

NEWS RELEASE

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Golf and Sports Turf Conferences to Return to Columbus

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (OTF) and The Ohio State University (OSU) will host the 7th Annual Ohio State Golf Turf Spring Tee-off conference this February 24-25 in Columbus, OH. The 2-day conference was designed to bring together golf course superintendents and their maintenance crews, the OSU Turfgrass Science Team, and students majoring in turfgrass science for two days of education and networking. The latest industry issues and best management practices for turfgrass professionals will be discussed, with an intent to prepare turf professionals for the upcoming season. The conference will be held in conjunction with the Ohio State Sports Turf Short Course, which is a 2-day conference for athletic field managers. The Ohio State Sports Turf Short Course is co-sponsored by the Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA) in partnership with OTF and OSU.

Both conferences will be held at the new Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center on The Ohio State University (OSU) campus. The 4-H Center is a new state-of-the-art “green” building located at the gateway to The Ohio State University. As the first “green” building on the OSU campus, its design focuses on site sustainability, water efficiency, energy, atmosphere, materials, resources and indoor environment quality.

Participating golf course superintendents may earn certification credit from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) as well as Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) Pesticide License Re-Certification credit. Athletic fields groundskeepers may earn credit from the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), Ohio Parks & Recreation Association (OPRA), and the ODA.

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Both programs are designed to help turfgrass professionals learn the latest in research and development, techniques, cost-savings and management practices, as they prepare for the 2010 “growing” season. Testing for pesticide applicator licenses will be administered by the ODA.

Registrants may sign up for one or both days, with members of OTF and OSTMA receiving discounted fees. For complete details and registration information, visit www.OhioTurfgrass.org or contact OTF at 888-683-3445. For information regarding the Sports Turf Short Course, visit www.OSTMA.org.

Ohio's turfgrass industry makes a \$4.6 billion economic impact in the state and employs more than 41,000 Ohioans on a full-time equivalent basis, according to a 2008 study conducted by OTF.