

TIP OF THE MONTH



Turfpath

FREE TurfPath app

<http://turfpath.com/about-turfpath/>

Be sure to take advantage of the free Turfpath app designed by John Kaminsky at Penn State University. The app includes images and descriptions of diseases, insects and weed pests and updated control products. The app also includes several very nice videos that include dissecting and compound microscope images on how to diagnose several turf diseases. The TurfPath app is free. 🌿



Quality Corner

As we wrap-up a very productive and successful STAR-D development year, we thought hearing from a Diagnostician/Laboratory Director that recently implemented the STAR-D program in her laboratory would be valuable to other NPDN members. Judy O'Mara of Kansas State University and the GPDN Regional Laboratory agreed to share with you her point of view and thoughts after preparing for and participating in a gap audit and auditor exercise. As you may recall from previous articles, Judy hosted the STAR-D team members and auditors at her facility in March of 2013. We really appreciate her very honest and straight forward comments about her experience and hope that you will find her comments valuable. Thank you Judy! — Karen Snover-Clift and Dawn Dailey O'Brien, Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology, Cornell University

It's Doable...We Did It; a Laboratory Director's Thoughts on the STAR-D Implementation Process

Judy O'Mara, Department of Plant Pathology, Kansas State University

Laboratory accreditation has been on the minds of diagnosticians for many years and the creation of the NPDN set the stage for the development of the program we now call STAR-D. This accreditation program for diagnostic labs is designed to improve quality management through better documentation. It is also the closet nightmare of every diagnostician and lab director. There is fear of the amount of work involved; a fear of lack of resources to accomplish the task; and a fear of the audit process (IRS anyone?? LOL). Those are pretty valid fears and it makes it hard to jump on the band wagon.