



Water is where it's at!
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Protection, conservation and management of Michigan's water resources are topics that are here to stay. To be able to be recognized as good stewards of water and remain a step ahead of regulation, a document titled "Best Management Practices for Non-Agricultural Irrigation" was developed by a group of professionals from the turfgrass industry, irrigation industry, Michigan State University and Michigan Department of Agriculture. The document provides recommended guidelines for efficient use and conservation of ornamental landscape and turf irrigation water. Specific sections address: Design and installation of the system, management of the system, maintenance of the system and conservation of water resources.

Over the past few years, water legislation has been introduced that has potential to impact how water is used within the turfgrass industry. The Water Legacy Act contained language addressing items such as the installation of new wells, permitting of wells, water conservation and management. To date, this legislation has not passed however; it was in everyone's best interest to define best management practices (BMPs) for non-agriculture irrigation that are recognized by the regulating agencies, industry and universities should legislation of this nature pass.

The Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program (MTESP) will be taking these BMPs to the next level by fine tuning practices for the golf industry. With support from a GREEN grant, MTESP staff will develop irrigation, management and conservation practices that will become a formal part of the program. These BMPs will be presented in January at the 2006 MTF Annual Conference in Grand Rapids and will be available to all golf properties across the state.