



Research yields an invaluable amount of information for turfgrass practitioners. Accessing this information is easier through the Turfgrass Information File and the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research online technical journal.

USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online

A new online technical journal provides research results at your fingertips.

BY JEFF NUS, Ph.D., and MICHAEL KENNA, Ph.D.

Since 1983, the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program has funded more than 215 research projects at a cost of \$21 million. This turfgrass research funding program is by far the largest of its kind and provides funding opportunities to university faculty interested in working on environmental and turf management problems affecting golf courses. The vision is simply *to use science to benefit the game of golf* in the areas of turfgrass and resource management, sustainable development, and environmental protection.

COMMUNICATION IS ESSENTIAL

There are three fundamentally important components of successful research programs: funding, research, and communication. The USGA Executive Committee has steadfastly provided the necessary funding for research to address a range of issues, including germplasm development, environmental protection, and integrated turfgrass management, as well as improved methods for putting green construction and materials testing procedures.

Turfgrass scientists across the country have overwhelmingly responded to the USGA's calls for proposals. Nearly every land-grant university supporting a turfgrass research program has received research funding.

The third critical element of research funding programs is communication. When research results are generated, they need to be effectively communicated to those who can benefit from them. This information is important to the scientific community as well as golf course superintendents, educators,

industry representatives, and course officials who want to learn about the science of golf course turf.

INFORMATION AGE CREATES OPPORTUNITY

The last 20 years saw the world move into the Information Age. The rapid development of faster and more powerful computers and other new technologies provides communication capabilities that seemed incomprehensible.

The opportunity now exists to use the Internet as a major delivery method of research information for scientists, educators, and practitioners who have an interest in keeping abreast of the latest research findings.

A new online technical journal has been launched to publish the results of USGA-funded projects. This publication, *USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online (USGATERO)*, focuses on publishing USGA-funded research results for turfgrass scientists and others. The writing style also will be understandable to golf course superintendents and other turfgrass managers, educators, and course officials interested in learning more about the science of turfgrass.

THE TGIF CONNECTION

The *USGATERO* technical journal will reside at the Michigan State University libraries to take advantage of the comprehensive turfgrass literature database already housed there. The Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) is a searchable, bibliographic database containing more than 77,000 records regarding the culture and management of turfgrasses. Since its inception, major financial support has been provided by the United States Golf Association, in addition to the support provided by Michigan State University for library space and staffing.

TGIF is the turfgrass information source for the industry. Publishing the *USGATERO* through TGIF will enable this publication to link to important reports already housed in TGIF. In addition to links to other research

reports pertaining to the USGA-supported project, links can be made to most references listed in the literature-cited sections of the journal article. For someone needing additional information about a referenced aspect of the article, these literature linkages are extremely valuable.

THE FUTURE IS NOW

Only a few short years ago, publishing information as an online electronic journal was only a dream. That future is now. You may access the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online at <http://usgatero.msu.edu>.

JEFF NUS and MIKE KENNA are manager and director, respectively, of the Green Section Research Program.

