

# The 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. 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 65 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  
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

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

accepted concepts and practices within the turf industry,

- enabling all users to discover international diversity in turf management practices as reflected in the literature published worldwide.



Over 189,000 records have been uploaded to the Turfgrass Information File housed at Michigan State University's Libraries.

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* (1983-Present)

New major digital content added in 2010 includes:

CUTT (Cornell University Turfgrass Times) in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension (1990-Present)

GreenKeepers in partnership with Asociación Española de Greenkeepers (1999-Present)  
Sports Turf Manager in partnership with Sports Turf Association (1987-Present Less 6 Months)  
SportsTurf in partnership with Sports Turf Managers Association (1985-Present Less 2 Months)  
The Grass Roots in partnership with the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association (1975-Present Less 1 Month)

This work has now expanded to include materials from 19 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.

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 189,000.
- Digitized or online periodical projects hosted in cooperation with partners: 12 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): 946.
- Percentage of TGIF records now linking to full-text content: more than 44%.
- Number of 2010 TGIF search result displays: 1 million +