Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
December 2019

Best Wishes to All for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season

Jim Murphy receiving award at CSSA annual meeting in November.

Extension specialist in turfgrass management **Jim Murphy** (Department of Plant Biology) was selected by the Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) as its 2019 CSSA Fred V. Grau Turfgrass Science Award recipient. Murphy was recognized for significant career contributions in turfgrass science, including research, teaching, extension programs, both nationally and internationally. He is renowned for developing environmentally-sound management practices and is a sought-after speaker in the U.S. and Europe on best management practices for turf management, especially golf turf. Under the state's fertilizer law, Murphy developed the standards for fertility practices and the Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification and Training (ProFACT).

The annual Rutgers Floriculture Poinsettia Trials Open House, held on December 2 on the Cook campus in New Brunswick, featured more than 90 varieties that are propagated, grown, and formally evaluated for the horticultural market before being unveiled to tradespeople and the public. In addition to industry standard selections, some of the most exotic varieties were on display.

The study, "Effectiveness of Building-Wide IPM Programs for German Cockroach and Bed Bug in a High-Rise Apartment Building," by extension specialist **Changlu Wang** and colleagues in the Department of Entomology, was published in the *Journal of Integrated Pest Management* in November. IPM has been shown to be an effective approach for managing bed bugs and cockroaches, but its practice in housing communities is very limited. The research team implemented a yearlong IPM program in a senior, low-income, high-rise community in Paterson, NJ. Another high-rise apartment building that received conventional pest management was used as the control. The objectives were to evaluate the effectiveness of a building-wide IPM program for cockroaches and bed bugs. The implementation included an educational component for building residents. The study showed that IPM programs were much more effective compared to conventional pest control methods in reducing pest infestations.

Of Interest:
With funding assistance from the New Jersey Turfgrass Association and other turf associations, the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science is working with the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Rutgers Office of Research Analytics to document the scope of the turfgrass industry in the Garden State. The last such turf economic survey was published in 2001. Starting in December 2019, a survey has been sent to businesses and citizens in the state to collect up-to-date information on the

nature, extent, economic value, and impact of the turfgrass industry in New Jersey. The questionnaire will measure some key statistics such as number of hired workers, value of unpaid family labor, equipment expenses, non-equipment expenses, paid labor expenses, and the acreage of maintained turf.

The following new bulletin and fact sheets available on NJAES Publications (njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs):
PPA1 Chemical Control of Turfgrass Diseases 2020. University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service in cooperation with Rutgers NJAES and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, **Clarke**, **B.**, et al.
https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=PPA1
FS1312 Introduction to Industrial Hemp - Basic Production Agronomy. **Bamka**, **W.**, and **Komar**, **S.**
https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1312
FS1311 Ultra-Niche Crops Series: Blueberry Enterprise Budget. **Brumfield**, **R.** and **Pavlis**, **G.**
https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1311

In the News:
The North Jersey Record wrote about Bill Haines Jr.'s challenges growing cranberries in the Pine Barrens, quoting **Nick Vorsa**, director of the Marucci Blueberry and Cranberry Research and Extension Center at Rutgers, who discussed the cranberry cultivars he developed that are renowned industry standards.

The November issue of *Fruit Growers News* highlighted Rutgers new peach varieties developed by Rutgers Fruit and Ornamental Research Extension Center director **Joe Goffreda**'s tree fruit breeding program. The advantages of these new varieties were covered by **Hemant Gohil**, Gloucester County agricultural agent, and **Jerry Frecon**, professor emeritus.

Events:
Rutgers Cooperative Extension is offering the **2020 Introductory Fisheries Science for Stakeholders** course to educate stakeholders of New Jersey's commercial and recreational marine fisheries to better understand and make progress on issues impacting their industries. Course coverage will include the science, management, and responsible stewardship of fishery resources. Classes will be held at RCE of Ocean County, 1623 Whitesville Road, Toms River, every Tuesday from January 28 through March 31 from 6:30 - 9 p.m., with two optional field trips. Sessions allow live participation in-class or remote access via webinar. The course is open to all interested. Registration is $60. For more information, visit: https://ocean.njaes.rutgers.edu/marine/IFISSH.html.

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension **Introduction to Organic Land Care** course focuses on promoting healthy soil, enhancing biodiversity, and reducing polluted runoff from managed landscapes. The course is designed for professional landscapers, property managers, public works employees, groundskeepers, landscape architects, and Master Gardeners. Classes will be held at RCE of Somerset County, 310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, with one-day registration options available. The dates are February 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2020 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. More than 20 university and industry experts teach the course and share their experience on how to successfully transition a landscape to organic management and add organic services to a business. For information and registration, go to: http://go.rutgers.edu/ji4l9brh.