

Turfgrass Information File

Worldwide Access to Turfgrass Science Information

Getting Started with TGIF

The Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) database is designed to be flexible for all users, from those accessing for the first-time to the more sophisticated researchers/users. TGIF provides bibliographic and descriptive records of all types of works related to turfgrass culture. TGIF was established in 1983 by the United States Golf Association (USGA) Turfgrass Research Committee and the Michigan State University Libraries, and is now maintained by the Turfgrass Information Center, a division of MSU Libraries. The ultimate goals of TGIF are to: 1) identify all available print or online materials reporting on turfgrass and its maintenance; 2) to provide access to records representing each item; and 3) to provide a direct link to the full-text or actual content of each item when possible.

Accessible Via:

- [American Society of Golf Course Architects \(ASGCA\) member](#)
- [Canadian Golf Superintendents Association \(CGSA\) member](#)
- [Direct TGIF Subscriber \(includes Individuals and Institutions/Corporations with blanket access\)](#)
- [GCSAA Class A and SM Members](#)
- [Michigan resident \(access via MeL\)](#)
- [Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents \(MAGCS\) member](#)
- [Sports Turf Association \(STA\) member](#)
- [Sports Turf Managers Association \(STMA\) member](#)
- [Turfgrass Producers International \(TPI\) member](#)

Basic Search

The screenshot shows the 'Basic Search' interface. At the top, it says 'Turfgrass Information File' and 'Worldwide Access to Turfgrass Science Information'. Below that are logos for USGA, Michigan State University Libraries, and Turfgrass Information Center. A message thanks SportsTurf for their support. The main search area has a text input field, a 'Search' button, and a dropdown menu for 'Limit by Industry Sector (if Available): all sectors'. There are also 'Log Out', 'Help', and 'Feedback' buttons. A sidebar on the left contains 'Other Search Options' (Guided Search, Power Search) and 'Browse Options' (Browse Turf Topics, Browse Full-Text Journals, What's NEW in Turfgrass Research). Below the search area, there are 'Basic Search Hints and Examples'.

Basic Search Hints and Examples:

- Type the most important words, like **white grub control** instead of natural language phrases such as **How do I control white grubs in turf?**
- Type a phrase like **golf carts** without quotation marks around the phrase
- Typing only part of the search word without using asterisks to retrieve all forms of the word may produce better results. For example, typing **fertili** will automatically be truncated, finding **fertilizer fertilization fertilization fertility** etc.
- If you wish to use Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT), press the Guided Search button. If you are an experienced searcher, press the Power Search button
- When searching for two or more topics, put semicolons between them. For example, if you type **winterkill; cold tolerance**, TGIF will retrieve everything about **winterkill OR cold tolerance**
- Since the presence of all words entered in the search line will be searched (**golf carts** will search for records with **golf AND carts**), avoid using plus and minus signs in your search.
- Avoid searching for "stop words" (words which are so common in the dataset that they are removed from the search), such as **turfgrass, turf, and grass**

Experiencing Difficulties? [Contact the Turfgrass Information Center](#)

The default page of TGIF is the Basic Search page. Instead of using a question or common language, type the most important words such as **white grub control**.

Type phrases such as **brown patch**, without quotation marks. Typing only part of the search word may produce better results as truncation happens automatically. For example, typing **fertili** will automatically find **fertilizer, fertilization, fertilization, fertility**, etc.

When searching for two or more topics, put semicolons between them. For example, if **winterkill; cold tolerance** is typed, TGIF will retrieve everything about **winterkill OR cold tolerance**.

The drop-down list below the search box allows you to limit the search to an industry sector. The sectors are: Breeding and Genetics, Golf Courses, Landscape, Lawn care, Parks and Grounds, Roadsides, Seed, Sod, Sports Turf, and Utility turf.

Guided Search

To search using Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT), press the Guided Search button. In the first box, type in a key word or phrase. By leaving the drop-down list as **Anywhere**, the phrase will be searched anywhere in the TGIF record. To limit to the title, author, keyword, language, etc. field, use the drop-down list.

The Browse Index can be used if you are unsure of a word. Click on Browse Index button. In the box, type in the word you are unsure of and click on Search Index. A list of the words near it will appear. Check the one(s) you would use for searching and click on the paste button to the left. The terms

will be added to your search and you will be returned to the search page.

You can search on multiple topics/words by using the three "Search for" boxes using AND, OR, or NOT by selecting from the drop-down list.

Additionally, you can limit your search by publication type, industry sector, years, or kinds of items by using the drop-down lists. Not limiting allows for all formats, years, sectors, and item types to be searched.

It is also possible to limit your search to USGA® publications, full-text materials, or to exclude abstract-only records.

Power Search

This interface is intended for more experienced searchers. In this search window, you can use full Boolean and proximity operators, wildcards, nesting (the use of parentheses), field limiters, etc. A complete reference guide to using power search is at <http://tic.msu.edu/power.html>.

TGIF Information

Dates: With an ongoing, aggressive indexing effort on pre-1984 content, supported by the Toro Foundation, we intend to include all ages of turf material within TGIF.

Update Frequency: Updated on a continuous basis; about 12,000 records are added per year

File Size: Over 138,000 records as of September 2008

Full Text Content: Over 35% of TGIF records are linked to web-accessible full text or include full text.

More Detailed Instructions can be found at <http://tic.msu.edu/search.html>

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