

TGIF Now on the World Wide Web

The Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) at Michigan State University has announced the global debut of the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) database online through the World Wide Web. The continuing ten year project to provide access to turfgrass research online is now fully available through almost any computer and features easy search capability and convenient access.

Over 40,000 items are searchable using more than 300,000 different keywords. This means that the full scope of the turfgrass literature, from abscisic acid to zymograms, will be locatable with a new user-friendly face. You can use your mouse to do an entire search without typing, or use several of the other convenient search options.

The dynamic, fully-graphical interfaces will be demonstrated live at the upcoming Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Conference in Anaheim. Please stop by either the Emerald Isle booth (No. 3289 of Hall D) or the MSU Turfgrass Club booth, to see TGIF / Web in action!

For full details about TIC and TGIF, visit the Turfgrass Information Center homepage on the Web at:

<http://www.lib.msu.edu/tgif>

Initially a cooperative project of the USGA Turfgrass Research Program and the Michigan State University Libraries, TGIF was intended to provide online access to all published materials reporting on aspects of turfgrass and its maintenance. TGIF has grown steadily in size and accessibility, beginning with dial-up modem access in 1988 and Internet (Telnet) access in 1993. TGIF content is based primarily on the O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection at the Michigan State University Libraries. The data-

base identifies and locates the full range of documented turfgrass information, including turf-related articles from over 200 journals and magazines, research reports, conference proceedings, extension bulletins, book chapters, videos, databases, theses and dissertations, and Web and Gopher site documents. Over 4,000 records are added each year.

Included in the website is information about TIC databases and services, the Noer Collection, subscription forms, etc. Online content and services will be added steadily to the website. Some sections will be "public,"

while others, including full access to TGIF itself, will be available to subscribers only.

If you haven't used TGIF before, you'll want to now — Get linked to TGIF!

Contact:

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'tis the Season for Workplace Fatalities, Warns OSHA

Fatalities at the workplace soar during the last few months of the year, according to statistics from Minnesota OSHA.

"During the first three quarters of the year, there is an average of 5.6 fatal injuries per quarter. But during the last quarter, there are often twice as many," said Commissioner Gary W. Bastian, Department of Labor and Industry. "We want to raise awareness of this alarming trend and encourage employees and employers to take time to review their safety programs."

Although it is difficult to attribute specific causes to the increase, Minnesota OSHA offers several factors that may play a role:

- Slippery outside work surfaces due to ice and frost.
- Construction contractors rushing to finish work before the end of the season.
- Shorter daylight hours reduce visibility and the number of hours to do work.
- The stress of the holiday season.

"During this time of year the rapidly changing weather, traffic jams and stress of the holidays can cause us to lose our focus at work," Bastian said. "We encourage everyone in Minnesota to be extra careful and to work as safely as possible."

— James Honerman
Minnesota OSHA