

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

USGA Turfgrass Information File Project

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(Eighth year of support)

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The purpose of the USGA Turfgrass Information File (**USGA TGIF**) is to provide efficient and effective access to all published and processed materials reporting the results of research affecting turfgrass and its maintenance. The access is being provided for the research community, for practitioners (such as golf course superintendents), for extension-type services, and for commercial concerns.

We have accomplished the four goals originally established for the project which include: 1) acquire, maintain, and preserve all appropriate printed and processed materials reporting on research related to turfgrass growth, development, and maintenance; 2) construct an on-line index to the turf science literature (**USGA TGIF**), including both currently published literature and gradual retrospective processing back to 1972 to compliment the Beard *Bibliography*; 3) make the on-line index **USGA TGIF** available to support research, education, and management needs; and 4) provide library loans and/or appropriate photocopies to all users who have reason to need access to this collection.

USGA TGIF continues to evolve as the number of records grows and as we experiment with new ways of packaging and delivering bibliographic information. During February 1991, the 20,000th record was entered into **USGA TGIF**. A new menu structure, screen revisions, and features were developed which we hope will make **USGA-TGIF** easier to use. A growing list of "pre-searched" topics on turfgrass benefits, environmental issues, disease and insect problems, and other relevant topics was added to make the data base more user friendly. In response to requests by many users, the "log on" procedure was streamlined to make computer access to the **USGA TGIF** faster and easier.

Anyone can take advantage of **USGA TGIF** by calling (517) 353-7209. If you do not have access to a computer, then the search can be completed for you and mailed to your address within a few days. The staff of **USGA TGIF** are extremely cooperative and want to make this valuable information source available to you.

Each citation in **USGA TGIF** represents an article or report in turf culture or golf course management. The data base can disseminate published research findings, help avoid redundancy in research efforts, span geography and time in linking an identified need and a potentially relevant finding, and cumulate the published research and management experience of the discipline. Students, practitioners, and researchers, can all utilize this unique tool to bring this wealth into their learning and decision-making. Tap into this reservoir of knowledge.