

Turfgrass
Information Center

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USGA Turfgrass Information File ■ O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection ■ James B Beard Turfgrass Library Collection

20 Years: 100,000 Records

The Turfgrass Information File celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2004. During January of 2005, the 100,000th record was created, a great way to honor 20 years of hard work.

TGIF has grown and evolved tremendously since its inception in 1984. From a primitive index with a minimal number of users and limited abilities, TGIF has grown exponentially over the years into a powerful database with thousands of users and now over 100,000 records.

TGIF initially began as a collective effort between the USGA and the MSU Libraries. MSU was chosen because of its already vast collection of turfgrass materials. Due largely to the generous financial support of the USGA, TGIF was off the ground in September of 1984 with the responsibility of producing an index and abstracting service for turfgrass literature to be made available internationally to everyone in the field of turfgrass.

Working with the database was not quite as easy to do in the '80s as it is now, either for employees of the Center or for users. Before the days of the World Wide Web, subscribers had to call or write the staff at TIC and request a search be done. The workers would perform the search and mail the results back to the

person who requested them. Later on they were able to be faxed.

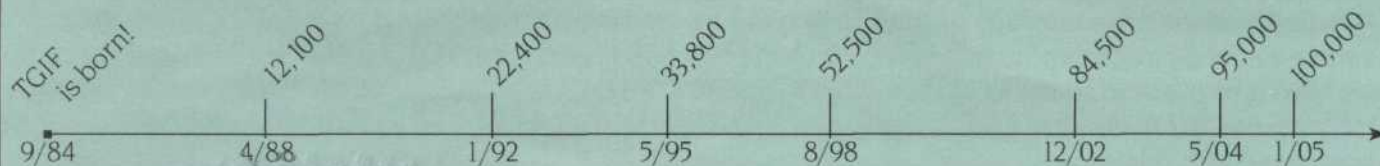
This was not exactly an ideal way to do library research. In the late '80s, subscribers could "dial in" to TGIF and perform a search on their own. Technology limitations of the era, however, greatly frustrated many users.

Just when it seemed there was not much hope for the future of the database, the Internet became available to the general public. Finally, there was a fast and efficient method for subscribers to instantly connect to the database and have access to each record.

Throughout all these eras, information has been indexed and records have been added to the database constantly; TGIF grows every day. The web interface is always being fine-tuned to make it more user-friendly. The database has undergone some amazing changes thanks to modern technology and the hard work and dedication of many employees of the Turfgrass Information Center, past and present. We also owe a thanks to the many donors from whom we obtained materials to index and add to the database and the funds with which to do it.

TGIF'S TIMELINE

The number of records in the database at given times throughout TGIF's existence.



Sponsorship of Dissertations and Theses

Over the past few years there has been a major push for the availability of full-text turf materials of all different kinds within TGIF. Currently, there are many different items available in full-text version, including all USGA Green Section Record articles back to 1921, and (excluding the latest two years of both) the complete back file of both the *Journal of Turfgrass Science* and, soon, the *International Turfgrass Bulletin*. Though we are thrilled that these materials are available in full-text form, we look forward to adding many more items to the list, including theses and dissertations. Doing so requires a great deal of funding, however, that is not always easy to come by. The costs associated with this effort include the permissions associated with copyright, digital scanning of each thesis or dissertation, indexing and abstracting the item within TGIF, and mounting and maintaining the digital file.

Over 700 items have been identified for inclusion thus far. We are seeking the support of anyone who is able to help with this initiative. Every donor would be recognized online with a short notification sentence stating: *Full-text availability of this item is made possible by the support of (Company or Foundation name)*. The name could be made into a hotlink to the organization's homepage. The cost associated with this effort is \$100/item.

Turfgrass Books Now Available Online

Just as TGIF has grown, so too has our user base and the needs of those users. Through the years we have constantly been working to increase the abilities and capacities of the database to make it more valuable to our users. We recognize that once a researcher finds an abstracted article that they are interested in, it's not always easy for them to obtain a hard copy of that entire article. To this end, we are taking the next step: beginning to make available the full-text versions of many pieces of turfgrass literature. This is a huge stride for the database and we're sure a very welcome addition for all of our subscribers.

While the vast majority of TGIF records are for articles, some of the books that may now be found online include, but are not limited to, *Grasses of North America for Farmers and Students* (1887) by William J. Beal, *The ABC of Turf Culture* (1928) by O.J. Noer, *Turf Diseases and Their Control* (1932) by John Monteith, Jr. and Arnold S. Dahl and *Turf for Golf Courses* (1917) by Charles V. Piper and Russell A. Oakley.

Log on to TGIF for the other full-text books that are available and watch for new titles, as more will continuously be added.

Next Generation TGIF Searching and Browsing Interfaces!

In the continuous stride towards a better TGIF, we are always taking into consideration the suggestions received from our users as well as our own criticisms in order to improve our services. To that end, users will find the "next generation" of TGIF searching and browsing interfaces incorporating some of the most asked-for features in addition to being simpler to navigate and more aesthetically pleasing.

One new feature is the default search results display. It has been moved from a short form of the record to a more space-efficient "brief table" form. This allows users to easily identify those materials available full-text as well as highlighting key information about the records.

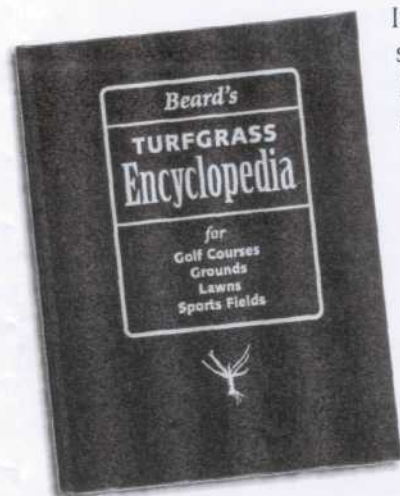
Another new search results display is Citation display. This enables a user to see a record or set of records displayed in a citation format like that used in *Crop Science* (ASA/CSA/SSSA). Further display changes include the replacement of the textual URL with a graphic, the ability to download results, and a link to view individual records from outside the database.

Additional enhancements include the ability to limit a search by sector, making searches more precise if information on golf courses or lawn care, for example, is all that is desired as well as complete overhauls of the Guided Search option and Browse Turf Topics for improved usability.

These are some major changes to TGIF and it is hoped it will improve users' satisfaction with the database. As always, we'd love to hear what people think about the new screens, new functions, errors in records, problems with searching or browsing, suggestions for further improvements, or just about anything! Located on nearly all screens inside TGIF now is a link to send us feedback. We look forward to hearing from you!

Happy searching!

Beard Writes Turfgrass Encyclopedia



In February 2005, the Michigan State University Press published Dr. James B Beard's seventh book, entitled *Beard's Turfgrass Encyclopedia for Golf Courses, Grounds, Lawns, & Sports Fields*. Dr. Beard's work encompasses a full spectrum of topics and range of uses which educators, researchers, scholars and scientists will find invaluable in their studies of the turfgrass field. Topic coverage and reference materials are exhaustive and defined for professionals worldwide who seek diagnosing problems and solutions in "real world" settings. Some subjects covered include: soils; pest management; a full spectrum of grass species and cultivars; ecology, microenvironment, cultural practices; entomology, pathology, physiology; and equipment. As the world's leading authority on Turfgrass research and education, Dr. Beard has written a consummate encyclopedia, making it a staple for Turfgrass programs and professionals worldwide.

The MSU Libraries is pleased to have been a partner in the release of this publication. See msupress.msu.edu to order this item.

Endowment Campaign Update: A Letter from the Director of MSU Libraries

The Turfgrass Information Center, which now celebrates 20 years, has met a series of challenges to become the established leader for turfgrass information. These have included:

- ✦ The assembling of the world's most comprehensive publicly available turfgrass literature collection. With the arrival of the James B Beard Collection to augment the O.J. Noer Collection, this has been accomplished.
- ✦ The need for a vehicle to assemble bibliographic records to enable students, researchers and practitioners to identify relevant turfgrass resources. The Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), which now includes records for more than 100,000 items, accomplishes this requirement.
- ✦ Easy access to the TGIF. A severe problem during the early years of TGIF, this is now readily addressed via Internet access.
- ✦ Retrieval of the complete article. While this cannot be accomplished in all cases, due to copyright protection for the original publisher, a substantial and ever growing corpus of direct full-text availability now exists within TGIF, including:
 - USGA Green Section Record
 - Journal of Turfgrass and Sports Surface Science
 - USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online
 - USGA Turfgrass Research Report Summaries

What then, if anything, is left to be accomplished? The only remaining challenge is the long-term financial viability of the Center, which is the rationale behind the Campaign to Endow the Turfgrass Information Center. The goal is to establish an endowment that produces an annual revenue flow sufficient to cover basic operational expenses of the Center. To date approximately 1.6 million dollars has been received, with outstanding pledges pushing that total in excess of 2.2 million within the next several years. However, current operational costs suggest that an endowment of 5 million will be required. **Therefore, we need your help to complete the second half of this campaign.** You, the users of TGIF, understand and appreciate the value and uniqueness of TGIF, as well as what it would mean if the lack of resources caused the function of the Center to cease or be reduced. So we ask that you consider working with us on an approach to individuals and organizations with which you are familiar to encourage their support for this campaign.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

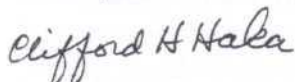
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Endowment Campaign Update

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If you have ideas or suggestions, or would simply like to discuss possibilities, please get in touch with Pete Cookingham or myself. Help us insure the future of reliable and comprehensive turfgrass information access by fully endowing the operation of the Turfgrass Information Center.

Thank you.



Clifford H. Haka
Director of the MSU Libraries,
Home of the Turfgrass
Information Center



the Sword

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Welcome Back Mike!

Michael Schury is the newest addition to the Turfgrass Information Center staff, working in a new position as the third full time staff member. Mike worked as a student for TIC a little over two years while finishing degrees in Accounting and Psychology. After becoming a 2002 MSU graduate, Mike worked full time in the Accounting field and continued his employment at TIC in a part time capacity.

During his tenure with the Center, Mike was an exceptional employee who displayed professionalism and maturity. He learned "the ropes" very quickly to become an invaluable student leader. Mike's involvement in a variety of projects on his own and with delegated individuals has impacted the database dramatically. In some way or another, Mike has worked directly on about 11% of all records in TGIF. That's over 11,000 records! This knowledge, leadership ability and strong work ethic became dominant points in his favor during the long interview process.

Mike's current duties include the project management of digitization efforts and overseeing website changes while assisting in the supervision of students. When asked his feelings on this brand new position, Mike commented that he is enjoying the immense variety of tasks and responsibilities that comes with working in a unit of only three staff members. Although this position may be less formally structured than those in the world of Accounting, he is happy to be back and we are very lucky to have him back! Congratulations Mike!