

2010 DALLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER'S SCHOOL

Program Title: "North Texas Turf: Lawn Grasses, Types, Planting and Care, plus Preventing and Diagnosing Issues"
Presented By: Dr. James A. McAfee (9:00am – 12noon and 1pm – 4pm)
Associate Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist
Texas AgriLife Extension Service - Dallas

About Dr. McAfee:

Jim McAfee began specializing in turfgrass management at Texas A&M University, where he earned his B.S. in Agronomy and his M.S. in Plant Physiology. He was awarded a Ph.D. in Agronomy from Purdue University and spent the first four years of his career as a turfgrass Specialist at the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service and at the Texas AgriLife Extension.

Over the following 14 years, Jim put his expertise to work at *ChemLawn Services Corporation*. Among his many achievements there, he developed new lawn-care programs based on the most current techniques in weed, disease and insect control. Because of his training programs, local *ChemLawn* specialists achieved the highest scores for technical knowledge and skills in the company.

In 1991, McAfee opened a private consulting business. Two of his highest-profile projects included consulting on construction of the baseball field at *The BallPark in Arlington*, Texas, home of the Texas Rangers, and consulting on construction and maintenance of the *Equestrian Park* for the *1996 Summer Olympics* in Atlanta, Georgia. Among his many other clients were golf courses, sports fields and professional landscape companies, in addition to school, city and state employees he trained for the pesticide certified applicators exam.

Jim joined Texas AgriLife Extension in 1996. Among his many responsibilities, he trains Master Gardener candidates and conducts training in sports field maintenance and renovation. He participates in a sports-turf research effort and conducts his own applied research on turfgrass maintenance and weed control. As a Certified Professional Turfgrass Manager and a Certified Pesticide Applicator, he is affiliated with numerous professional industry associations. A few of the many awards he has received over the years include:

- 1997 Vice-Chancellor's Award in Excellence for HortAnswers Website
- 2003 Outstanding Specialists Award (*Texas County Extension Agent Assn*)
- 2006 Outstanding Extension Specialist for the Soil & Crop Science Dept. (*Texas A&M*)
- 2007 National Sports Turf Managers Assn award for outstanding research, teaching and extension work in sports fields
- 2007 Texas Turfgrass Association's A.W. Crain award for lifetime achievement
- 2009 Turfgrass Producers of Texas Founders Award.

Jim's presentation to this year's Dallas County Master Gardener class will include selection and management of turfgrasses for Dallas County, fertilizers, herbicides and soil testing.

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