Economic Impact of Turfgrass Industry Quantified

NEW YORK TURFGRASS SURVEY RELEASED: 80-PAGE IN DEPTH REPORT

The New York Turfgrass Survey, sponsored by the New York Turfgrass Association and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets in cooperation with the New York Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), has been published on the NASS website, www.nass.usda.gov/ny. The newly released survey, which has been in the planning and implementation stages for the past five years, is the first of its kind to evaluate the magnitude and economic importance of the turfgrass industry in New York State. The 80-page report, Turfgrass Final Publication, can be accessed by clicking “Special Surveys” on the NASS home page.

The New York Turfgrass Survey illustrates that the turf industry employed 43,000 people and contributed five billion dollars in turf maintenance expenses to the economy in 2003. Other interesting facts the survey reveals:

- Turfgrass covers 3.43 million acres in New York
- 93% of the 3.4 million acres are private lawns and golf courses
- Over 843,000 new turf acres were established in 2003 at a cost of nearly $1.56 billion
- The value of turf equipment owned by all sectors surveyed totaled over $6.3 billion
- The total payroll for turf employees was nearly $467 million

This important data will position the turfgrass industry as a growing agricultural commodity in New York State and enable the public, industry and government to work together to ensure its continued growth. The New York State Turfgrass Association is comprised of 1,800 green industry professionals who have joined together to share technology, promote environmental stewardship, support education, advance research and disseminate research findings. For more information, contact Denise Lewis, Public Relations Coordinator at 518-783-1229.