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NEWS!



Now you can visit us On FACEBOOK

Did you know TPI is now on **facebook**? Check out [our page](#) for the latest news about TPI events, informational videos, links to popular articles and other timely information.

TPI's **facebook** page will be updated regularly to bring our members and visitors worthwhile information about Turfgrass Producers International and the turfgrass industry so be sure to visit often. When you visit, click "LIKE" so you can be notified every time something of interest is posted.



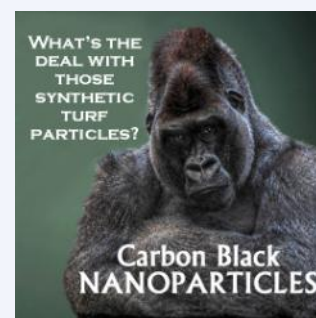
Recent FACEBOOK Postings



News about TPI's Summer Convention & Field Days In Asheville, North Carolina



Interesting insight Turf Mountain Sod, host farm for TPI's upcoming Field Days



YouTube video presents a montage of thought-provoking news clips regarding synthetic turf particles.



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GreenCare for Troops Hailed at the White House



Pictured at the White House are (from left) Project Evergreen Director Cindy Code, First Lady Michelle Obama, Senior Air Force Airman Kimberly Starr and Green Care for Troops Program Manager Joy Westenberg.



Project Evergreen board member and TURF NEWS editor Den Gardner with Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden.

Project EverGreen's "Green Care for Troops" program was recognized April 11 by the White House and First Lady Michelle Obama. The ceremony, which took place on the south lawn of the White House, was attended by Mrs. Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden. The event was part of the White House's Joining Forces Initiative.

"Our country's military families sacrifice so much for all of us on a daily basis, providing environmentally beneficial lawn and landscape services for them is the least we can do to provide them with a healthy yard so they can focus on their jobs and families," said Cindy Code, Project EverGreen executive director. "To have Project EverGreen's GreenCare for Troops program acknowledged by the White House is incredibly humbling and a testament to the importance of our organization and its programs."

GreenCare for Troops pairs military families with a family member currently deployed overseas with a local landscape contractor or volunteer to provide free lawn care and landscaping services.

The Joining Forces Initiative was a year-long program designed to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary efforts of citizens and organizations across the country that are working to improve the lives of military families. The initiative was also an opportunity to highlight some of the successful programs across the country and help spur others to create new programs to help even more families.

Project EverGreen was one of more than 300 organizations to enter the Joining Forces recognition contest. The contest was

narrowed down to 20 winners and a public comment period was opened to garner votes. GreenCare for Troops finished in the top 10 among the top 20 finalists who were invited to the White House.

"Jill and I are so proud of all of these finalists and the work that they have done for our military community," said Mrs. Obama, "Our military families demonstrate such strength, service and sacrifice every single day, and we're so grateful for everyone who is stepping up to give back to these families. The challenge winners are leading by example, and showing that all of us can find a way to serve those who serve us."

NBC News special correspondent Tom Brokaw, recognized the inspiring citizenship displayed through these programs and Mrs. Biden briefly described three of the 20 programs, including GreenCare for Troops.

Project EverGreen's GreenCare for Troops has seen tremendous growth since it began five years ago and shows no signs of slowing down. The program has served thousands of military families with free lawn care and landscape services across the entire country.

There is still a need for volunteers as currently more than 10,000 military families have signed up to receive services from GreenCare for Troops. More than 4,000 volunteers are registered to provide services, but more volunteers, labor and materials are needed. If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer or donating to the programs, visit www.projectevergreen.com/gcft.

GreenCare for Troops is underwritten by Cub Cadet.

SIDE NOTE: Turfgrass Producers International has been a long time supporter of Project Evergreen dating back to its inception and TPI's executive director, **Kirk Hunter** serves on the Project Evergreen Executive Board as Treasurer.

BROOKMEADE SOD FARM INC.

Congratulations!

BROOKMEADE SOD FARM in Doswell, Virginia receives 2012 "Special Recognition of an Agribusiness" Award.



(Left to right): Ginger Brooking, Eric Holter the Chairman of the Virginia Agribusiness Council Board of Directors, Louis Brooking, and Louie Brooking.

Our congratulations to TPI members Louis and Ginger Brooking of Brookmeade Sod Farm on being the proud recipients of the Virginia Agribusiness Council's 2012 "Special Recognition of an Agribusiness" award. The award was presented during a meeting of the Virginia Agribusiness Council Board of Directors in April.

Louis and Ginger Brooking started Brookmeade Sod Farm, Inc. in 1968. Today the farm operation includes 300 acres and 16 employees. Not only have the Brookings built a successful business, they have selflessly contributed to the agribusiness community in numerous ways including offering plots of land for research by the Turf Department at Virginia Tech and using their farm as an open-classroom to educate people about sod, seed, general lawn care and more.

The Virginia Agribusiness Council represents agricultural and forestry producers, suppliers, marketers, processors and commodity associations in the Commonwealth with a unified voice through its government affairs activities.

SIDE NOTE:

Louis Brooking served as TPI's president in 1994-95. In 2006 Louis and Ginger Brooking were the proud recipients of TPI's Distinguished Service Award.

Hose Pipe Ban Exemption —

Great news for the turf & landscape industry in parts of England

The seven water companies in the south and east of England have announced an exemption for the establishment of newly laid turf starting May 21, 2012. This applies to turf laid by professional installers.

Landscaping, turf and gardening businesses were made exempt from the 'hosepipe ban' after it was confirmed that record rainfall had reduced the severity of the ongoing water shortage in the south and east of England. The adjustment to the Temporary Use Bans imposed by Thames Water and six other companies will allow gardening businesses to use hosepipes to water newly laid turf and plants, for up to 28 days.

"From today they will be able to water where necessary to get new gardens, lawns and plants established, and their clients will be able to continue this for up to 28 days," said Thames Water's sustainability director, Richard Aylard.

The water companies have agreed to Codes of Practice with the Turfgrass Growers Association, the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA), the Association of Professional Landscapers (APL) and other landscape trade bodies to ensure that the minimum amount of water is used, and as wisely as possible.

**Where in the world is
TPI represented?
EVERYWHERE!**

An on-going series featuring photos and copy from TPI member websites.

TOTEX EOOD

**Manastirski Livadi- West District
Sofia, Bulgaria**

<http://www.totex.net/eng/about.php>



For over a decade TOTEX EOOD has been a leader in the landscaping business in Bulgaria, offering a wide range of products. Our image as a reliable partner has been enhanced by our innovative ideas and top quality products and services we offer as well as by our striving to meet all our clients' demands and requirements - no matter whether we are trimming a tiny backyard or fulfilling a large sophisticated project.

TOTEX EOOD was established in 1993 and has been specializing in landscaping and design of green fields as well as sale of grass mixtures. In 2000, TOTEX began producing turfgrass sod and today we are the biggest sod producer in Bulgaria. Carefully selected cultivars provide the mixture that can produce high quality turfgrass.

Our turfgrass sod is grown in advance throughout the year, designed for immediate and permanent establishment on all types of green fields. This is a modern and reliable approach, by which grounds get grassed promptly and easily.

TOTEX EOOD is a co-founder of the Bulgarian Association of Landscape Architects and the Landscape Architects Union in Bulgaria and a Member of the Turfgrass Producers International.



TOTEX is a proud member of Turfgrass Producers International



TurfSide-UP



**Is this any way to Diag-NOSE
a lawn problem?**

HELPFUL HINT—

If you hire a professional lawn care service to inspect your lawn and you see them crawling around on all fours sniffing the grass and doing a visual inspection like this, well, you just might want to consider giving them a doggy treat and switching to another lawn care provider.



Keeping It Simple

An easy to understand explanation of SUSTAINABILITY.

Sustainability is a catch phrase that's been going around for quite some time but there are so many varied definitions and explanations of how the word "Sustainability" is defined that we often scratch our head wondering who the writers are really trying to reach.

Project Evergreen offers an explanation that is so simple and so clear that even the average person on the street can understand. It reads:

"Sustainability is an ideal. It's a race without a finish line, and defining the term can be difficult, even among the many members of Project EverGreen. But here's what we can all agree on: Sustainability means we're leaving the planet, our communities and our environment better than when we found it. It means we're building companies that are responsible for planting thousands of trees, millions of flowers and acres of cool, refreshing green spaces.

We create environments that bring families, neighbors, and people of all sorts together. We build communities by shaping the natural world in such a way that our neighbors today, and future generations will look around and say— what a beautiful place this is."

Project Evergreen goes on to say . . .

"We don't intend to define sustainability. We'll leave that to others. What we do want to do is give consumers an opportunity to see the depth and breath of the commitment by the Green Industry to create a sustainable environment for its customers and its employees."

Although Project Evergreen suggests they don't intend to define sustainability they do just that; and they do it very, very well.

For more information about Project Evergreen you can visit their website at: <http://projectevergreen.com/>



Big brother Talon sits at the controls while his younger brother Teagan wonders how long it would take to cut two acres of grass if this was a miniature lawn mower?

You CAN have a beautiful lawn without pampering it!

The location of this photo is some 200 miles southwest of Chicago, Illinois. The two boys playing on the lawn happen to be the sons of Kirk and Lori Hunter. That's Talon on the left and Teagan on the right.

Of interest is the nice looking lawn on which the boys are playing. Their dad, Kirk Hunter, TPI's executive director reports that the lawn on his family farm (which covers some two plus acres) only receives a once-a-week mowing during the summer. That's it! The lawn has never been treated with pesticides; nor has it ever received any fertilizer treatment. In fact, Hunter reports that the only irrigation the lawn has ever received over the last 30 plus years is whatever rain Mother Nature has provided. Proof you CAN have a beautiful lawn without pampering it!