

Research Summary

Virginia Turfgrass Survey Report

Sound research to develop information concerning the size of the turfgrass industry is quite important and has many applications. These include the basis for justifying government investments in research in support of the turfgrass industry, for documenting the size of the turfgrass industry when presenting requests for specific types of legislation at the local, state, and national level, and for an understanding of the relative size of the diverse components of the turfgrass industry and how each component expends monies in turfgrass establishment and maintenance.

This research summary represents the most current information on a state-wide turfgrass survey, having been published in May of 2000. It has added value since comparisons can be made with an earlier survey conducted in 1982 by the same agency. **The survey reveals a total**

annual maintenance expenditure for the turfgrass industry of \$1.54 billion, which was four times the amount expended in 1982. Obviously, turf has been a major growth industry in Virginia during the past 16 years. A summary of the relative amounts of money expended by eleven components of the Virginia turfgrass industry is shown in the accompanying table. **The total amount of acreage in Virginia devoted to turfgrasses was 1,360,500 acres,** with home lawns, general areas, and highway roadsides representing 89% of the total. It also is noted that this represents a 66% increase from 1982 to 1998. **There were 394,135 paid workers employed in the state of Virginia to maintain these turf areas in 1998.**

Virginia's Turfgrass Survey 2000, by Agricultural Statistics Service, P.O. Box 1659, Richmond, Virginia 23218-1659. 80 pp.

Turf Maintenance Expenses by Industry Component for 1998.

Industry Component	Paid Labor	Supplies	Equipment Parts and Repairs	Turfgrass Protectants	Total Expenses
Home lawns	\$244,342,000	\$319,165,000	\$159,622,000	\$101,990,000	\$825,119,000
Lawn service companies	170,950,000	83,119,000	24,653,000	19,079,000	297,801,000
General areas	161,847,000	40,923,000	21,819,000	11,675,000	236,264,000
Golf courses	56,513,000	13,760,000	12,084,000	8,755,000	91,112,000
Highway roadsides	15,925,000	870,000	2,500,000	2,503,000	21,798,000
Schools	14,000,000	2,106,000	2,271,000	650,000	19,027,000
Cemeteries	12,809,000	975,000	1,814,000	194,000	15,792,000
Parks	9,386,000	2,898,000	1,722,000	273,000	14,279,000
Churches	8,654,000	1,498,000	2,494,000	362,000	13,008,000
Sod Farms	3,107,000	2,133,000	392,000	196,000	5,828,000
Airports	508,000	51,000	52,000	20,000	631,000
Total	\$698,041,000	\$467,498,000	\$229,423,000	\$145,697,000	\$1,540,659,000

...Natural Organic Fertilizers...

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ever, increased organic matter in the 1.0 to 2.0 in. depth (2.6–5.0 cm) soil zone in either year. Hence, **after 6 years of applying natural organic N-sources, there was no great impact on soil organic matter levels in the top 2.0 in. (5.0 cm) or soil.** While enhanced soil microbial activity has been linked to the suppression of some diseases, this research and that of Landschoot and McNitt (1997) indicates that N-availability is the most important factor in the suppression of dollar spot with N-sources.

References

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