2019 Turfgrass Ecology & Management Short Course

Thank you for registering for the 2019 TAMU Turf Short Course! We are excited to have you out next week for this comprehensive multi-day training on turfgrass management. Here is some information to help you prepare for your trip:

What to bring:

All attendees will be provided with a binder, a notepad, and a writing utensil to take notes throughout the week. You are welcome to bring any additional office supplies that help you take notes and stay organized – including laptops and tablets.

Please dress comfortably. Most of the time we will be indoors, but there will be some activities (Tuesday and Thursday) where we will venture outdoors – weather permitting. Please be sure to pack shoes and outerwear that will allow you to stay comfortable.

We will provide a light breakfast and lunch each day, as well as some light snacks and beverages to get you through. However, you are more than welcome to bring your own water bottles, coffee, snacks, etc. to keep yourself comfortable. We have a refrigerator with filtered water if you prefer to bring a refillable container.

Course Location:

The course will be held at the Scotts-Miracle Gro Lawn & Garden Research Facility on F&B Road in College Station, Texas. Unfortunately, because our facility is relatively new, it is not well-marked and sometimes difficult to bring up on apps like Google Maps. Instead, we encourage you to map the USDA facility:

2812 F and B Rd, College Station, TX 77845

Our facility is directly across F and B Road from the USDA building:
Parking:

Parking at our facility is free, and does not require a permit.

There is parking in front of the Scotts building, as well as on a gravel area around the side of our maintenance buildings. Parking is somewhat limited, so if you are with a larger group, we strongly encourage you to please carpool each day. On the first day of the course, there will be TAMU Turf Staff outside to help guide parking.

Check-In:

Check-in the first day will take place between 7:30 and 8:30 am. Please try to arrive no later than 8:00 am to ensure that we have adequate time to check you in prior to the first lecture. Breakfast will be provided. Please enter through the main entrance of the Scotts Building, and someone will be waiting in our lobby to assist with check-in. After this first day, classes will begin promptly at 8 am the following days. We strongly encourage you to arrive 5 – 10 minutes before 8 am to ensure that you have time to get comfortable before lectures begin.
TTA and the CPTM Exam

This year, Texas A&M is partnering with the Texas Turfgrass Association (TTA) to offer their Certified Professional Turfgrass Managers (CPTM) exam at the end of the turf portion of our course (Thursday, February 28). The CPTM exam is not required for short course attendees. It is a separate, but extremely valuable offering. Texas A&M believes strongly in the TTA organization and what it offers to turfgrass professionals throughout the state. At our short course, we plan to offer a modified exam for attendees that reflects the short course lectures that you will sit through throughout the week. Essentially, this will allow all attendees to “hit two birds with one stone” – take the TAMU Turf Short Course, and complete the CPTM exam through TTA.

As the CPTM exam is separate, there is an additional fee associated. However, for short course attendees, TTA is willing to offer special pricing that includes both the cost of the exam and a 1-year TTA membership. This is normally a $175 value that they are willing to offer for $75 total.

About the Texas Turfgrass Association:

Since 1947, TTA has provided education and research for the turfgrass industry in Texas. TTA’s members work together to improve and advance the professional standards for those working in the turfgrass industry. You’ll find that TTA membership offers an invaluable resource for your daily work.

When you join TTA, you’ll belong to an organization whose members represent all areas of the turfgrass industry. TTA’s membership comes from across the state and the green industry including:

- Irrigators
- Lawn Care
- Golf
- Parks & Recreation
- School Districts
- Sod Grounds
- Athletic Facilities
**About the CPTM Exam**

The Certified Professional Turf Manager (CPTM) designation recognizes a level of achievement in professional turfgrass management in Texas beyond a Bachelor of Science degree or a long tenure in the industry. The CPTM designation is a mark of distinction. Professionals who acquire the CPTM designation benefit the turfgrass industry and themselves through increased self-esteem and respect, increased value and service to their employer and increased competitiveness in the job market. By acquiring the CPTM designation, the professional turf manager sets themselves apart from other turf managers.

For applicants to be considered for the CPTM designation and to maintain that designation they must provide documented evidence of turf management skills, participation in continuing education programs and successful employment in the turfgrass industry. Applicants for the CPTM designation are also required to satisfactorily complete a comprehensive written examination. An intensive 4-day training program in preparation for the examination is optional.

Additional materials are attached to this email for you to learn more about CPTM. Additionally, TTA’s President, Katie Flowers, will speak to the group on the value of joining TTA and completing the CPTM exam.