COURSE OUTLINE

PLSC-108
Turf Grass Management
3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

This course involves the management of turf grasses for both landscape and recreational uses. At the end of the course, the student should have a working knowledge of grass varieties and their uses: use of a key in plant grass identification; growth requirements including temperature, fertilizers, irrigation and drainage; pest identification and control including fungi, nematodes, insects and weeds; cultivation (planting and mowing) thatch management and auxiliary practices; sod establishment; and golf course practices. (2 hours lecture, 2 hours lab)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the major types of turf grasses.
2. Identify the relationship between proper mowing, liming, variety selection and a successful turf.
3. Identify and manage turf pest problems with reduced application of traditional pesticides.
4. Develop a turf management program for both commercial and home lawns.
5. Define IPM practices as they apply to turf.
6. Identify steps to improve a lawn.
7. Identify steps to completely renovate a lawn.
8. Select the appropriate fertilizer program for turf.
9. Specify how to read a soil test result.
10. Identify common turf weeds and a strategy to reduce/prevent them.

Major Topics

I. Characteristics of Grasses
   - A. Cool Season
   - B. Bluegrass
   - C. Tall Fescue
   - D. Creeping Red Fescue
   - E. Rye
   - F. Warm Season
   - G. Zoysia
   - H Bermuda

II. Soil pH and Nutrient Requirements of Turf
III. Installation of a New Lawn
IV. Total Lawn Renovation
V. Weed Identification and Control

VI. Turf Insect and Disease Identification and Control
VII. Pesticides Used in the Lawn Care Industry
VIII. Integrated Pest Management Techniques

Course Requirements

Grading/Exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will be based on lecture test, quizzes and lab exams.

Other Course Information

This course is a course in the Plant Science program.