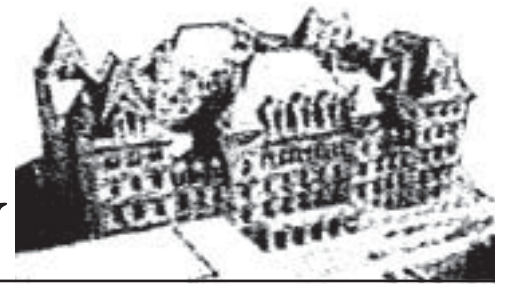


# Turfgrass Advocacy

2010



New York State Turfgrass Association • March 10, 2010

---

## Background

The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) represents more than 1,600 men and women, many who are responsible for the on-going safety and health, operations and maintenance of school grounds and athletic fields. Our members are committed to the highest standards of professional conduct, educational development and are dedicated to ensuring that students and school personnel can learn and work in a positive and safe environment.

Turfgrass has a positive impact on the quality of life for all New York citizens. Dense, healthy turfgrass provides a safe playing surface for our children and athletes of all ages. Lawn and landscape plants are not purely "aesthetic." In fact, their importance in the ecosystem is greatly increased in urban areas. Lawns and landscapes: 1) convert carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) to oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>), 2) provide a cooling affect, 3) trap dust and dirt, 4) prevent erosion, 5) prevent runoff and provide groundwater recharge, 6) trap soil particles and pollutants for microbial decomposition.

## NYSTA Perspective

NYSTA shares the sponsors' commitment to protecting the environment. However, we oppose this measure which would prohibit pesticides from being used on athletic fields and playgrounds for the following reasons.

- NYSTA does not endorse, advocate or encourage the use of pesticides. NYSTA trains our members to employ Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques as an environmentally sensitive approach. But key to an effective IPM program is our members' access to the tools necessary to safely maintain school grounds.
- School grounds managers need the flexibility to use their professional judgment as to when the use of a pesticide is appropriate. School facilities have substantial investment in school sports complexes and expectations of safe quality turf. Our members educate school boards, superintendents and grounds personnel about the proper ways to maintain turf with minimal inputs using IPM methods. Applications are made by certified commercial applicators.

## Recommendation

Ask the legislature to oppose S4983-A/A7937-A which would prohibit the use of pesticides and limit an effective Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program.