

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”

11:50 – 1:10 PM	Lunch Break and Poster Session
1:10 – 2:10 PM	SESSION III: Pattwell Award, Fungicide Resistance, & Plant Protection Innovation (Moderator: Ming Yi Chou)
1:10 – 1:30	Ryan Earp (<i>Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University</i>) Bandon Dunes: Hosting the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship
1:30 – 1:50	Leandro Lopes da Silva (<i>Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University</i>) Investigating the Mechanisms of Succinate Dehydrogenase Inhibitor (SDHI) Fungicides Resistance in Dollar spot Causal Agent <i>Clarireedia jacksonii</i>
1:50 – 2:20	Lisa Beirn (<i>Syngenta</i>) The Evolution of Plant Protection: A Quarter Century of Innovation and Transformation
2:20 – 2:40 PM	Discussion and Break
2:40 – 3:50 PM	SESSION IV: Poa annua, Beneficial Nematodes, & Growth Regulation (Moderator: Matt Elmore)
2:40 – 3:10	James Brosnan (<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	Matthew Brown (<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	Katie Diehl Tuck (<i>Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University</i>) Effects of Plant Growth Regulators on Goosegrass and Cool-Season Turfgrasses
3:50 – 4:00 PM	Discussion Session and Closing Remarks
4:00 PM	Poster Session