

# THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL RUTGERS TURFGRASS SYMPOSIUM

School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers University

March 19, 2026

Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health Building, Room 101

- 8:30 – 9:00 AM      Registration**
- 9:00 – 9:10 AM      Welcome – Laura Lawson** (*Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources*)
- 9:10 - 10:20 AM      SESSION I: Abiotic Stress & Warm-Season Turfgrasses** (Moderator: Bingru Huang)
- 9:10 - 9:30      **Stephanie Rossi** (*Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University*)  
Imaging-Based Phenotyping for Early Detection of Combined Heat-Drought Stress in Creeping Bentgrass
- 9:30 - 9:50      **Mark Labarge** (*Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University*)  
Establishment and Maintenance of Bermudagrass and Zoysiagrass Fairways in New Jersey
- 9:50 - 10:20      **Susana Milla Lewis** (*Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, North Carolina State University*) Enhancing Drought Resistance in Warm-Season Turfgrasses: Fourteen Years of Progress Through a Multistate Collaborative Project Across the Southern United States
- 10:20 - 10:50 AM      Discussion and Break**
- 10:50 - 11:50 AM      SESSION II: Remote Sensing & Winter Survival** (Moderator: Stacy Bonos)
- 10:50 – 11:10      **Juan Gonzalez** (*Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University*) High-Volume Turfgrass Monitoring Using Drones
- 11:10 – 11:50      **KEYNOTE: Eric Watkins** (*Department of Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota*) Investigating New Strategies for Turfgrass Survival in a Changing Winter Climate”

<b>11:50 – 1:10 PM</b>	<b>Lunch Break and Poster Session</b>
<b>1:10 – 2:10 PM</b>	<b>SESSION III: Pattwell Award, Fungicide Resistance, &amp; Plant Protection Innovation</b> (Moderator: Ming Yi Chou)
1:10 – 1:30	<b>Ryan Earp</b> ( <i>Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University</i> ) Bandon Dunes: Hosting the U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship
1:30 – 1:50	<b>Leandro Lopes da Silva</b> ( <i>Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University</i> ) Investigating the Mechanisms of Succinate Dehydrogenase Inhibitor (SDHI) Fungicides Resistance in Dollar spot Causal Agent <i>Claviceps dactyloides</i>
1:50 – 2:20	<b>Lisa Beirn</b> ( <i>Syngenta</i> ) The Evolution of Plant Protection: A Quarter Century of Innovation and Transformation
<b>2:20 – 2:40 PM</b>	<b>Discussion and Break</b>
<b>2:40 – 3:50 PM</b>	<b>SESSION IV: Poa annua, Beneficial Nematodes, &amp; Growth Regulation</b> (Moderator: Matt Elmore)
2:40 – 3:10	<b>James Brosnan</b> ( <i>Department of Plant Sciences: Turfgrass Science and Management, University of Tennessee</i> ) Solutions to an Ever-Changing Problem: Poa Control in Turfgrass
3:10 – 3:30	<b>Matthew Brown</b> ( <i>Department of Entomology, Rutgers University</i> ) Optimizing Performance of Entomopathogenic Nematodes in Turfgrass by Exploiting Interaction with Fungicides, Silicon Fertilization and Plant Hosts
3:30 – 3:50	<b>Katie Diehl Tuck</b> ( <i>Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University</i> ) Effects of Plant Growth Regulators on Goosegrass and Cool-Season Turfgrasses
<b>3:50 – 4:00 PM</b>	<b>Discussion Session and Closing Remarks</b>
<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Poster Session</b>