



## PJC Organic Products & Programs

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*PJC Organic  
is the manufacturer of  
ProHealthy Turf Organic  
Products & distributor of  
soil amendments.*

*We provide product, and  
support to landscapers,  
schools & municipalities  
that want to transition  
from a conventional  
approach to an all  
natural organic turf care  
program for the  
maintenance of their  
lawns and athletic fields.*

## Practical Approach Proven Products

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## In the News: Pesticide mixtures show potential toxicity to aquatic life in US streams

Source: USGS, *ScienceDirect*

In the United States, over ½ billion pounds of pesticides were used annually from water years (WY) 2013-2017; this includes the use of more than 400 different pesticides during any given year to maintain and improve crop production by controlling weeds, insects, and other pests.

A [new study](#) by the U.S. Geological Survey National Water Quality Program of 72 rivers and streams across the US, five or more pesticides were detected in 88% of the more than 5,000 samples collected during 2013-17 up from 70% in the 1992 to 2001 study. Land use in the watersheds investigated included agricultural, urban, and mixed.

The potential for toxicity of the pesticide mixtures to fish was low, but about 12% of samples were predicted to have potential acute (rapid) or chronic (longer-term) toxicity to aquatic invertebrates—a critical part of the food chain.

In a given sample, a single pesticide compound generally was responsible for most of the potential toxicity of the pesticide

mixture, but that pesticide varied among samples and aquatic groups. For example, in a sample with a Pesticide Toxicity Index indicating potential chronic toxicity to fish, the greatest contributor was likely the herbicide acetochlor, the fungicide degradate, carbendazim, and the synergist, piperonylbutoxide. Identification of primary contributors to toxicity could aid efforts to improve the quality of rivers and streams to support aquatic life.

## Monsanto Roundup & Dicamba Trial Tracker

[Source: U.S. Right To Know Monsanto Trial Tracker](#). This blog by is updated regularly [Carey Gillam](#) with news and tips about the lawsuits involving Monsanto's glyphosate-based Roundup weed killer products.

## Summer Turf Recovery

It seems like more often than not we are writing about what a difficult season it has been and this one is no exception.

This season started with cool spring temperatures into April, then things heated up quickly in May, and stayed hot right into September. This created severe drought conditions with heavy watering restrictions, sending lawns into early dormancy.

According to Boston MA NOAA Weather Station we are behind 8.83" of average rain fall June to September...that's a BIG Loss!

NOAA Weather Station: BOSTON				
	2020	2019	2018	2017
JUNE	2.66"	5.15"	2.96"	4.85"
JULY	1.74"	5.81"	4.55"	4.03"
AUG	2.28"	3.48"	4.65"	1.58"
SEPT	0.51"	2.16"	5.12"	3.73"
TOTAL	7.19"	16.60"	17.28"	14.19"
Avg 2016 -2019	16.02"			
2020 Avg %	44.87%			

As a result, weed pressure was great with a bumper crop of crabgrass, especially in areas where lawns were mowed short. Some lawns mowed under 3" were scorched and may not recover. Normally, seed put down early fall would be germinating, but with the

(continued)

## Weed Spotlight: Nutsedge

In addition to crab grass, nutsedge made an appearance this summer. Nutsedge is a light green, grass-like weed commonly confused with crabgrass. Nutsedge may be distinguished from other grasses by their triangular stems – *sedges have edges*. They reproduce by nut-like tubers on underground rhizomes; thus, their name.

Nutsedge tends to show up first in low wet areas, but will survive in almost any soil condition. Nutsedge is often an indicator of compaction. Like crabgrass, nutsedge does well in soils low in calcium.

The best way to eliminate nutsedge long-term is through correcting poor soil structure and chemistry. This may be done through proper liming, application of humates, and aeration as necessary.



All Natural Fertilizer  
+  
Soil Amendments  
+  
Cultural Practices  
=  
Healthy Turf



Nutsedge

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## Turf Type Tall Fescue

Due to its wear, heat, and drought tolerance, **turf-type tall fescues (TTTF)** are being marketed as a sustainable turfgrass variety and in many respects they are.

Several years ago, we seeded 7,500SF of our front lawn with several varieties of TTTF and were quite pleased with the results. The new narrow blade TTTFs are attractive and have a rich green color.

Although, as we know, there are always conditions that influence “right plant, right place” and cool-season grasses are no exception. As a result, I would like to share what I have found with TTTF to help you decide if it’s the right choice for your client’s site.

The last few summers have been hot, so the fact that TTTF does well in the heat is an advantage. However, it is not as cold tolerant as other cool-season grasses - *not that cold tolerance has been a big issue the last couple of years*, but depending on how far north you are it could be a factor.

TTTF tends to like space while it is getting established, so best to use this seed in the fall. Mow existing grass down to 2 ½” and slice seed to ensure soil-to-seed contact. TTTF also likes warmer soil conditions to germinate, so late summer/fall seeding is preferred to spring seeding.

While TTTF does not require a lot of water, it does require some during establishment. In the summer, perennial ryegrass (PR) will go dormant before TTTF; yet some access to water will be required to have TTTF stay green throughout the summer months.

If you are using TTTF as part of a seed blend, we recommend not having more than 10% PR. Because of its faster germination, PR can outcompete TTTF. Kentucky bluegrass is less of an issue since its germination time is greater.

TTTF likes sweet soils, with pH around 6.8 – 7.0. So, typical Northeast soil conditions may not initially be suitable for TTTF until pH has been corrected.

TTTF also has a higher growth rate in comparison to Kentucky bluegrass. It is possible that TTTF may require more frequent mowing to be maintained at an acceptable height.

TTTF is a bunch grass; as such, it can develop a clumpy appearance over time, especially under situations of high traffic and insufficient water. Should clumping and an

## Soil Testing Assistance

Soil test for pH, buffer pH, organic matter, cation exchange capacity and base saturation (Ca:Mg) *before* applying lime and other fall soil amendments.

PJC Organic can provide you with soil sampling supplies, the report, and product recommendations in an easy to understand format.

*Contact us to learn more!*

### TTTF (continued)

uneven lawn become a problem, it is important to overseed in the fall and adequately water so that the lawn can get established. If left undone, come spring you will be dealing with greater weed pressure.

Our TTTF and PR are all endophytically enhanced seed blends so they tend to hold off surface feeding insects. No variety holds off grubs. Developing a deep root system by mowing high, using organic fertilizers, and increasing organic matter that helps the turf withstand grubs.

TTTF is a great turfgrass, especially under the right conditions. Unfortunately, it is not the panacea for all our cool-season grass ills.

As always, remember “right plant, right place”. ♦

## SUMMER TURF RECOVERY

(continued)

extended drought and warm weather even that is delayed.

**So what to do???** At the risk of sounding like a broken record, a dense stand of turf is still the best weed control!

- **Increase Turf Density** by aerating and overseeding by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Plan and budget for an aggressive overseeding program in 2021.
- **Fertilize with PJC ProHealthy Turf All** Natural Organic Fertilizers.
- **Soil Test** to determine amendments.
- **Lime** to maintain pH of 6.5 to 7.0.
- **Mow High** at 3 1/2 inches to increase photosynthesis and root depth.
- **Return Clippings** to improve Organic Matter.

We are still hopeful you will be able to see results before the end of the season. Remember the work you do this fall is setting you up for next year, so finish well! ♦