

Turfgrass Information File

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Objectives:

1. *Continue to build and expand the online offerings associated with the USGA Turfgrass Information File database.*
2. *Describe, index, and link to all available and accessible turf-related research and management articles and reports, regardless of turf industry sector or geography.*
3. *Continue to digitize and make available additional full-text turf research and management content from both the present and past.*
4. *Increase both the usability and reach of the database by turfgrass scientists, practitioners, students, and public policy decision-makers worldwide.*

Since construction started in 1984, the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), a cooperative project of the USGA Turfgrass Research Program and the Michigan State University Libraries' Turfgrass Information Center (TIC), has offered access to the turfgrass literature in support of more effective turfgrass research and management. From initial print-only search results by mail or fax from the database, to dial-up access beginning in 1988, to Internet access in 1993, to World Wide Web access beginning in 1997, TGIF has steadily grown along with turfgrass science and information technology advancements.

Today, turfgrass researchers and students at 70 subscribing academic institutions worldwide, corporate and individual subscribers, as well as professional members of the following organizations all have access to TGIF via the web:

American Society of Golf Course Architects
Asociación Española de Greenkeepers
Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association
British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
Canadian Golf Superintendents Association
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (Class A, SM, C, ISM, AA, or A-RT)
Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
Sports Turf Association
Sports Turf Managers Association
Turfgrass Producers International
Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

Last fall, the public area of the Turfgrass Information Center received a much-needed facelift. The area is more open and highlights the difference between the O.J. Noer and James B. Beard Collections.



Online use of TGIF data continues a trend of steady, upward growth, reflecting TGIF's fundamental role in:

- supporting more efficient and thorough support for ongoing turfgrass research,
- expanding golf course superintendents' ability to verify product claims, evaluate documented research, and quickly get up to speed on new challenges,
- permitting students to explore widely concepts and practices within the turf industry,
- enabling all users to discover international diversity in turf management practices, past and present, as reflected in the literature published worldwide,

- engaging interested parties outside the turf industry in the science behind effective turf management.

TGIF indexes academic journals, professional and trade magazines, organizational publications and special reports, annual research reports, government documents, theses and dissertations, book chapters and books, fact sheets, manuscripts, booklets, registration statements, CD-ROM discs, extension bulletins, etc., as well as the increasing galaxy of online materials, such as video clips, podcasts, online presentations, web documents, digitized blueprints, and webinars.

TGIF's digitization efforts began first with and feature USGA content such as:

- USGA Green Section *Record* (1921–present)
- USGA *Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online* (2002–present)
- USGA *Turfgrass and Environmental Research Summary* (1950, 1951, 1956, 1959, 1977, 1983–Present)

This work has now expanded to include materials from over 20 organizational, agency, academic institutions, or individual partners from around the world. In addition, digitization of relevant turf-related theses and dissertations, and out-of-copyright or non-copyrighted classic turfgrass works are undertaken in order to permit direct access to complete content.

New major digital content added in 2012 includes:

- *Golfdom* in partnership with North Coast Media (1927–Present Less 6 Months)
- *Thru the Green* in partnership with Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (1972–Present Less 1 Year)

- *Hole Notes* in partnership with Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association (1975–Present)

In order to build a sustainable base for all this ongoing work, the Michigan State University Libraries continue to actively seek support to build the Turfgrass Information Center Endowment to underwrite a sustainable operational base. Contributions to the Endowment from organizations, industry, foundations, other academic institutions, individual donors, and reinvested interest have pushed the current balance past \$3 million, despite the economic vagaries of the past several years.

Summary Points

- Number of TGIF records: now over 200,000
- Digitized or online periodical projects hosted in cooperation with partners: 15 public websites, with four upcoming or under construction
- Ten additional TGIF user-accessible websites, plus the Beard Turfgrass Encyclopedia through TGIF itself
- Different periodicals monitored routinely for TGIF inclusion (past or present): 1,051
- Percentage of TGIF records now linking to full-text content: more than 50%
- More than 1.3 million TGIF search result displays in 2011.