

# Online continuing education a reality

BY STEVE PORUS

**T**he educational needs of the Green Industry have changed over the past 10 years. Time has become a very expensive commodity and travel has become more difficult as well. Many professionals have trouble devoting several days, let alone a week for their continuing education. Your career might depend on your hands-on management. How can the busy professional do it all?

Online sessions, workshops and training, allow the busy professional to keep up to date on information and CEU license requirements. Currently there are online classes available both as tutorials and interactive. Many are informational and some offer CEUs or some form of certification.

The challenge is two-fold: First, online courses attract national registration; second, each state has its own individual requirements. Many of the sources for online continuing education are regional. That is why I created LandsExpo.

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March 23, 2005  
Onsite: Texas Station, Las Vegas  
Online: [GreenIndustryEducation.com](http://GreenIndustryEducation.com)

Time	Arboriculture	Sports Turf	Park/Landscape	Irrigation
7:00 a.m.	Tree Selection: New Varieties <i>Session 1</i>	Exhibits/Buffer	Assessing Plant Stress <i>Session 3</i>	Exhibits/Buffer
8:00 a.m.		Pesticides on Turfgrass <i>Session 2</i>		Irrigation Design <i>Session 4</i>
9:00 a.m.	Exhibits/Buffer		Exhibits/Buffer	
10:00 a.m.	Tree Health <i>Session 5</i>	Exhibits/Buffer	Soil Issues <i>Session 7</i>	Exhibits/Buffer
11:00 a.m.		Turfgrass Selection <i>Session 6</i>		Irrigation Efficiency <i>Session 8</i>
12:00 p.m.	Exhibits/Buffer		Exhibits/Buffer	
1:00 p.m.	Pros/Cons of Micro-Injection <i>Session 9</i>	Exhibits/Buffer	Soil Erosion Control <i>Session 11</i>	Exhibits/Buffer
2:00 p.m.		Evaluating and Amending Soil <i>Session 10</i>		Irrigation with Reclaimed Water <i>Session 12</i>
3:00 p.m.				
4:00 p.m.				

LANDSExpo West 2005 will be hosted in Las Vegas on March 23, 2005. The conference program will offer (12) 2-hour sessions in Arboriculture, Sports Turf, Park/Landscape, and Irrigation both on-site and online. Sessions have applied for continuing education credits: ASLA CPEs, CCA Hours, DPR Hours, GCSAA PDU's, IA Hours, and ISA Hours. All sessions feature industry renowned speakers from universities, government agencies and the Green Industry.

Online registration includes: virtual exhibits, selection of 3 sessions and downloadable handout materials. Attendees can see, hear, and forward questions to speakers in real-time, as well as view PowerPoint presentations for a complete virtual and interactive educational experience.

Thousands of Green Industry Professionals will meet either on-site or online at LandsExpo. Attendees will include professionals in landscape architecture and design, selection, implementation and maintenance of public and private landscapes, parks, golf courses, irrigation, pest control, and more.

LANDSExpo Exhibitors will have an opportunity to be featured on the online exhibits and product guide, reaching a national audience. Exhibitors can schedule "CHATS" at LANDSExpo.com to promote products and services while sharing expertise with other green industry professionals. Buyers will be able to view exhibitors' products and services as well as contacting exhibitor for more information or to schedule an through exhibitor's online booth for 60 days prior and 60 days post-LANDSExpo.

Contact Steven for exhibiting and sponsorship opportunities at 877-964-6222.

LandsExpo Session Overviews:

## Sports Turf Track

Pesticides on Turfgrass

Jay Gan, Ph.D., University of California, Riverside  
Bruce Kidd, Dow Agro Sciences

Maintenance of high quality sports turf, including golf courses, rely on the adequate use of pesticides in order to protect against pests, and restore the competitive balance in favor of the turf. This session will cover two facets of pesticides on turfgrass. One will be the fate of pesticides in the environment and strategies for minimizing pesticide runoff and offsite movement. The other will cover cultural and chemical practices for managing specific weeds in turfgrass with various stressful conditions. Examples will be drawn from golf courses and professional sports fields, all the way down to your children's beat-up soccer fields, with suggestions how you can help create and maintain a safer and better performing turfgrass.

#### Turfgrass Selection

Kent Kurtz, Ph.D., California State Polytechnic, Pomona  
John Rector, Turf-Seed, Inc.

Specific turfgrasses are necessary for specific uses from a front lawn to a sports field. Grasses need to be able to spread and recuperate after injury and provide wear tolerance for all types of sports and activities. Turfgrass species and maintenance techniques suitable for the high desert environment will be reviewed along with breeding efforts, new releases, and the latest varieties available featuring improved heat, salt, and wear tolerance.

#### Evaluating and Amending Soil

Kent Kurtz, Ph.D., California State Polytechnic, Pomona  
Dirk Muntean, Soil and Plant Laboratory, Inc.

There are many types of soils used for the construction and establishment of turfgrasses on sports fields. Poor soil physical properties and fertility imbalances reduce turf health, quality, and performance. Thorough examination and correction prior to turf planting can solve many potential problems. This session will provide the turf professional with a check list of potential problem areas that can be adjusted or corrected prior to turf installation by considering types of field materials or soils, pre-plant fertilizers, and organic amendments.

#### Park and Landscape Track

##### Assessing Plant Stress

Angela O'Callaghan, Ph.D.  
University of Nevada, Cooperative Extension

Susan Sims, Sims Tree Health Specialists

Plant stress equates to compounding plant problems. They must be distinguished in order to treat

them properly. Understanding a plant's resource allocations and defense mechanisms allows one to approach stress problems with a proactive approach utilizing prevention and avoidance techniques. This session will focus on proper plant selection and plant health care methods to minimize problems resulting from plant stress.

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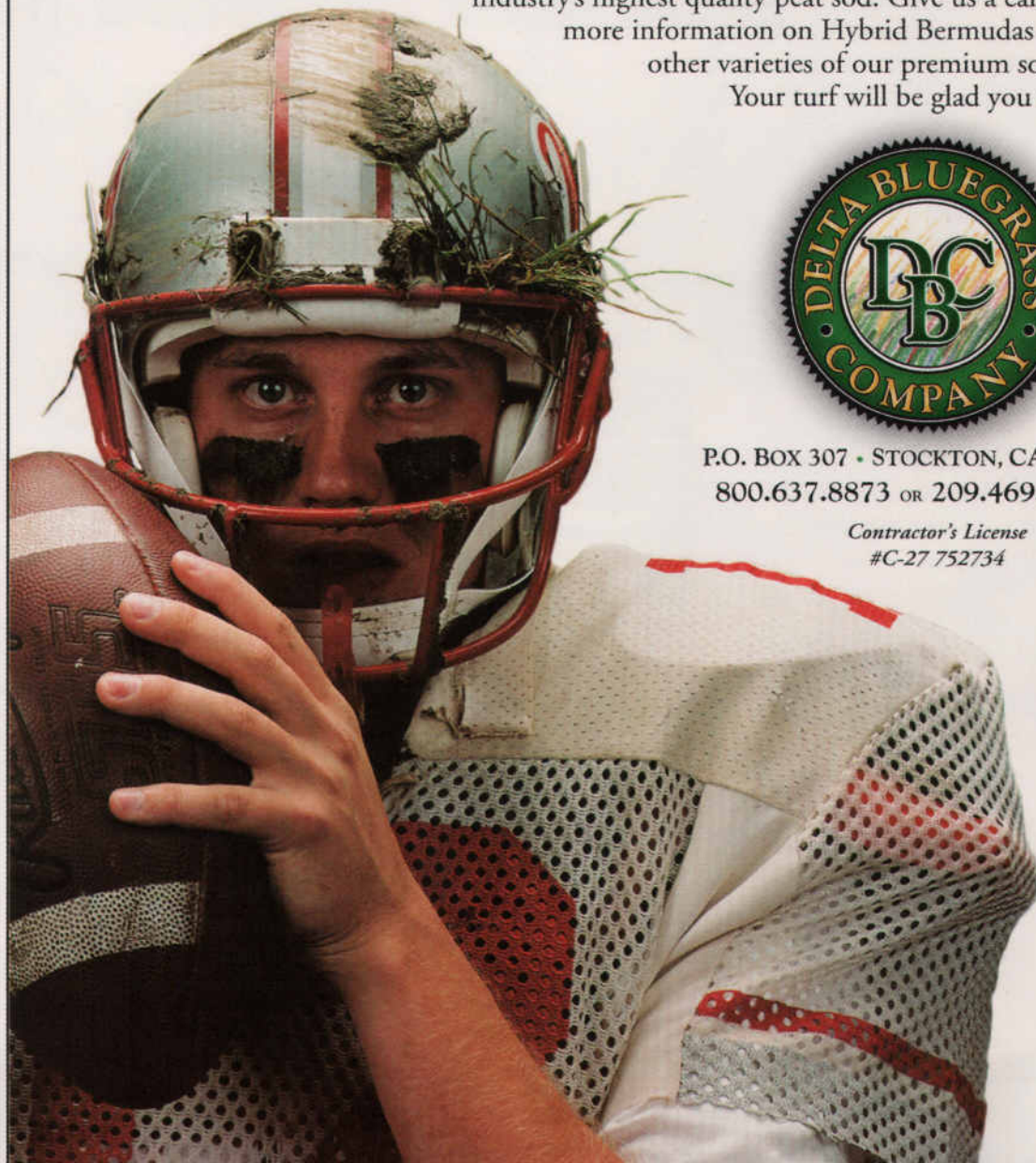
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#### Soil Issues

*Shoumo Mitra, Ph.D., California State Polytechnic, Pomona*

*Dirk Muntean, Soil and Plant Laboratory, Inc.*

Many times the landscape professional is faced with the declining health of landscape plants. This session will focus on the long-term improvement strategies for plant health and vigor by learning the basics of soil science. The role of soil

amendments and fertility as they relate to physical and chemical properties will be discussed, along with commonly observed landscape problems and possible solutions.

#### Soil Erosion Control

*Rod Dahl, USDA*

*Al Schrand, Fiber Marketing*

Competition for the very limited water supplies of the arid west has led to intensive changes in land use strategies. Part of this session will focus on a project located in the Newlands Project, Nevada, where multiple factors have contributed to the demise of irrigated farmland. Because of these factors, this area suffers severe wind erosion. Related to this focus will be a discussion of new technologies in erosion control along with how biostimulants and soil amendments can virtually eliminate failures.

#### Irrigation Track

##### Irrigation Design

*Bob Morris, University of Nevada,*

*Cooperative Extension*

*Tom Ash, HydroPoint Data*

*Systems*

In our arid climate, irrigation design is the most important factor in establishing a water-use efficient landscape. Proper design must incorporate the appropriate heads and layout with the correct choice and location of valves. This overview of irrigation design will explore the various factors that influence evapotranspiration (ET) of plants, and microclimates. Add to that a discussion of the new generation of "Smart" ET controllers, and you have a session that will showcase how the landscape industry at all levels can benefit. A demonstration of the WeatherTRAK "smart" ET controller will be highlighted.

##### Irrigation Efficiency

*Shoumo Mitra, Ph.D., California State Polytechnic, Pomona*

*Mike Baron, Walla Walla*

*Sprinkler Company*

As water becomes an increasingly precious commodity, maximizing irrigation efficiency is a must. Learn the factors that affect irrigation efficiency in the field, such as sprinkler performance, installation considerations, and site conditions. **ST**

*Steven Jay Porus has 27 years of conference and tradeshow experience. He can be reached at [sjporus@unlaccess.com](mailto:sjporus@unlaccess.com).*

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