

Turfgrass Extension Program Activity and Funding in the Northeast. (C05-chalmers101857-Oral)

Authors:

- D.R.Chalmers* - *Virginia Tech*
- E.H.Ervin - *Virginia Tech*

Abstract:

The Turfgrass Extension Specialist is responsible for the extension outreach activity associated with university turfgrass programs. Official university extension appointments vary and are often combined with research and/or teaching appointments. Specialists work with a diverse clientele that includes county extension agents, the many specialty segments of the professional turf industry, regulatory agencies and state and regional turfgrass associations. A survey was the basis for identifying current perspectives of turfgrass extension faculty at universities across the US. This paper will report on responses from turfgrass extension faculty in the Northeast U.S. Responses include the varied components in extension programs, the clientele groups being served and the ability to secure funds to support extension and research activity. Follow up interviews queried specialists on the interactions, relationships and activities they perceive as essential to operating an effective turfgrass extension program that serves their state and is recognized within the university system.

Corresponding Author Information:

David Chalmers	phone: 540-231-9738
Virginia Tech	fax: 540-231-3075
424 Smyth Hall, CSES Department - Virginia	e-mail:
Tech	chalmers@vt.edu
Blacksburg, VA 24061	

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