

Editorial

Turfgrass in Florida is a billion dollar plus industry. The University of Florida has been appointed guardian of this industry to help us prosper through research and extension.

For the past two years The Florida Turfgrass Association has applied considerable pressure on the turfgrass research and extension program at The University of Florida. As of this writing the fruits of this labor are not evident.

There appears to be a definite lack of commitment from the university towards turf. Three cases in point are:

1. Appointment of a *part time* turf research coordinator for this billion dollar industry.
2. The closed mind attitude of some administrators and research people.
3. The dearth of extension publications from the university for the past four years. How can research get into the hands of industry without an effective extension program?

"*The Florida Turf*", published by The Florida Turfgrass Association is supposed to be a vehicle for getting research information from the university to the industry. Over the past year the editor of "Florida Turf" has literally begged the university personnel for papers to print. During the past month three very good research papers from university personnel have appeared in turf magazines outside the state of Florida. Is this proper support of our Florida turf industry?

It looks like the FTGA will have its first \$100,000 plus year collecting funds for research. The figure could reach a quarter million. That will buy a lot of research. A lot of pressure has been applied by industry on the FTGA Board of Directors, even suggesting the funding of research outside the state of Florida.

We cannot allow this to become an alternative. We must dedicate our efforts to helping to correct what we all agree is a poor situation.