THE AMAZING TURFGRASS PLANT

Turfgrasses have been used by humans to enhance their environment for more than 10 centuries. The complexity and extent of these environmental benefits that improve our quality-of-life are just now being quantitatively documented.

The functional benefits include:

- Excellent soil erosion control and dust stabilization, thereby protecting a vital soil resource.
- Improved quality protection and recharge of groundwater; plus flood control.
- Enhanced entrapment and biodegradation of synthetic organic compounds.
- Soil improvement via organic matter-carbon additions.
- Accelerated restoration of disturbed lands.
- Substantial urban heat dissipation and temperature moderation.
- Reduced noise, visual glare, and visual pollution problems.
- Decreased noxious pest problems and allergy-related pollens.
- Safety in vehicle operation on roadsides and engine longevity on airfields.
- Lowered fire hazard via open, green turfed firebreaks.
- Improved security of sensitive installations provided by high visibility zones.

The recreational benefits include:

- A low-cost surface for outdoor sport and leisure activities.
- Enhanced physical health of participants.
- A unique low-cost cushion against personal impact injuries.

The aesthetic benefits include:

- Enhanced beauty and attractiveness.
- Complimentary relationship with the ecosystem of flowers, shrubs and trees.
- Improved mental health, with a positive therapeutic impact and social harmony.
- Improved work productivity.
- An overall better quality-of-life, especially in densely populated urban areas.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE:

Turfgrass Research Report 1993.
The Ohio State University. Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. 126 pages (1993).

Contains 38 reports of research conducted at the Turfgrass Research Facilities at Ohio State University and Agricultural Experiment Station in Wooster. Included are 5 papers on turfgrass weed control, encompassing broadleaves, tall fescue, moss and crabgrass; 5 papers on turfgrass disease, encompassing red thread, rust, brown patch, leaf spot, and summer patch; 12 papers on turfgrass insects, encompassing black cutworm, sod webworm, billbug, black turfgrass attenius, white grub and Japanese beetle; 3 papers on turfgrass fertility and fertilization, encompassing natural organic and polymer-coated urea fertilizer sources; 7 papers on evaluation of cool-season turfgrass cultivars, encompassing perennial ryegrasses, fine-leafed fescues, bentgrasses, and Kentucky bluegrasses; 3 papers on turfgrass culture and plant growth regulators, and 3 papers on the turfgrass biotechnology.

Contact: Jill Taylor, Research Associate and Research Field Manager, Department of Agronomy, Ohio State University, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210-1085, USA. Phone: (614) 889-1842.

Conference Proceedings of 65th International Golf Course Conference and Show.
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. 150 pages. (1994).

Contains one to two page abstracts of 62 invited papers presented at the 65th conference held in Dallas, Texas. Topic headings include golf course management, bentgrasses in the north, bentgrasses in the south, public golf, developing people skills, innovative superintendent activities, history of the GCSAA, computers, landscaping, water resources, regulatory compliance, employee training, and equipment managers forum.

Contact: Education Department, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, Kansas 66049-3859, USA. Fax: (913) 882-4433.