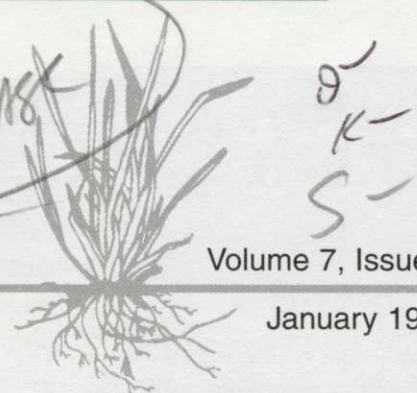


TurfGrass TRENDS



Volume 7, Issue 1

January 1998

Turf Research: Nature, Needs and Net Results

Eliot C. Roberts, Ph.D.

As we approach the year 2000, turfgrass research efforts in the United States have been underway for well over 100 years. In fact, this research has become the backbone of the whole turf management segment of the green industry. We have advanced in all technical aspects of turfgrass culture because of the science that supports the development of new fertilizers, soil conditioners and activators, equipment for grooming and irrigation, pesticides, and turfgrass cultivars. Without both public (primarily Land Grant University) and private (industry) research, the quality of landscape and sports turf would be much lower quality than we enjoy today. Research has been a major driving force, a critically important element, in advancing "know-how" as we are about to enter the 21st Century. Furthermore, the research we need is far from complete, not even after 100 plus years of scientific effort.

We all recognize that times are changing. Public perceptions of research, particularly in agricultural and related sciences, have changed and are continuing to change. Government funding is thought to be of greater need in other areas, especially those related to socioeconomic and humanistic concerns. As a result, limited funding becomes a serious liability at a time when costs of turfgrass research are on the increase.

Questions We Must Answer

- How do we need to grow grass?
 - How does grass grow?
- What is good turfgrass research?
 - How can we recognize the best in turfgrass science?
- Are some values from research of higher priority than others?
- How can researchers, who specialize in basic science, work more closely and effectively with turf managers, who are masters in the art of growing grass?

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Turf Research: Nature, Needs and Net Results1**

The Turfgrass Commodity

Research Strategies

Efforts, Needs and Challenges

Early, Present and Future Research

Basic, Applied and Synthesis Research

Benefits of Research Findings

Research Funding

- **Book Review: Redesigning The American Lawn . .10**

- **ASA Educational Materials12**

- **USGA Green Section Research Summaries . .13**