

March 15, 2013

My name is Mark Mansur and I am currently the Golf Course Superintendent at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield, Connecticut. I am also the President of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Over the last 10 years, our Association has developed a strong working relationship with UCONN and its Department of Plant Science. However, Bill 5480 has the CAGCS concerned over any restrictions imposed at UCONN and its research farm that could hinder any future research that our association values as a means of enhancing sustainable golf courses.

This year, UCONN and the department of Plant Science held its 3rd Biennial Turfgrass Field Day at the research farm. This event allowed attendees to discuss ongoing research and management concerns with various members of the faculty at UCONN. Cutting edge studies at this facility allow turf professionals to view selected turf plots under summer stress and help better understand sustainable methods of control. Various research also leads to the reduction of fertilizer inputs, identifying non-chemical ways to control pests and using better irrigation practices. Research is also producing new grasses that require less water, pesticides, and fertilizer. These grasses can all be used on golf courses, sports fields, and home lawns.

As a Golf Course Superintendent and a professional who is concerned with the economy here in Connecticut, there are reasons why that turf research is vital to sustaining and maintaining golf as a healthy part of our economy. Over 25 million people are enjoying golf today. Out of that large number, roughly 8 of 10 rounds of golf are played on public courses. However, these numbers cannot be ultimately maintained without turf research.

The Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents and its membership are dedicated to providing better turf through sound management practices. However, maintaining viable turf is dependent on research. UCONN is a valuable resource for those turf professionals in the State of Connecticut as well as the rest of the country.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Mansur, President

Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents