



TURF TIP TIME #11 with the NJTA: **Know What the Beekeeper Notification Buzz is All About**

Learn what the buzz is all about regarding laws on notifying bee yards about pesticide use to avoid the sting of a Department of Environmental Protection fine.

New Jersey Pesticide Control Regulations require pesticide applicators to alert beekeepers within three miles of their spray site each time they use pesticides labeled as toxic to bees. The aim of the law is to keep pollinators safe. Advance notice gives apiarists the opportunity to close their hives and keep their bees from foraging in areas where they might come into contact with dangerous chemicals. The notification must be sent at least 24 hours prior to the treatment and include the intended date, approximate time, brand name, active ingredient(s) of the product being used, location, and the name and license number of the responsible certified applicator.



Keith Bennett, a Technical Sales Representative at Grass Roots Turf Products, suggests that all golf course and sport field managers take a few minutes to read the [NJDEP Beekeeper Notification law](#). “It only applies to applications covering three acres and greater, with provisions for emergency applications and times when scheduled application don’t work out,” he said. “Also, if you are tank mixing various products, you only need to report the products in the tank that are toxic to bees. Surfactants and snake oils need not be reported to beekeepers under this law.”



Set a reminder to check for an updated list of registered beehives every spring, before making any pesticide applications. Find the hives within three miles of your facility and create your own list. Keith suggests that you email yourself and blind carbon copy your localized list of affected apiarists so that you can retain a CYA paper trail of the notifications you send.

For the sake of building community goodwill, he also suggests going above and beyond the requirements of the law. “Reach out to beekeepers in your area to introduce yourself and give them the background on what you will be applying and

what pests you are after,” he said. “Also, mention what you are doing to ensure the safety of pollinators, i.e. spraying in the early morning, avoiding drift, not applying chemicals on blooming plants.”

Bees pollinate one third of everything we eat. These tiny insects play a vital role in sustaining the planet's ecosystems and they need our protection now more than ever. Following this legislation is a simple and important step we can take to protect NJ's pollinators and demonstrate our responsiveness and responsibility as turfgrass professionals.



NJTA's TURF TIP TIME Brought to You By: **Keith Bennett**

Keith Bennett is a Technical Sales Representative at Grass Roots Turf Products. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Turfgrass Science from Penn State and earned an MBA from Monmouth University. He currently serves as the Vice President of the New Jersey Green Industry Council, whose purpose is to represent, promote and defend the interests of the Green Industry and its partners through advocacy, education and communications at the state and local level.

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Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science **Open House & BBQ for Prospective Students**

Thursday, May 2 from 4pm to 6pm at Hort Farm II

Encourage any undergraduate, community college, high school, or FFA students you know, who are undecided about a major or are interested in plant science, to attend Rutgers' Open House & Free BBQ. The event is a great way to meet recent alumni, learn about Rutgers' turf major, and discover the many career opportunities available in this exciting field. Please [forward this flyer](#) and encourage them to RSVP.



SAVE THE DATES!

July 30: Rutgers Turfgrass Field Day 1 – Golf and Fine Turf, Hort Farm II, New Brunswick, NJ

July 31: Rutgers Turfgrass Field Day 2 – Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Fields & Trade Show, Adelphia Farm, Freehold, NJ

December 10-12: Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference, The Borgata Hotel & Casino, Atlantic City, NJ

Details at www.njturfgrass.org as each event nears.

