

DIRECT ON-LINE ACCESS TO THE
TURFGRASS INFORMATION FILE AT M.S.U.

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The Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) services turf science by providing a single location to obtain bibliographic records of published materials relating to turfgrass research and management. This USGA Turfgrass Research Committee project, which began operation in August of 1984, is operated by the Turfgrass Information Center at the MSU Libraries. Currently, the file contains over 9500 bibliographic references, most of which (approximately 85%) include abstracts.

Designed to compliment and enhance the existing O. J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection at MSU, the file is designed to retrieve research results relating to turfgrass breeding, management practices, disease control, physiology, etc., all with the intention of helping to effectively communicate research findings and exploit the work of the past. It is also useful as a reference tool, for example, in typing together disease nomenclature changes, surveying the state of knowledge on a particular insect pest (in the turf context), or quickly identifying who has conducted research on a particular concern. In many cases, the abstracts themselves can provide management guidance based on summary conclusions. And it is unbeatable at identifying that, "I can remember seeing an article on that about a year or so ago.....," item, and quickly, too.

To build the file, current published literature from some seventy journals is selectively processed, including these kinds of sources:

RESEARCH: Agronomy Journal, Plant Disease, Phytopathology, Crop Science, Canadian Journal of Plant Science, etc.

TECHNICAL: USGA Green Section Record, California Turfgrass Culture, Golf Course Management, Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute, etc.

TRADE: Weeds Trees & Turf, Grounds Maintenance, ALA, etc.

In addition, online files and bibliographies from the National Agricultural Library, Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux (U.K.), Biological Abstracts, etc., will be reviewed regularly to include materials from sources not usually reporting turf research.

Currently over 1200 different serial titles are represented in the database. Included are journals, conference proceedings, research annuals, newsletters, and extension bulletins in addition to the books, papers, theses and dissertations, and special publications that make up the remainder of the file. Over 95% of the file entries have been published since 1968, reflecting the emphasis on recent materials.

Though significant results can be retrieved on most turf topics, it must be noted that the file continues to be "under construction" and cannot be considered "exhaustive" at this time. Coverage of the literature since 1980 is most complete, with the 1972-1979 period less well represented.

In essence, we are using the computer as a tool to search for information. In the near future, this tool will become available for direct outside access by those of you with the hardware necessary. Dial-up access will be supported for most IBM PC or PC-compatible systems running under PC or MS-DOS with a 1200 baud auto-dial modem and the necessary terminal emulation software. An electronic mail and bulletin board system will also be provided for communications between dial up users as well as with TGIC at MSU. Documentation to guide search strategy construction, control output formats, and download records will be included in the subscription dial-up service. The computer will be available for access 18 hrs/day, 7 days a week.

For those without PC's, we can provide an off-printed bibliography to you via the mail if you call and describe to us your topic for a search.

To learn more about the services of the Turfgrass Information Center, or to conduct a search of the Turfgrass Information File, call or write:

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We hope we hear from you all!