Lycoming CCD's Urban Nutrient Management Special Project

Funding through the CBP

- Training provided by the Penn State Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener Program

- Held two years with 100 participants each year

Purpose for the training

- Teach urban landowners why they should use soil test kits
- Teach landowners how to take a proper soil sample
- Stress the importance of using lime
- Teach landowners how to fertilize properly

Survey results

- Year 1- 74 responses
- Year 2- 18 responses at the time of making this presentation

Size of lawns- ft2

- 46 between 500-11,000
- 11 between 15,000-22,000
- 7 between 25,000-33,000
- 6 between 36,000-44,000
- 3 between 64,000-66,000
- 2 between 80,000-88,000
- 1 each 100,000;3.5 ac; 32 ac (1.13 Ac ave)

Was fertilizer applied in last two years?

- Yes- 53
- No- 39

- Who applied the fertilizer?
- 9- Commercial company
- 45- Myself
- 4- Combination of both

Do you use a soil test to determine the nutrient needs?

- 18 Yes
- 73 No (80%)

If no, how do you determine nutrient needs?

50 never soil tested

1 other soil kit; 1 how grass looks

20 according to directions on bag each yr.

13-Professional analysis

Are pesticides applied to your lawn?

- 38- Yes
- 52- No
- If yes, what types of products?
- 33- Herbicides
- 20- Insecticides
- 19-Fungicides
- 4-Others

How were pesticides applied?

- 8- Commercially applied
- 25 Homeowner applied

If you apply pesticides, how do you determine pest levels and product to use?

4- Personal knowledge and experience

2 Information from local garden center

3 Identification by PSU EXT. or Master Gardener

2- On-line research; skunk digging up yard

- As an outcome of this meeting, will you use a soil test to determine soil nutrient levels in the future before applying nutrients?
- 90 Yes
- 1 No
- 18 Previously did, 73 did not

Self evaluation:

- Your understanding of pH and its effect on plant health prior to meeting?
- 1(9) 2(8) 3(8) 4(19) 5(14) 6(13) 7(4) 8(14) 9(2) 10(2) Average: 4.85 (93)

...After?

- 1(0) 2(0) 3(1) 4(4) 5(6) 6(5) 7(9) 8(23) 9(16) 10(25) Average:7.78 (89)

Why is this project important to Lycoming County?

- 117,668 residents
- 75,624-(approximately 64%) live in an urban setting
- Every 100 acres where nutrients are applied correctly results in a savings of 180 #N and 15 #P

Project savings?

- 1.13 Ac ave x 200 participants/ 100 acres x 180 # N or 15 # per 100 acres =407# N and 34# P saved
- 1.13 Ac ave x 93 responses/100 acres x 180 # N or 15 # P per 100 acres= 189 # N and 16 # P