



Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council

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Penn State Turfgrass Update Jeffrey Borger Assumes A New Position With the Center for Turfgrass Science

Jeffrey Borger says he still remembers his first day as a Penn State turfgrass employee. He started working with the Center for Turfgrass Science in 1991 as a research technician under Dr. Thomas Watschke. Now, 14 years later, he has been promoted to Instructor of Turfgrass and Weed Management in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences. These new responsibilities are a result of Dr. Watschke's retirement planned for June 30, 2005. The appointment has started prior to Dr. Watschke's retirement, in order to insure a smooth transition of responsibilities in both research and undergraduate teaching.

Borger will be responsible for the weed control and plant growth regulator field research program conducted at Penn State. He says, "The translation of this responsibility will provide a seamless transition, which will maintain the stability and quality of the program." In addition, he will be teaching turfgrass weed management to both two- and four-year students and will also be team teaching in two other turfgrass classes.

Under Borger's direction, the research program will continue as in the past. He will also be evaluating new research possibilities, but not as a dilution of the current program. According to Borger, "The turfgrass industry is dynamic. I want the research program to encompass as many new developments as possible, as the opportunities become available. That said, I hope that the turfgrass managers will be in contact with me to express their needs and concerns as we move into the future. I want to address your issues as well as my interests in the research program."

He indicates his teaching responsibilities parallel his research interests. "I plan to bring my passion for turfgrass management into the classroom." He continues, "Having shadowed Dr. Watschke in his teaching over the years and teaching a turfgrass course myself have prepared me for the challenges of producing knowledgeable top-quality turfgrass students. I want to bring my experiences into the classroom, as well. My goal is to inform students of my areas of research interest as it relates to the day-to-day responsibilities of a turfgrass manager."

Borger believes that the support of turfgrass managers will be vital. He notes, "The future is ours to shape. I hope that you continue to support the Center for Turfgrass Science at Penn State as it continues to grow and seek new ground. You, the turfgrass manager, and the entire turfgrass student body, staff, and faculty must work together. This group is strong and vibrant today and will continue to evolve into the future. I feel privileged to be a part of the Penn State turfgrass program and look forward to the future, because there are no problems, only challenges to be met."

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