



## Turfgrass Information Center

---

**The Turfgrass Information File (TGIF)**, produced by the Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) at the Michigan State University Libraries, provides or points to resources of potential relevance to turfgrass science and management. In an academic environment, TGIF coverage and content can be very useful in support of programs in Landscape Architecture and Design, Horticulture, Parks and Recreation Facility Operations, Grounds and Landscape Management, Sports Management, Geography, Urban Planning, Environmental Sustainability, Natural Resource Public Policy, Land Use, Popular Culture and of course TGIF is the best there is in Turfgrass Science.

### *Subject Coverage*

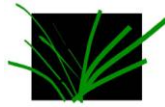
The Turfgrass Information Center selects materials according to a broad definition of turfgrass. Turfgrass is defined as grass or grass-like ground covers used in golf courses, parks, sports fields, lawns, sod farms, roadsides, institutional grounds, and for other utility, recreational or aesthetic purposes. Subjects covered by TGIF include:

- Description and biology of turfgrass species and cultivars
- Description and biology of turfgrass pests, weeds, and other related organisms
- Turf culture methods and techniques
- Turf care equipment and equipment maintenance
- Golf and sports facility maintenance
- Turfgrass breeding and improvement
- Turfgrass seed production
- Sod production, installation and maintenance
- Sod and turfgrass seed industry trends
- Regulatory and political aspects of turf culture
- Turfgrass water use
- Golf and sports facility industry trends
- Golf course architecture and design
- Lawn and landscape management industry trends
- Turf user/turf manager relations
- Turf-related business management
- Profiles of turf-related businesses and facilities
- Biography of turfgrass researchers and professionals
- The lawn in popular culture
- Environmental aspects of turf culture
- Social and historical aspects of turf culture
- Turfgrass as a land use form

### *Sources*

Materials indexed by the Turfgrass Information File include articles from peer reviewed publications; technical reports and conference proceedings; trade and professional publications; local professional newsletters; and popular magazines as well as monographs; theses and dissertations; fact sheets and brochures; software; and web documents including podcasts, interactive resources, online slide presentations, videos, audio files, and surveys. TGIF indexes materials from government, college/university, professional organization, and private publishers. Coverage emphasizes English-language materials but does include coverage of non-English languages.

## [An Indexing Comparison of the Turfgrass Information File \(TGIF\) with Six Other Databases and Google Scholar](#)



## Turfgrass Information Center

---

In producing TGIF, TIC monitors the turfgrass literature, regardless of sector, context, geography, or language. Thus, TGIF can produce excellent searches on transitional overseeding, cricket wicket preparation, kikuyugrass invasion, gray snow mold control, sod production in Florida, or variety trial results in German.

### ***TGIF Content Outline***

To build TGIF, hundreds of journals, magazines, annuals, etc. are selectively monitored on an on-going basis to "keep track of" items potentially relevant to turf culture. The "periodical turfgrass literature" is made up of a wide range of "published" material. This includes about 84% of TGIF's content. To understand this better, we can break the literature into categories or LEVELS:

### **Typology of Turfgrass Literature for TGIF Search Purposes:**

<b>Category (LEVEL)</b>	<b>Primary Audience</b>	<b>Example Titles</b>	<b>% of TGIF Content</b>
Refereed	Researchers	Crop Science, Plant Disease, HortScience, Agronomy Journal, Journal of ITS	6%
Report	Researchers	ASA/CSSA/SSSA Annual Meeting Abstracts, Iowa Turfgrass Research Report, Fungicide & Nematicide Tests, Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium Proceedings	18%
Proceedings	Practitioners	Proceedings of the Michigan Turfgrass Conference, Proceedings of the Florida Turfgrass Conference	7%
Professional	Practitioners	USGA Green Section Record, Golf Course Management, Greenkeeper International	27%
Trade	Practitioners	Grounds Maintenance, SportsTurf, Golf Course News, Lawn & Landscape	22%
Newsletter	Practitioners	Tee to Green, New Hampshire Turf Talk, A Patch of Green, Divots	8%
Popular	The Public	Golf Journal, newspapers, Golf Digest	4%
Miscellaneous Unclassified	Varies widely	No pattern; includes books, theses and dissertations, webpages, booklets, fact sheets, and other monographs	9%

[More complete list of periodicals monitored](#)



## Turfgrass Information Center

### *Retrospective Processing*

Reaching into the past to help ensure future generations of turf researchers and managers can utilize the knowledge of those who have gone before them, TIC will continue the work to include within TGIF materials predating the birth of TGIF in 1984. Between 2003 and 2008 the Toro Foundation supported this work and we estimate that it is about 70% complete. [Help us finish this job!](#) In this way, the complete publication record of turf science will someday be accessible through TGIF.

### **Current TGIF "Degree of Processing Completion" Approximations, or How much of what kind of "Turf Stuff" is indexed in TGIF? (Updated April 2012)**

<b>TGIF Content Coverage</b>	<b>1895-1941</b>	<b>1942-1972</b>	<b>1973-1984</b>	<b>1985-1992</b>	<b>1993-Present</b>		<b>Overall</b>
USGA Turfgrass Publications	Almost All	All	All	All	All		<b>All</b>
Turfgrass Books	Most	Most	Almost All	Almost All	Almost All		<b>Almost All</b>
Refereed Turfgrass Articles	Almost All	Almost All	Almost All	Almost All	Almost All		<b>Almost All</b>
Turfgrass Theses and Dissertations	Most	Most	Most	Most	Almost All		<b>Most</b>
Annual Turfgrass Research Reports		Some	Many	Many	Most		<b>Many</b>
Turfgrass Conference Proceedings		Some	Many	Many	Most		<b>Many</b>
Trade Magazine Turfgrass Articles	A Few	A Few	Many	Most	Most		<b>Most</b>
Professional Association Turfgrass Articles	Some	Some	Many	Most	Most		<b>Most</b>
Extension Turfgrass Publications	Some	Some	Some	Many	Many		<b>Many</b>
Turfgrass Newsletter Articles			A Few	Some	Many		<b>Many</b>
Popular (Public) Turfgrass Articles			A Few	Some	Some		<b>Some</b>
Website Turfgrass Articles					Many		<b>Many</b>
<b>Number of TGIF Records</b>	<b>10,100</b>	<b>22,700</b>	<b>20,800</b>	<b>27,200</b>	<b>119,300</b>		<b>200,100</b>



## Turfgrass Information Center

---

### *TGIF At-a-Glance*

**File Size:** Over 200,000 records as of April 2012

**Update Frequency:** Updated on a continuous basis; about 15,000 records are added per year

**Full Text Content:** Approximately 49% of TGIF records are linked to web-accessible full text or include full text. Of this 49%, roughly 5% have been identified as having secondary access restrictions.

### *Snapshot Status of TGIF*

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Descriptive Records	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Abstracted Records	52%	56%	57%	59%	72%
Indexed Records	60%	65%	69%	72%	57%
Indexed and Abstracted Records	49%	53%	55%	57%	32%
Full-text Available Records	46%	44%	42%	36%	33%
Full-text Searchable Records	22%	22%	21%	5%	-----
Full-text Available, Indexed, and Abstracted Records	24%	25%	25%	22%	16%
Full-text Available, Indexed, Abstracted Records, and Full-Text Searchable Records	14%	14%	13%	3%	3%

Descriptive records are the “base record” and contain general citation information like title, source, author, pagination, year, and any URL to the item. Because descriptive records are the first stage of processing, the number of completed descriptive records becomes the denominator for calculating all other percentages. After the descriptive record stage, items are moved to the abstracting/indexing stage. Here, items are manually reviewed, abstracts written for them, and keywords assigned using a controlled vocabulary. As the abstracting/indexing stage requires an understanding of the content of the item, this stage requires greater time to complete. Records with URLs are considered to have the full-text available. Records with the text of the item contained in the TGIF record are considered full-text searchable, since that text can be searched in TGIF directly. For full-text searchable records, there are two sources: periodicals which have been digitized by TIC and web source materials.

### *Characterizing the Full-Text Available Content within TGIF (end of 2011)*

**46%** Records with full-text availability

**4%** Records with full-text availability that may have secondary access restrictions

**25%** Records with full-text availability **provided** through MSU Libraries’ efforts

**14%** Records with restricted access but available to all TGIF users

**21%** Records with full-text **not provided** through MSU Libraries’ efforts

**12%** Links to periodical articles

**2%** Links to book-like items

**7%** Remaining links. These are to a variety of materials, including blueprints, databases, images, judgments, online presentations, patents, podcasts, and slide sets.