

Moving Turfgrass Education into the 21st Century. (C05-turgeon124534-Oral)

Authors:

- J.Harwood* - *Penn State University*
- A.Turgeon - *Penn State University*

Abstract:

When we consider that most professionals will have careers of 40 years or more, then we see that our field faces very significant challenges. Like every other profession, the state of knowledge has changed dramatically during the past 20 years, and we have no reason to expect the rate of change to decrease. New diseases and insect problems are continually emerging, new tools for dealing with them are being developed, including better, safer pesticides, improved application equipment, more insights into cultural controls, and resistant cultivars that can be used to reduce the susceptibility of turfgrasses to these pests. Thus, the educational challenge for us is two-fold: to better prepare our students while they are enrolled in undergraduate programs, and to offer continuing educational opportunities for those who have already graduated and are working in the field. For resident, extension, and distance education, we need to do less lecturing and engage students in more active and collaborative learning to ensure that they not only learn the material, but can adequately express what they've learned in their own words. Contemporary turfgrass education must be relevant, timely, thorough, continuous, and offer consistency between scientific principles and field practices. This presentation will survey best practices in contemporary turfgrass education to suggest, with wise use of technology, we are well positioned to enhance the quality of education offered not just to our current students but to working professionals. We argue that the challenges will not be technological but cultural, and the field will need to address the cultural challenges of managing large changes in a fairly short amount of time.

Corresponding Author Information:

John Harwood
Penn State University
229 Computer Building
University Park, PA 16802

phone: 814-863-0421
fax: 814-863-7043
e-mail: jth@psu.edu

Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Monday, November 11, 2002

Presentation Time: 7:00 pm

Keywords:

active learning, collaborative learning, educational technologies