Sod producers donate $62,000 for research projects

ROLLING MEADOWS, Ill. — Eight turfgrass sod research projects will receive a record-setting $62,436 in grant money for 1998-99 from the 5-year-old International Turf Producers Foundation (ITPF). The not-for-profit foundation's previous one-year grant award record was $20,500, set in 1995-96.

Specific grant recipients cannot be announced, pending formalization of each project's goals and objectives. However, general areas of study to be undertaken include extension of sod's post-harvest "shelf-life," shaded turf management and various projects related to water and nutrient management. ITPF is now in the process of notifying the recipients.

This year's eight recipients were selected by ITPF's Research Committee from among 20 projects, seeking a total of over $220,000. ITPF, created as a stand-alone foundation in 1994 by Turfgrass Producers International, has established a long-range endowment goal of $2 million which it is beginning to accumulate through contributions from annual campaigns and a silent auction conducted in conjunction with TPI's summer convention. Each year, a portion of the newly raised funds and direct support from TPI is used to support research projects directed at questions of specific interest to turfgrass sod producers.

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