Conducting 21 turfgrass IPM educational seminars in a single day

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Introduction

Managing pests of turfgrass has long been identified as a priority need for the turfgrass industry in Florida. Since 2012, an annual, single-day educational event, named the Great CEU Roundup, has been held for managers of turfgrass as the primary audience. The use of Polycom® has allowed the event to be broadcast from the University of Florida's main campus to county extension offices throughout the state.

2014 Results

Our 2014 Great CEU Roundup event was hosted by 21 of these sites, attracting 472 attendees, most of who work in some facet of the turfgrass industry. The majority of those in this industry also are state-licensed pesticide applicators; thus, such an event provides an opportunity to offer continuing education credit for license renewal. The focus of the 2014 event was IPM of weeds, including biological weed control, herbicide technology, managing resistance, and minimizing drift to sensitive areas. Participant survey results indicate that the majority of this audience gained knowledge by attending the event, plan to adopt at least one recommended practice, and the knowledge gained from the event will help their job performance. From an extension educator's viewpoint, a positive outcome was that those attending were comfortable with participating in a distance-delivered educational program.

Participant Survey Response (n = 386)

I found the format to be an effective method of presenting information	4.02
I found the format to be an effective method of learning	4.01
I found the format to be just as effective for learning as traditional "face-to-face" learning	3.54
I feel comfortable attending an event using this format	4.23
I gained knowledge by attending today's event	4.27
As a result of this training, I plan to adopt at least one new practice	4.16
My knowledge gained today will help my job performance	4.22

Scale of 1 - 5: 5 = strongly agree; 4 = agree; 3 = neutral; 2 = disagree; 1 = strongly disagree

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