USU Extension Grant - Final Report

Project Leader: Ryan S. Davis, Department of Biology

Project Title: Promoting Integrated Pest Management by Developing and Disseminating Pocket Identification Guides to Utah's Common Turf and Ornamental Pests, Diseases, Weeds and Abiotic Disorders.

Start/End Date: June 1, 2016 - May 30, 2017

Total Requested: $10,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

The goal of the project was to develop photographic pocket guides to common maladies affecting turf and ornamental plantings in Utah. The guides are intended to promote IPM use in turf and ornamental systems by providing succinct, convenient information on pest identification and management.

PROJECT RESULTS

Increased collaboration between on- and off-campus faculty: Our project brought together on- and off-campus collaborators, including (on-campus) Ryan Davis, Claudia Nischwitz, Ricardo Ramirez and Kelsie Johnson and (off-campus) Katie Wagner and Britney Hunter.

Outcomes: Two pest and abiotic disorder identification guides for turf and ornamentals will be distributed to over 1,300 pest management professionals, homeowners, school personnel, green industry employees and other stakeholders throughout the following year (2017-2018). Knowledge gained from using the guides will foster best pest management practices among stakeholders, reduce unnecessary pesticide use in turf and ornamental systems and improve professionalism within the Green industry.

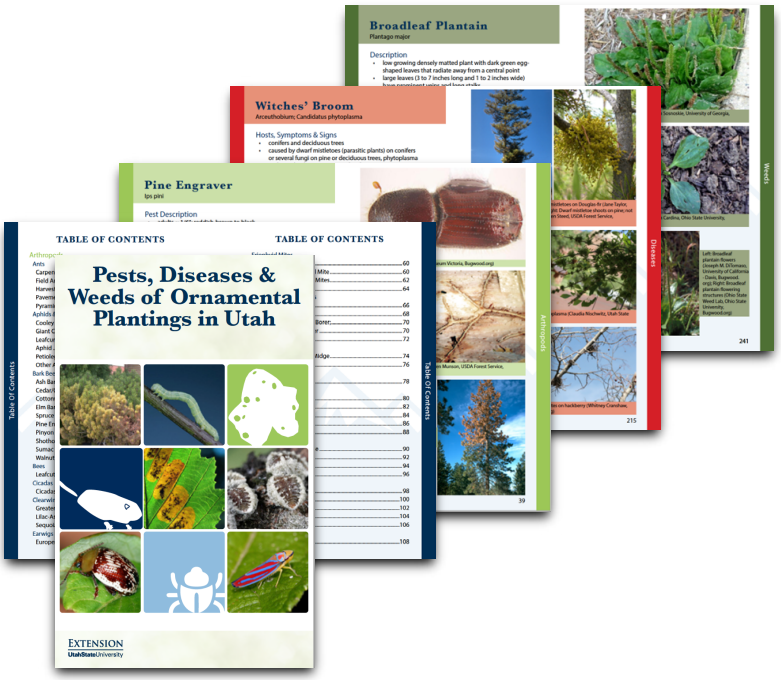

Fig. 1. Examples of the ornamental pest and abiotic disorder guide content.

Outputs & efforts/plants to produce, publish and disseminate scholarly materials: Two comprehensive guides to turf and landscape ornamental pests and abiotic disorders were created. The guides include basic pest and disorder descriptions and basic management options. Each spread within the guides contain basic descriptions and color images of the pest or disorder so that the user can quickly identify pest or abiotic disorders commonly found in Utah's turf grass and landscape ornamental systems (Fig. 1). The ornamental pest and abiotic disorder guide is approximately 350 pages and the turf guide is approximately 150 pages. Both guides will be made available online in PDF format.

Impacts: The guides will reach over 1,300 Utah stakeholders within the Green industry and beyond. As the guides are distributed throughout 2017-2018, a link to a survey will be included with each guide that will direct users to a survey that will assess the usefulness of the guides. Feedback from the surveys will be used to improve the quality and usefulness of 2nd editions.

Efforts/plans to secure extramural funds: The guides were the end product of this project; no extramural funds will be sought for this product-based project.

RESULTS SHARING: USU EXTENSION

The objectives of our project were presented to USU Extension employees at the 2017 Annual Meeting. All authors will continue to promote and disseminate the guides throughout 2017-2018 and seek feedback on the guides.