

The Turfgrass Information File

Peter Cookingham
Michigan State University

Objectives:

1. Continue to build and expand the online offerings associated with the USGA Turfgrass Information File database.
2. Index all turf-related research and management articles and reports.
3. Continue to digitize and make available additional 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.

Start Date: 1983

Project Duration: Ongoing

Since construction started in 1984, the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), a cooperative project of the USGA and the Michigan State University Libraries' Turfgrass Information Center, 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 technology advancements.

Today, turfgrass researchers and students at more than 62 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
Canadian Golf Superintendents Association
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents
Sports Turf Association
Sports Turf Managers Association
Turfgrass Producers International
Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association



Over 171,000 records have been uploaded to the Turfgrass Information File housed at Michigan State University's Libraries.

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 and evaluate documented research,
- permitting students to explore new concepts within the turf industry,
- enabling all users to discover international diversity in turf management practices as reflected in the literature published worldwide.

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 featuring USGA content such as:

USGA Green Section Record
(1921-present)

USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online (2002-present)

USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Summary (1983-Present)

This work has now expanded to include materials from 18 additional 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.

The Michigan State University Libraries continue to actively seek support



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 among other sources of information.

to build the Turfgrass Information Center Endowment to underwrite ongoing operational costs. Contributions from organizations, industry, foundations, other academic institutions, and individual donors to the Endowment have currently surpassed \$2.5 million.

Summary Points

- Number of TGIF records: over 171,000
- Digitized or online periodical projects hosted in cooperation with partners: 11 public websites, with two under construction
- Ten additional TGIF user-accessible websites
- Different periodicals monitored routinely for TGIF inclusion (past or present): 731
- Percentage of TGIF records now linking to full-text content: more than 43%
- Number of 2010 TGIF search result displays: 1 million +