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Turfgrass Producers International  
2 East Main Street  
East Dundee, IL 60118  
Tel: 847/649-5555  
Tel: 800/405-8873  
Fax: 847/649-5678  
Email:  
[info@TurfGrassSod.org](mailto:info@TurfGrassSod.org)  
Website:  
[www.TurfGrassSod.org](http://www.TurfGrassSod.org)  
Comments & Submissions:  
[jnovak@TurfGrassSod.org](mailto:jnovak@TurfGrassSod.org)

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## HELP SPREAD THE WORD THE BENEFITS OF TURFGRASS!

APRIL is...  
**National Lawn Care Month**



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT INSTITUTE

Be sure to promote April is . . . National Lawn Care Month on your website and social media. On page 12 we have provided several links made available by our friends at the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) that are a great resource of Information you can share.



Alessandra Nuñez, account executive with Balsera Communications, the agency representing the National Hispanic Landscape Alliance (NHLA), reached out to the National Landscape Professionals Association (NALP) and the partnering organizations requesting they be copied in all emails pertaining to content and materials to be shared on social media for National Lawn Care Month.

The agency will be posting the material on behalf of NHLA, NALP, Turfgrass Producers International, The Lawn Institute, the Irrigation Association and the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute.

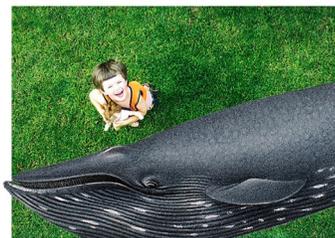
Our thanks to NHLA and to Ralph Egues, executive director for their support.

APRIL is...  
**National Lawn Care Month**

## A REAL WHALE OF A FACT!

Lawns trap an estimated 12 million tons of dust and dirt from the air each year. How much is 12 million tons? Imagine a Blue Whale, the largest animal on earth can weigh 150 tons. It would take 80,000 Blue Whales to weigh 12 million tons.

(SOURCE: Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development)



<http://www.TheLawnInstitute.org/>



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT INSTITUTE

For graphics available for downloading visit:  
<http://www.thelawninstitute.org/pages/april-is-national-lawn-care-month/>

## Across New Jersey and U.S., once revolutionary turf fields now show signs of 'defect'

BY CHRISTOPHER BAXTER AND MATTHEW STANMYRE  
NJ Advance Media

Work finished on a pristine artificial turf field at Highland Park High School in New Jersey in 2008 was the jewel of a \$1.5 million project paid through a grant from Middlesex County.

Two years later, the varsity football coach, Rich McGlynn, noticed something unusual. “You would get pieces in your sock, and your shoes would be covered with it,” McGlynn said. “You’d have to come in and stomp your feet, and you’d have all green from the turf.”

Now in its eighth year, the surface at Highland Park may still be green, but it behaves like a grass field choked by an August drought. The fibers have cracked, split, frayed and become matted across a thinning playing field.

Those were the conditions of hundreds of fields across the country that FieldTurf, the self-proclaimed leader in artificial turf, has deemed defective. According to company officials, the turf — known as Duraspine — was not made properly by their supplier to withstand UV radiation. That caused the grass fibers to prematurely deteriorate, sometimes in as little as two to three years.

The supplier denied the allegation, settled a lawsuit with FieldTurf and admitted no wrongdoing.

As part of a six-month investigation, NJ Advance Media surveyed 50 Duraspine fields in eight counties across New Jersey and found nearly all had deterioration consistent with FieldTurf’s description of the defect as detailed by its officials in the lawsuit. Not a single coach or official said they were aware of Duraspine’s problems elsewhere.

Reporters surveyed five locations on each field — in high-traffic and low-traffic areas — while also examining colored fibers such as white and yellow lines. Then, using aerial imagery, NJ Advance Media compared fields over time to approximate when deterioration began.

To further its analysis, NJ Advance Media shared images of New Jersey fields with officials elsewhere in the



**Nearly all of the 50 FieldTurf Duraspine fields surveyed in New Jersey, including the gridiron at Highland Park High School, (pictured above) showed conditions consistent with what company officials have deemed a defect.**

(Andre Malok/NJ Advance Media)

country who had fields replaced under warranty by FieldTurf because of premature deterioration. They said the New Jersey fields showed the same problems.

“The turf itself is desolate,” McGlynn said. “As much as it looks full — it’s not.”

In a statement, FieldTurf officials said the company has not replaced any Duraspine fields in New Jersey as a result of the premature deterioration seen elsewhere in the U.S. And, the officials said, many of the fields had outlasted their eight-year warranties and resulted in satisfied and repeat customers.

“To the best of our knowledge, 100 percent of our installed Duraspine fields in New Jersey have made it through their warranty period and will be used into their ninth year and beyond,” FieldTurf officials said in the statement, noting an “important difference” between normal wear and tear and a defect.

The investigation found Duraspine fields generally began showing wear within four years, sometimes even earlier. For example, in 2007, FieldTurf executives observed deterioration on New Jersey fields after only one or two years of use. Newer Duraspine fields, installed in 2009 or later, looked best at first glance.

Cont’d on next page

### Revolutionary turf fields now show signs of 'defect' - cont'd

A close inspection, however, revealed cracking, matting and fraying. Fibers, especially the colors, had begun to break. Fields at this stage included Sylvester Land Field in Roselle, installed in 2010, and Ramapo High School in Franklin Lakes and Indian Hills High School in Oakland, in 2009.

At 8 years old, when most warranties expire, deterioration becomes more evident to the eye. Split fibers are more widespread, and the turf breaks more easily and has thinned out, showing more rubber infill. The fields are matted, loose fibers are strewn about and lines are disappearing.

These fields included Highland Park, Malcolm X Shabazz High School in Newark, as well as Boonton, Scotch Plains-Fanwood, Ewing, Wayne Hills and Wayne Valley high schools.

Darnell Grant, the varsity football coach at Shabazz, said. "My field is totally matted. It's more like carpet than anything else."

At 9 and 10 years old, Duraspine fields look significantly degraded. Large swaths of black infill show where the fibers have sheared off and broken away. Many colored fibers have disintegrated. Deterioration and matting are widespread, whether in the field of play or elsewhere. Among the worst in New Jersey, the Glenside Avenue field in Summit, as well as New Providence, Livingston, Summit and both West Windsor-Plainsboro high schools, all installed in 2007. Also, Hackensack, Mahwah and Governor Livingston (Berkeley Heights) high schools, from 2006.

"It definitely is coming off on people's shoes and things like that," said Art Cattano, assistant football coach for New Providence, where aerial images show deterioration in about 2012. "We started noticing that definitely like last year, even when kids would come in from phys ed class."

Superintendent David Miceli said he was unaware of any issues with the field. "I think the estimated useable life was 10 to 12 years," Miceli said.

While FieldTurf's standard warranty guaranteed its fields would be free from defects for eight years, its marketing for Duraspine touted an expected lifetime of 10 or more years.

Aerial images show fiber deterioration at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North and South in about 2010, when they were 3 years old, with the problem advancing by 2013. The warranties on the turfs, part of a \$2.4 million field renovation project, expired last year.

Fibers at Governor Livingston were deteriorating in about 2010, when the field was 4 years old, aerial images show. The images also depict Hackensack High School's fibers deteriorating in about 2014, when the field was 8 years old. Warranties for 2006 fields expired in 2014.

None of the coaches or local officials in New Jersey were aware of Duraspine's problems elsewhere in the country, largely because FieldTurf executives never told most customers about them and never inspected or monitored every field to keep watch specifically for the admitted defect.

FieldTurf officials said in a statement they handled the problem on a case-by-case basis.

In New Jersey, the company officials said, 95 percent of fields installed in 2006 lasted the warranty period (one field was replaced, but not because of the problems with Duraspine). They added that 82 percent lasted 10 or more years and 70 percent are entering their 11th season. There are no known lawsuits stemming from New Jersey, and there are happy customers.

Tim Fell, head football coach at the private Morristown-Bear School, said the company was responsive to problems they had with their turf and quick to make repairs. Ryan Miller, the athletic director at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, said he would buy from the company again. "We were very happy with what we got out of FieldTurf," Miller said.

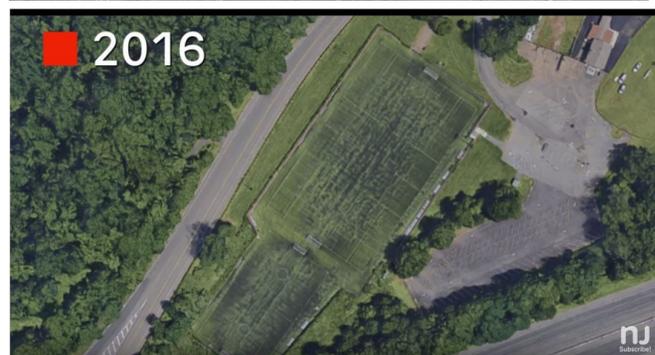
###

See time lapse images and related photos on the next page.

Cont'd on next page

Revolutionary turf fields now show signs of 'defect' - cont'd

The story reported by Baxter and Stanmyre on the previous pages addresses the plight of artificial fields in New Jersey but it still leaves a good number of questions. Are artificial turf fields worth the investment? Should communities spend millions of dollars to use plastic turf as alternative to natural grass? How does a community deal with discontent, and who is responsible if a product is perceived to have failed? And most importantly . . . What is the definition of product failure? Communities, school districts and key decision-makers need to consider a good number of questions, including the most important one — what is this really going to cost us? - Jimi Novak





## PROJECT EVERGREEN JOINS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TO SPRUCE UP CHARLOTTE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND

As part of its “Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids.™” Initiative, Project EverGreen partnered with Ruppert Landscape and Habitat for Humanity to donate a landscaping face-lift to the Reid Park Community Playground in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The project included planting over 300 new ornamental shrubs and several Maple shade trees, plus weeding, mulching, and installing walkway edging and kid-safe playground mulch – all to provide Reid Park with an enhanced and improved environment for families in the community.

Plants, trees, mulch materials and crew services were donated by Ruppert Landscape and Lowe’s Home Improvement donated permanent steel walkway border edging and rubber playground safety mulch. The combined in-kind donations of materials and labor totaled nearly \$21,000.

Reid Park’s community playground serves nearly 1,000 residents and provides a green, healthy outdoor exercise environment that also includes a stage and bleachers for children’s arts, crafts, education, presentations, and entertainment.

“Our mission is to preserve and enhance green spaces where we live, work and play and the ‘Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids.’ Initiative spearheads those efforts,” says Cindy Code, executive director of Project EverGreen. “Parks, athletic fields and recreational play areas are vital to healthy, thriving communities. One of the ways we demonstrate our commitment is by mobilizing local green industry contractor volunteers and corporate partners to donate their time, treasure and talents to make this valuable initiative possible.”

Recently conducted national consumer research, sponsored by Project EverGreen, identified the need to bring people together to make a difference in how our yards, parks and communities contribute to creating a greener, cooler, and healthier earth.

Some of the social, economic and lifestyle benefits recreational and athletic green spaces provide include:

- **Trees, shrubs and turfgrass remove smoke, dust and other pollutants from the air. One tree can remove 26 pounds of carbon dioxide annually.**
- **Natural grass recharges and filters the ground-water supply and reduces storm water runoff.**
- **Not only does your lawn release oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide, it lowers temperatures caused by soil and hard surfaces.**
- **Lawns can be 31 degrees cooler than asphalt and 20 degrees cooler than bare soil.**
- **Green spaces improve mental functioning and physical well-being. In fact, residents of areas with the highest levels of greenery were 40 percent less likely to be overweight or obese compared to those living in less green space.**
- **The proper placement of just three trees around a home reduces interior house temperatures, allow air conditioning units to run more efficiently and offer homeowners \$100 to \$250 in savings annually.**

For more information on how you can start a revitalization project in your community, visit: [www.ProjectEverGreen.org](http://www.ProjectEverGreen.org) or call 877.758.4835.

### About Project EverGreen

Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, Project EverGreen ([www.ProjectEverGreen.org](http://www.ProjectEverGreen.org)) is a national non-profit organization committed to creating a greener, cooler earth by supporting the creation, renovation and revitalization of managed recreational and athletic green spaces that result in healthier, happier people. Project EverGreen’s initiatives include GreenCare for Troops, SnowCare for Troops and the “Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids.”™

## IS SUBSURFACE DRIP IRRIGATION THE ANSWER TO WATER CONSERVATION?

Researchers at New Mexico State University plan to answer that question.

As reported by Newswire - NMSU

Researchers at the New Mexico State University College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences are determining methods to improve irrigation efficiency and they have reason to believe that subsurface irrigation may be the solution to wasted water and high water costs.

NMSU Extension Turfgrass Specialist Bernd Leinauer said subsurface drip irrigation, in particular, is the newest method in turfgrass efficiency. Leinauer has been the lead on two recent projects that will further test these research findings: A subsurface drip irrigation system in several tee boxes at The Club golf course in Las Campanas in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The project is a collaboration among NMSU, Las Campanas, United States Golf Association and irrigation manufacturers Toro and Rain Bird. USGA awarded NMSU a grant to assist with the research at the golf course.

They are also conducting an irrigation efficiency study at the City of Albuquerque's Paradise Meadows Park. While half of the park will use a traditional sprinkler-type watering system, NMSU will oversee the other half of the park, on which a subsurface drip irrigation system has been installed. Leinauer approached Albuquerque Parks and Recreation with the idea of replacing above ground sprinklers with underground drip irrigation and the city was receptive to his proposal.

"Although subsurface drip irrigation has been used in agriculture for decades, it's just making its way into the turfgrass industry," Leinauer said. "And it's the only system that limits irrigation to exactly the area that needs to be irrigated."

Regarding Paradise Meadow Park he commented, "We're able to take our research findings and implement them in a park which is significantly larger than test plots or traditional residential turfgrass areas. For the funding agencies that have supported our research in water conservation, it is particularly important to document that technology not only works in a research setting but can be successfully scaled up to real world situations."



In the next three to five years, NMSU researchers and City of Albuquerque officials should find out if the subsurface drip irrigation system helped conserve water. In addition to irrigation efficiency, NMSU research is also focusing on salt and drought tolerance. Leinauer said there's been a shift to new types of waters with higher salinity levels, such as saline ground water, treated effluent or recycled water.

"In the future, having grasses available that can tolerate higher salt concentrations in the water and in the soil will become paramount to keeping green grass in urban settings," Leinauer said. "Therefore, we need to screen for salt tolerance in addition to screening for drought tolerance in new grasses."

To see a video on this project go to: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rm\\_zVU9Inz0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rm_zVU9Inz0)



Screen capture from New Mexico State University video of irrigation installation at Albuquerque's Paradise Meadows Park.

## Golf's Economic Contribution

**Golf Industry Worth \$3.9 Billion to Arizona**

A new study by University of Arizona Cooperative Extension and the UA's Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics says the Arizona golf industry contributed \$3.9 billion in sales to the state's economy in 2014 while using only 1.9 percent of the state's fresh-water.

"I expected the numbers. But this is something we talk about on a regular basis — the impact of golf on the economy," said Lonnie Lister, general manager of Tucson's Skyline Country Club and vice president of the Club Managers Association of America, Greater Southwest Chapter.

Lister was one of hundreds of golf industry employees from courses around the state who participated in a survey as part of the study, done by Dari Duval, Ashley Kerna and George Frisvold — members of Cooperative Extension's economic impact analysis team, along with Extension turfgrass specialist Kai Umeda.

The team worked with the Cactus & Pine Golf Course Superintendents Association to get the survey out to those working in the industry — especially club managers, course superintendents and club professionals.

Cooperative Extension, part of the UA's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, agreed with those in the golf industry, the governor's office and several state water agencies that there was a need for updated figures. Previously, the most recent analysis of the golf industry had been done for 2004.

"Part of the idea of the survey was to understand the industry better, and also for the industry to portray what they do for the state economy, how many jobs they support, how much revenue they generate, how they're using water and how they're adopting different conservation practices," Frisvold said. The board president of Cactus & Pine said his eyes were opened by the results.

"As far as economic contribution, \$3.9 billion (is the) total direct and indirect from the industry," said Rory Van Poucke, who is also the general manager of Apache Sun Golf Club in Queen Creek, Arizona.



"That's what really sticks out to me. That's with a 'B,' not an 'M.' And the revenue directly, just from golf courses alone, is \$1.1 billion." Other numbers from the study also stood out to him. "Golf facilities employ about 18,700 full and part time, and when you look at all facets of golf — hotels, restaurants, etc., the total number of jobs is about 43,000," Van Poucke said.

"People just don't realize what a huge impact golf has on the state of Arizona and what an integral part golf is to our economy."

Umeda, the turfgrass agent, said, "The turf industry and growing grass is a big attractant for visitors that come to the state to play golf, recreate, or go to watch golf and other sports."

Dr. David Kopec and Dr. Paul Brown have looked at turfgrass and irrigation practices for years, sharing research with those in the golf industry such as Van Poucke. "We really dug deep with the University of Arizona," Van Poucke said. "We worked with Kai and David Kopec, George Frisvold and Paul Brown. They're doing research in new grass that is more drought tolerant, that can take higher salt in water. We need that research. It's a great partnership to get the word out about golf in the state of Arizona. We're cutting edge with the University. We get education through Extension about new technology and research."

Umeda said the industry doesn't get enough credit for being environmentally conscious. "The industry uses so little water, but it's perceived as wasting water," Umeda said. "They are generating an economic return for the state, which it turns out is a \$3.9 billion business. People may not understand what the golf course superintendents do — when they are trying to conserve water and use it judiciously."

The full study of the UA Cooperative Extension report is available [here](https://cals.arizona.edu/arec/publication/contribution-golf-industry-arizona-economy-2014).

<https://cals.arizona.edu/arec/publication/contribution-golf-industry-arizona-economy-2014>

## Sports Turf Managers Association Announced Fourth Annual 'Mowing Patterns Contest' Winner

*Dayton Dragons Groundskeeper Marks Third Minor League Baseball Recipient*



Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) – the professional organization for 2,600 men and women who manage sports fields worldwide who are critical to the safety of athletes and coaches – announced the winner of their fourth annual "Mowing Patterns Contest" earlier this year. The winner was Britt Barry, Sports Turf Manager at the Dayton Dragons (Dayton, Ohio).

Barry was selected via a Facebook voting contest for his intricate design at Fifth Third Field, home to the Dayton Dragons, Single-A affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds.

"Britt continues to pave the way for the sports turf industry by producing stunning mowing patterns," says Kim Heck, CAE, CEO of STMA. "He has managed to strike the perfect balance of safety, playability and visual appeal at Fifth Third Field."

Formerly the Head Groundskeeper at the Lexington Legends, the Single-A affiliate of the Kansas City Royals, Barry's impressive resume includes previous stints with the Brooklyn Cyclones, Dragons and the New York Mets.

He graduated from Wilmington College of Ohio with a bachelor's degree in agriculture and agronomy.

Barry will be included in a future issue of SportsTurf, STMA's official monthly publication. His design was also featured on a custom poster at the 2017 STMA Conference & Exhibition in Orlando, Florida in January.



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For more information visit the Landmark Turf & Native Seed website:  
<http://www.landmarkturfandnativeseed.com/products/sod-blends-mixtures/>





**WESTERN CANADA  
TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION**  
RESEARCH EDUCATION DISCUSSION

## Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation Awards Services Contract to Western Canada Turfgrass Association

The Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation (CTRF), a federation of organizations from across Canada that is committed to funding research that assists turf production, golf and sports field turf management, announced that the Western Canada Turfgrass Association (WCTA) has been selected to provide administrative services to the CTRF.

The selection process began last year with circulation of an RFP followed by committee review of submissions and a final decision made by the CTRF Board.

A comprehensive contract was developed, outlining duties, responsibilities and expectations of the service provider.

"We're very pleased to have ratified the service agreement for the WCTA to provide administrative services to the CTRF," stated Christian Pilon, CTRF Chair, adding, "We look forward to a strong relationship with the WCTA that will benefit turfgrass research as a whole."

WCTA's current Past President, Jason Pick stated at the time, "As a primary mandate of the WCTA, encouraging scientific process and contributing to turfgrass research has been our priority. Sharing this passion with the CTRF, our alignment promises to foster continued investment, to the betterment of our turfgrass industry."

Transition from the current service provider, the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, began in December of 2016.

**For more information contact:**  
**Jerry Rousseau, WCTA Executive Director –**  
**exec.director@wctaturf.com**



# LANDSCAPE LOWDOWN

BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS

## SIX STEPS TO A HEALTHY LAWN

Video produced by the NALP (National Association of Landscape Professionals) builds additional awareness during April is...National Lawn Care Month.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umTOM7Rlczc>



How do you get a healthy green lawn? Missy Henriksen, vice president of public affairs for NALP breaks it down with six simple tips in this informative video for the average homeowner.

*APRIL is...*  
**National  
Lawn Care  
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K FILE #173

TURFGRASS

PROBLEM | CHLORIDE-INDUCED TURF BURN

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SULFATE SULFUR	<b>17%</b>	0%
POTASSIUM	<b>50%</b>	60%
VERSATILITY	<b>Turf Granular Mini Granular Greens Grade Soluble Fines</b>	Limited
ORGANIC CERTIFICATION	<b>OMRI CDFA</b>	No
BEST VALUE	<b>✓</b>	X

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### THE NEED FOR POTASSIUM

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Known as the 4th major nutrient, sulfur serves many essential functions in turf growth, such as chlorophyll formation and enzyme activation<sup>2</sup>. With Protassium+, turfgrass receives 17% of readily available sulfate sulfur, rather than elemental sulfur, which can take weeks or months to convert.



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Potassium has a strong influence on improving turfgrass drought tolerance, cold hardiness and disease resistance<sup>3</sup>. Containing 50% K, Protassium+ can help cultivate durable, resilient turf<sup>4</sup>.



### THE BENEFITS OF PROTASSIUM+

If poor water quality is present or high salinity exists, Protassium+ is beneficial. With virtually no chloride and a low salt index, Protassium+ does not deposit additional salts into the soil.

\*Lower salt index has higher level of safety.

©2017 Compass Minerals. All rights reserved. <sup>1</sup> Nutrient Removal by Major Vegetable Crops Grown on Calcareous Soils in Texas. Jifon, L. John, 2010. <http://www.protassiumplus.com/knowledge-center/post/nutrient-removal-and-replenishment> <sup>2</sup> Stewart, Dr. W.M. (Mike), "Sulfur--The 4th Major Nutrient," IPNI Plant Nutrition TODAY, Spring, 2010, No. 7, <http://www.ipni.net/iplnt> <sup>3</sup> Turfgrass Fertilization: A Basic Guide for Professional Turfgrass Managers' Center for Turfgrass Science, Penn State University. <http://plantscience.psu.edu/research/centers/turf/extension/factsheets/turfgrass-fertilization-professional/pot> <sup>4</sup> "The Protassium+ Difference." GCI. Golf Course Industry, 20 Apr. 2016. <http://www.golfcourseindustry.com/article/protassium-sulfate-turf-health/>



For more information visit the Compass Minerals website at: <http://www.compassminerals.com/>



APRIL is...

# National Lawn Care Month



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## SPREAD THE WORD!

A big THANK YOU to Lisa Shaunmann, director of communications for the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) for sharing the following Tool Kit links that can help everyone promote — **April is . . . National Lawn Care Month.**

**Download Now!**



### Grassroots toolkit for Lawn Care Month

<https://www.landscapeprofessionals.org/nalp/nalp/national-lawn-care-month.aspx>

### Resources page for lawn care operators

<https://www.landscapeprofessionals.org/nalp/nalp/membership/lawn-care.aspx>

### LoveYourLandscape.org with lots of great articles

<https://www.loveyourlandscape.org/expert-advice/lawn-care/>

### New Lawn Care inspiration gallery

<https://www.loveyourlandscape.org/idea-center/lawn-gallery/>

### New careers site w/great video on what a lawn care tech does

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6f2u2A0DiD0>

### Six steps to a healthy lawn video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umTOM7Rlczc>



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## TURF'S BEST FRIEND JUST MIGHT BE . . . A DOG

The TurfMutt environmental education and stewardship program created by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute's (OPEI) Research and Education Foundation has reached more than 62 million children, educators and families since 2009.

Through classroom materials developed with Scholastic, TurfMutt teaches students and teachers how to "save the planet, one yard at a time."

In 2017, TurfMutt will once again appear on the Lucky Dog show, and TurfMutt's personal, home habitat will be featured in the 2017 Wildlife Habitat Council calendar.

The TurfMutt program will debut the first-ever National TurfMutt Teacher Award this spring and send one lucky teacher to the National Science Teachers Association

(NSTA) annual conference. An elementary school will win a \$10,000 grant in the annual "Be a Backyard Superhero" contest, and thousands of children in grades K-5 will learn science and how to take care of the environment.



TurfMutt is an education resource at the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Green Apple, the Center for Green Schools, the Outdoors Alliance for Kids, the National Energy Education Development (NEED) project, Climate Change Live, Petfinder and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

<http://www.scholastic.com/turfmutt/parents/>

## TurfSide-UP

### HEY! LET'S TRY THIS!

Sometimes you come across an image that, well quite frankly, makes you comfortable in knowing you're actually smarter than a lot of other people. And it's not just the guy that's hanging by those suspension straps that has an IQ lower than a doorknob, you have to wonder about his gifted assistant who is controlling this operation.



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A THOUSAND THANKS TO A THOUSAND FANS

**facebook**

## MORE THAN A THOUSAND THANKS

TPI's FACEBOOK page has exceeded **1100** followers.

To visit the TPI Facebook page click on the graphic to the left or go to <https://www.facebook.com/TurfgrassProducersInternational>.

You don't have to be a Facebook subscriber to visit the page. If you are already a Facebook subscriber, be sure to click **LIKE**.



## NEW FEDERAL PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION RULES

Earlier this year the pesticide applicator certification regulations the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were finalized and [published in the Federal Register](#) and became effective March 6, 2017.

These regulations are the last of several regulatory packages affecting landscape professionals pushed through the regulatory process in the last two years of the Obama Administration.

Although the regulations will soon be final and official, it could up to be five years before landscape contractors will see the impact of the rules. State governments administer the pesticide certification programs on behalf of EPA under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

### What will the new pesticide rules do?

According to EPA, the new regulations will:

- Enhance applicator competency standards to ensure that registered use pesticides (RUPs) are used safely.
- Establish a nationwide minimum age (18) for certified applicators and persons working under their direct supervision.

- Establish a maximum recertification interval of five years for commercial and private applicators.
- Require specialized certifications for people using specific application methods (fumigation and aerial).
- Establish protection for noncertified applicators by requiring training before they can use RUPs (under the direct supervision of a certified applicator). Noncertified applicators have to complete the training outlined in the rule, Complete Worker.
- Protection Standard handler training, or complete a program approved by the state.
- Clarify and streamline requirements for states, tribes, and federal agencies to administer their own certification programs, while granting flexibility to tailor programs to the needs of each state, tribe or federal agency.

**A helpful comparison of the current rules and the new rules appears on the following page.**

Each state has one agency that works cooperatively with the U.S. EPA to enforce federal pesticide regulations and respond to potential complaints. If you are concerned about how the new regulations will affect your business, get in touch with the agency in your state that's responsible for pesticide applicator certification. The link below to the National Pesticide Information Center will provide you with a direct link to your State Pesticide Regulatory Agency.

[http://npic.orst.edu/reg/state\\_agencies.html](http://npic.orst.edu/reg/state_agencies.html)

U.S. EPA CERTIFICATION OF PESTICIDE APPLICATORS RULE  
COMPARISON OF THE MAJOR 2016 REVISIONS TO THE EXISTING RULE

FINAL RULE	CURRENT RULE
<b>Certified Applicators</b>	
<b>Strengthen competency standards</b> for private applicators to cover content necessary for safe application of RUPs, similar to commercial applicator core competency plus agricultural pest control.	Private applicator competency standards cover 5 general topics.
<b>Establish certification categories</b> for certain application methods (soil fumigation, non-soil fumigation, aerial application) for private and commercial applicators.	Private applicators: no categories of certification Commercial applicators: no additional certification to use certain application methods.
<b>Establish a mandatory 5-year certification period</b> for private and commercial applicators; recertification must ensure applicator's continued competency through continuing education or retesting.	No federal requirements for recertification (timeframe or content).
<b>Eliminate special process</b> to allow non-readers to be certified as private applicators.	Non-readers can be certified to use restricted use pesticides under a special process administered by the state.
<b>Noncertified Applicators Working Under the Direct Supervision of Certified Applicators</b>	
<b>Require annual pesticide safety training</b> for noncertified applicators using RUPs similar to the training for handlers under the Worker Protection Standard (safety, proper pesticide application techniques, responding to spills, protecting oneself, others and the environment). Alternatives to training under the rule include completing WPS handler training or meeting state-specific requirements.	No requirement for instruction in safety, proper pesticide application techniques, responding to spills, protecting oneself, others and the environment.
Require the supervising applicator to <b>provide specific instructions</b> related to application and ensure that the noncertified applicator has access to a copy of the labeling at the time of application.	Supervising applicator must provide general guidance on applying a specific pesticide.
Require supervising certified applicator to provide means for <b>immediate communication</b> with noncertified applicator.	Supervising applicator must provide noncertified applicator with instructions on how to contact the supervisor in the event he or she is needed.
<b>Minimum Age</b>	
Require all persons using restricted use pesticides to be <b>at least 18 years old</b> (private applicators, commercial applicators, noncertified applicators). <i>Exception</i> for minimum age of at least 16 years old for noncertified applicator on a farm under the supervision of a private applicator who is a member of the noncertified applicator's immediate family.	No minimum age to use restricted use pesticides.
<b>Program Administration</b>	
Require candidates for certification (exam and training) and recertification by exam to <b>present government-issued identification or state-established equivalent</b> . Require states to <b>verify identity</b> of candidates for recertification by training, continuing education, or workshop (not exam).	No identification required for persons seeking certification to apply restricted use pesticides.
Require certification exams to be <b>proctored</b> and <b>only approved materials may be used during exams</b> .	Certification exams must be written.
Require dealers of restricted use pesticides to <b>maintain records of sales</b> .	No requirement for dealers of restricted use pesticides to maintain records.

For additional information on the revisions to the Certification of Pesticide Applicators rule, please visit:

[www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety](http://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety)

