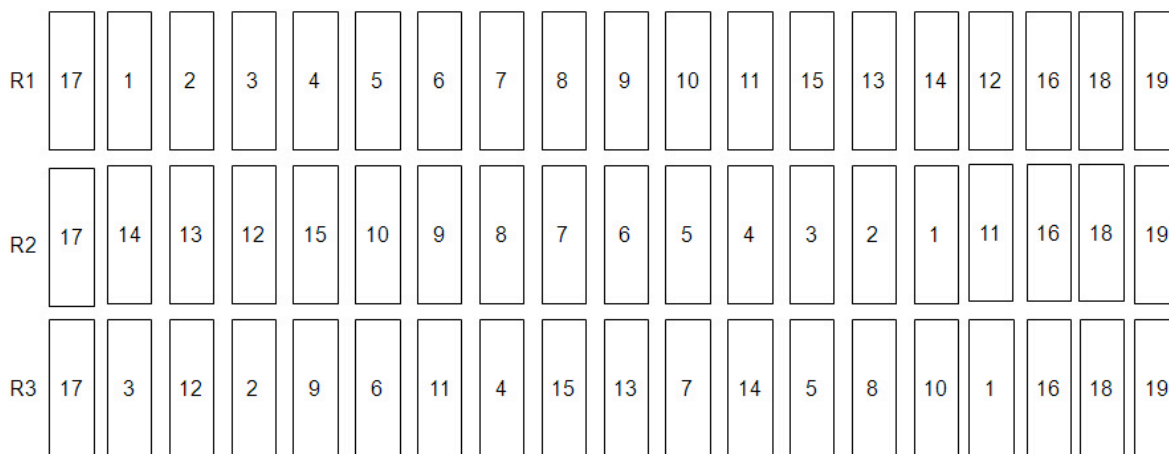
One of the most critical things that we do in turfgrass management is to fertilize the turf to maintain a healthy sward and to prepare the turf so that it can withstand traffic and recuperate from it. It is the role of the turf manager to determine turf fertilizer needs based on annual soil tests and by having a clear understanding of how fertilizers work.

In addition to understanding the complexities of fertilizer types, rates and timings, turf managers may also be working with products in the future that do not contain phosphorus. Another trend in fertilizer management is the desire of some homeowners and public facility administration to move away from synthetic fertilizers in favor of natural organic fertilizers. Natural fertilizers are derived from sources such as manure or compost and they typically do not have nitrogen contents higher than 8%. Natural fertilizers cost more money per lb. of nitrogen than synthetic sources and they are reliant upon soil temperatures for release. Still, there is a belief that natural sources not only feed the turf, but that they can improve the soil health in a turfgrass system. Natural fertilizers that contain organic material may help to improve a soil's bulk density and nutrient status overtime, which will be monitored in this study.

Measurements:

- Quality: Visual quality (color and density) is rated on a scale of 1-9, with 1 representing poorest and 9 representing best. The visual assessment is based on NTEP Guidelines (www.ntep.org).
- Soil Chemical Properties.
 - o Some of the fertilizers do not contain all of the macro nutrients P or K needed for sustained turf growth, so

OLCA Fertilizer Study 2010-2015



Treatments

- 1 Urea 46-0-0
- 2 EcoSentinal 5-2-4
- 3 Nature Safe 10-2-8
- 4 Nature's Helper 2-1-1
- 5 Spring Valley Pro 20-2-5
- 6 Sustane 5-2-10
- 7 Milorganite 5-2-0
- 8 Corn Gluten 10-0-0
- 9 Comtil Plus 3-2-1 @ ¼" depth, 2 x year
- 10 Advanced Turf Solutions 22-3-11

- 11 Advanced Turf Solutions 22-0-5
- 12 Andersons 37-0-0
- 13 Spread it & Forget it 35-0-10, 1 x year (2lbs N)
- 14 Spread it & Forget it 35-0-10, 2 x year (1lb N)
- 15 Untreated Check
- 16 Chickity-Doo-Doo 5-3-2.5
- 17 Stadium Scarlet @ ¼" depth 2 x year
18. Easy Flo 1.5-0.25-0.75
19. Coffee grounds @ ¼" inch depth 2 x year

Details:

Native soil, mixed sward
Plot Size: 3' x 6' w/ 6" borders
Start Date: May 2010
Location: SW of Sports Turf
Trtm Freq: Every 8 weeks unless otherwise stated
All treatments, except 9, 14, 17, 18 and 19 applied at 1 lb. nitrogen/M
Mowed at 3", Clippings returned

it will be interesting to see what effects no P or K has on the quality of the turf over time.

- o Organic matter content, pH, cation exchange capacity, and available nutrients are also monitored.
- o Levels of phosphorus over soil depth, particularly with the manure and sewage based composts, will be monitored.

Preliminary Findings:

- Plots had excellent quality year-round.
- Compost treatments – increase % Organic Matter in soil.
- Stadium Scarlet – had some surface debris present.
- Biosolids significantly increase soil P levels in the soil.
- There was no significant increase in CEC (cation exchange capacity) with fertilizers, to this point in the study.
- Low N organic treatments had more dollar spot incidence on the plots.

Once soil results are completed and data compiled from 2014 samples, a final comprehensive report will be made and forwarded to OLCA.



Figure 1: The effects of various fertilizers on the spring green-up of Kentucky bluegrass turf. Photograph taken 3/30/2011.

Sponsored by The Ohio Lawn Care Association
(ohiolawn.org)

DIAGNOSING LAWN & LANDSCAPE PROBLEMS – Sending Samples to the OSU Plant & Pest Clinic

by Joe Rimelspach
Department of Plant Pathology
The Ohio State University

As a member of OLCA you are eligible to have up to 3 FREE samples diagnosed per year at The Ohio State University – C. Wayne Ellett Plant & Pest Diagnostic Clinic. It is a unique diagnostic facility which integrates expertise in plant pathology, entomology, agronomy and natural resources and a comprehensive service of plant disease and pest (insect) identification. This is a great service offered to the members of OLCA.

When sending in samples **MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE ONE OF THE 2014 OLCA FREE SAMPLE VOUCHERS.** This needs to be included to insure fees are waived.

TURFGRASS SAMPLES TO:

OSU/CWEPPDC
201 Kottman Hall
2021 Coffey Rd
Columbus, OH 43210
Ph: (614) 292-5006
Fax: (614) 292-4455
Email: ppdc@osu.edu
Website: ppdc.osu.edu

SAMPLES OF TREES, SHRUBS, INSECTS, ETC ... SENT TO:

OSU/CWEPPDC
8995 East Main Street Building #23
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Ph: (614) 292-5006
Fax: (614) 466-9754

To see a step by step video on how to submit a sample, please visit the following web sites:
Submitting a residential turf sample: www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lccgu6fCGYk

Also visit the OSU Turf Pathology Program site, <http://turfdisease.osu.edu/> or The Department of Plant Pathology's web site at <http://plantpath.osu.edu> for more information of plant diseases.



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