



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

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Central Penn - Wee One Oktoberfest Golf Outing

Thanks to everyone that participated/sponsored/attended the tournament in honor of Luke Szekeres benefitting the Szekeres Family on October 4, 2017.

The day was sunny and warm, the course was in perfect condition, the food was delicious, and we had 114 golfers participating in the tournament!

But most important, we were able to raise \$11,834.00 for a great cause.

Special thanks to Deer Valley Golf Course for hosting us for the day!



Update on Proposed Turfgrass Fertilizer Legislation

www.psuturf.com

October 16, 2017

Pennsylvania government officials and industry representatives have been debating a comprehensive turfgrass fertilizer bill for almost seven years. Although the bill has gone through several revisions, no legislative action has taken place to date. Faced with renewed urgency to comply with the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load program, the Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture has assembled a new document that may soon become a fertilizer bill (currently referred to as the "Fertilizer Act"). This proposed bill is in the final stages of development and has been released to the public. It has a number of provisions that were in the previous bill, but also differs in several categories. Below is a summary of the newly proposed Pennsylvania fertilizer bill as it pertains to turfgrass.

Fertilizer licensing, registration, and components:

A portion of the new proposed bill is directed at manufacturers and distributors of fertilizers in Pennsylvania, and outlines licensing, registration, and fertilizer component requirements. One of the component requirements states that turfgrass fertilizers must contain at least 20% enhanced efficiency nitrogen and no phosphorus unless the product is mostly a natural organic fertilizer. Exceptions to this rule are starter fertilizers (when used to establish or repair turfgrass areas) and liquid or readily available fertilizers labeled for turf if applied at rates less than 0.7 lb nitrogen/1000 ft²

Applicator licensing and certification:

This section of the proposed bill states that a fertilizer application business must be licensed prior to application of any fertilizer. A fertilizer application business is defined as any governmental or public entity, commercial applicator, or business that applies fertilizer on the property of another or that applies fertilizer to a golf course, park, school, college, public playground, or athletic field. Fertilizer application businesses must employ at least one certified fertilizer applicator, and this person is responsible for training fertilizer technicians on the proper handling and application of fertilizer (only a certified fertilizer applicator can train technicians).

To obtain certification, an individual must pass an exam prepared or approved by the Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture. The exam will cover safety and health issues, label comprehension,

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environmental protection, equipment calibration and rate calculations, and other fertilizer-related subject matter. The newly proposed bill states that a Pennsylvania certified pesticide applicator (categories 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 18, 22, 23 and 25) will be granted certification as a fertilizer applicator. In such cases, certification will be valid until the individual's pesticide core recertification is due, at which time that person must meet all the fertilizer recertification requirements.

The proposed bill outlines a recertification process that requires four continuing education credits in practices relating to fertilizer applications over a 3-year period. Continuing education credits will be awarded based on attendance at training sessions approved by the Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture (one credit per 30 minutes of training).

Another provision listed in this document is that fertilizer application businesses must display its business license number on every vehicle involved in the fertilizer application phase.

Record keeping

Certified applicators and fertilizer technicians are required to keep records of every fertilizer application. Fertilizer records will involve names and addresses of customers, location and addresses of application sites, dates of fertilizer applications, weather conditions at the time of application, brand name and grade of the fertilizer used, rate of application, total amount of fertilizer used, name and certification number of each person involved with the application, and any other information mandated by the Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture. Records must be maintained for at least 3 years.

Application of fertilizer and prohibited acts

The proposed bill lists several restrictions on location and dates of fertilizer applications. With respect to location, fertilizer cannot be applied within 15 feet of the top of a bank of any body of water, except when using a drop spreader, rotary spreader with a deflector, or targeted spray liquid (in which case the fertilizer may be applied to the top of the bank). Another provision mandates the removal of fertilizer from impervious surfaces immediately after application. Application of fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorus is prohibited when the ground is covered in snow or frozen to a depth of at least 2 inches.

The new proposed bill also places a restriction on fertilizer applications after December 15 and before March 1. During this period, no more than 0.5 lb nitrogen/1,000 ft² can be applied.

As with most turfgrass fertilizer legislation in the U.S., the proposed Pennsylvania bill contains language on fertilizer rate restrictions. Applications cannot exceed 0.7 lb of readily available nitrogen and 1.0 lb of total nitrogen/1,000 ft² per application. Fertilizers must have zero phosphorus, except when establishing or repairing a turf area or when using an enhanced-efficiency phosphorus fertilizer or natural organic fertilizer, provided the application rate does not exceed 0.25 lb phosphorus/1,000 ft² per application, with a maximum total annual application of 0.5 lb phosphorus/1,000 ft².

This section of the proposed bill allows some flexibility with respect to application rates for certain products and conditions as indicated by the following provision: *"Fertilizer use and application rates established shall be based on scientific research representing conditions of this Commonwealth and recommended by the Pennsylvania State University, or other Pennsylvania institution of higher education. The rates or source of established fertilizer use and application rates shall be published at least once every two years by the department in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. Use and application rates published shall go into effect 90 days after publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin."* Also, when applications are based on soil tests, a site-specific plan, and other criteria listed in this section, an applicator is not required to follow application rates listed above.

The above information represents a summary of the 35-page draft of *"Amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in fertilizer, adding provisions relating to the labeling, application, recordkeeping, packaging, use, sale and distribution of agricultural fertilizer as well as turf or other specialty fertilizer; and providing for the powers and duties of the Department of Agriculture."* This summary is intended as a brief overview of the proposed bill; thus, a considerable amount of specific information is not included. For a PDF file of the entire proposed Pennsylvania fertilizer bill, contact Peter Landschoot at pjll@psu.edu.

President

Chad R. Oxenreider
Galen Hall Country Club
717-484-2523
grmsmower@aol.com

Vice President

Brian L. Ahrens
Reading Country Club
610-779-8888
Brian@readingcountryclub.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Stuart Hartman
Lederach Golf Club
215-513-9877
shartman@lederachgolfclub.com

Past President/Social

Alan FitzGerald
LedgeRock Golf Club
610-777-9890
alan@ledgerockgolf.com

Directors

Cody Frederick - 2018
LedgeRock Golf Club
610-777-9890
chody87@yahoo.com

Jeff Green - 2019
Carlisle Barracks Golf Course
jeffreegreen2011@yahoo.com

John Long - 2017
The Links at Gettysburg
443-643-5050
psuturf@yahoo.com

Patrick Michener - 2019
Country Club of York
717-846-9522
pmichener@ccyork.org

Affiliate

Thomas Mahute
tmahute@fisherandson.com

Executive Director/Newsletter Editor

Wanda S. Fry
717- 279-0368
cpgsa@hotmail.com

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Eastern PA Turf Conference Revitalized

The 2018 edition of the Eastern PA Turf Conference will introduce some major changes to the annual educational opportunity. The conference location has moved to the Shady Maple Conference Center in East Earl, PA and the conference has been compacted into one jam-packed day – Wednesday, January 10, 2018. The rejuvenated conference will feature three concurrent educational tracks: Golf; Lawn, Landscape and Sports Turf; From the Ground Up – presentations devoted to topics appealing to all who work in the green industry. The Trade Show returns and sponsorship opportunities are available. Lunch at the famous Shady Maple Smorgasbord is included with registration.

The educational program has been developed with input from representatives of LCAP, CPGCSA, USGA, KAFMO and Penn State. Over 20 update credits in categories 7, 18, 23 and PC will be offered along with four core credits and three in category 6 and one in category 16. Dr. Mike Goatley of VA Tech and Dr. Matt Elmore of Rutgers will be joining Penn State educators in providing university research results and advice to address current turfgrass management issues. Experts in the field like Elliott Dowling, USGA, and Steve McDonald, Turfgrass Disease Solutions, will also be presenting. At least 10 seminar topics will be of special interest to lawn and landscape professionals, and, for the sports turf managers attending, Tony Leonard of the Eagles and Chris Ecton of the Steelers will share their experiences working in the NFL. The 2018 Eastern PA Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show will have something for all turfgrass managers.

Plan to attend. Mark the date, Wednesday, January 10, 2018, on your calendar now. Additional details and registration will be available in November.

www.paturf.org



January 10, 2018
Shady Maple Conference Center

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Mike Huey - 443.896.7172 mikehuey@turf-equipment.com	Mike Johnston - 410.227.2491 mikejohnston@turf-equipment.com

Membership News

The following individual has applied for membership into our association. If there are no written objections within the next seven days, he will be accepted into CPGCSA at the next meeting.

John Clevenger Class C
Assistant Superintendent, Berkshire Country Club

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Wanda at 717-279-0368 or cpgcsa@hotmail.com.

Membership information is also available
on the Central Penn website at:
www.cpgcsa.org

Upcoming Events

- **2017 Penn State Golf Turf Conference**
Nittany Lion Inn, State College
November 14-16, 2017
- **2018 Eastern PA Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show**
Shady Maple Conference Center in East Earl, PA.
January 10, 2018
- **Northeastern PA Turf Conference and Trade Show**
The Woodlands Inn & Resort, Wilkes-Barre,
January 25, 2018
- **GCSAA Golf Industry Show**
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center., San Antonio, Texas
February 3-8, 2018
- **LCAP 27th Annual Winter Lawn Care Conference**
Holiday Inn Conference Center Lehigh Valley
February 13, 2018
- **2018 Western PA Turf Conference and Trade Show**
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Pittsburgh
February 27 -28, 2018



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