



# NEWS NOTES FOR SPRING

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## USGA Funds Environmental Impact Studies

The USGA Turfgrass Research Committee has awarded \$2.8 million for environmental research to be conducted by 16 land-grant universities across the country and the United States Department of Agriculture. Several universities have joined together in a cooperative arrangement on some of the research projects. The goals of the environmental impact study are to:

1. Develop a better understanding of turfgrass pest management and fertilization effects on water quality and the environment.
2. Evaluate alternative pest control methods to be incorporated in IPM programs.
3. Determine the influence golf courses have on people, wildlife, and other non-target organisms.

Universities receiving grants include: California — Davis, California — Riverside, Clemson, Cornell, Florida, Georgia, Iowa State, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan State, Nebraska, Nevada — Reno, Penn State, Rutgers, Texas A&M, and Washington State.

Historically, the sport of golf has maintained a leadership role in the development of improved turfgrasses and management practices through the activities of the USGA Green Section. Understanding pesticide and fertilizer degradation, fate, and impact on our environment is critical for managing turfgrass systems at the highest level of efficiency. In addition to this goal, development of alternative methods of

pest control holds much promise for incorporation into turfgrass management programs in the future. Golf's leadership role will be continued as the USGA moves forward with this research program.

Research begun in 1982, with support from the USGA and GCSAA, has resulted in the release of two new grasses thus far. NuMex "Sahara" bermudagrass and "NE84-609" buffalograss are available in the market and have demonstrated success. Royalties received by the USGA from new turfgrass varieties will be recycled into other turfgrass research projects in the future.

Turfgrass is only one component of the golf course, though. By expanding its research scope, the USGA is moving ahead to increase the understanding of the impact golf courses have on the environment. The results of these studies will be crucial to the construction and maintenance of golf courses well into the next century.



## TURFGRASS INFORMATION FILE

Are you battling bermudagrass, dealing with disease on your greens, or just trying to find a specific article that you "know you just saw"? The USGA-sponsored Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) at Michigan State University can help. The USGA/TGIF database provides turfgrass managers with easy access to published materials on turf-

grass culture and golf course management.

Information is now easily available to everyone. USGA/TGIF has put together more than 35 prepackaged searches on the most popular topics, with more to come. Each search lists published articles about the topic, with an emphasis on newer materials. Just a few examples of search topics include:

- Turfgrass Benefits
- Groundwater Issues
- Water and Water Use
- Green Construction
- White Grub Control
- Greens Management
- Bunker Reconstruction
- Wildflowers
- IPM
- Green Speed
- Localized Dry Spots
- Poa annua* Control
- Pesticide Safety/Handling
- Cultivation Techniques
- Irrigation Scheduling
- Winter Play
- Transition Zone Management
- Member Relations
- PGR's

These searches or information on any other topic of interest are available for a nominal charge by calling TGIF. Subscribers can access the system by computer as well. Superintendents, turfgrass managers, course officials, researchers, and students will all find USGA/TGIF an invaluable resource tool. This comprehensive source of answers is right at your fingertips.

Give us a call — (517) 353-7209.