

TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL

March/April E-Newsletter

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May

National Turfgrass Federation
Washington, D.C. 5/21 - 5/22

July

Texas Turfgrass Summer Conf.
Cedar Creek, TX. 7/15 - 7/17

Wisconsin Sod Producers
Field Day
Union Grove, WI. 7/19

August

Western Canada Turfgrass
Association
Alberta, Canada. 8/23



TPI Partners with FleishmanHillard to Begin Market Research and Public Relations Campaign on Natural Turfgrass





A Second Act: Phase II of the Pingree Park Makeover Set for June 8-9, 2018

Businesses, City of Detroit and Residents Will Come Together Again to Renovate Pingree Park and Further the Tide of Change

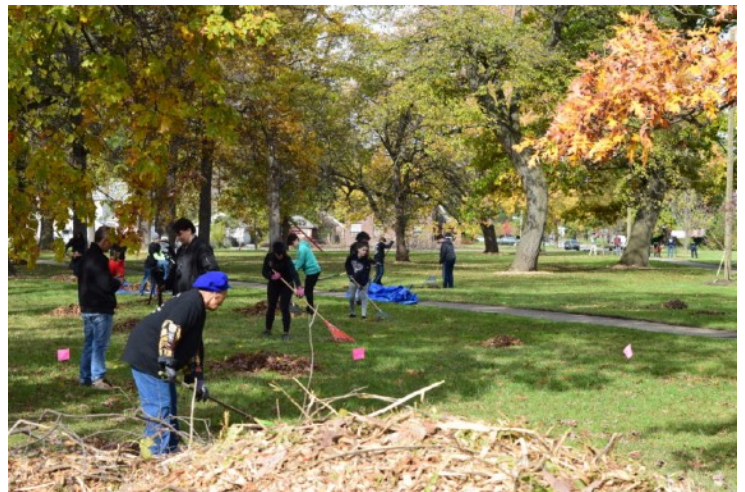


Cleveland, Ohio (April 4, 2018) – The seeds, both literal and figurative, that were planted last November at Detroit’s Pingree Park will start to grow again on June 8-9 when [Project EverGreen](#) and its partners begin phase II of the park’s renovations.

New walkways and a natural landscape amphitheater will be added to the 18-acre park on the Detroit’s east side that received an extensive makeover last fall. The initial phase of the project included updated landscaping for beauty and safety, renovating sports fields with improved grass surfaces, reviving welcoming gathering spaces and pruning old trees for safety reasons and to provide much-needed shade in the heat of the summer.

In addition to the environmental benefits to the park, the renovation project provides Pingree Park residents with better access, increased safety and community pride, creates a central community hub for people to gather and connect, boosts the health and well-being of the neighborhood and its residents, raises home values, and serves as a spark for nearby community development.

The project is a collaborative effort between Detroit area businesses, green industry suppliers and Project EverGreen,



Local businesses and Pingree Park neighbors clean up tree debris from pruning in the park



whose mission is to bring people together to make a difference in their communities through greener, healthier cooler parks that capture carbon and results in cleaner air.

In Detroit, Magna International donated the initial seed money to get the project off the ground and has been joined by Lear Corporation, Quicken Loans and Meijer. Together, these companies have donated \$176,000 to the Pingree Park project.

Green industry suppliers, who have contributed financially and in-kind, to the project include: Advanced Turf Solutions, BASF, Billy Goat, Cool Planet, Emery Agro Green, Greenworks, Kujo Yard Wear, Lush Lawn, Nufarm, PBI-Gordon, Real Green Systems, Spring-Green, Superior Groundcover, The Davey Tree Expert Co., Sipcam Agro, Sport Field Solutions, Troy Clogg Landscape Associates, Turf Systems, United Turf Alliance and Weed Man.

“Pingree Park and the people living in the surrounding community are the real winners,” says Cindy Code, executive director of Project EverGreen. “With generous financial and in-kind support, this park will get a much-needed facelift. The improved park space will result in a greener, healthier, cooler park, functioning as the lungs of the neighborhood.”

See pictures and watch video, and learn more about the [Pingree Park Project](#)

About Project EverGreen

Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, [Project EverGreen](#) is a national non-profit committed to bringing people together to make a difference in how yards, parks and communities creating a greener, healthier, cooler Earth by supporting the creation and revitalization of managed green spaces that result in healthier, happier people. Additional Project EverGreen initiatives include GreenCare for Troops,[™] SnowCare for Troops[™] and Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids. [™]

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Follow Project Evergreen on Social Media



'Real grass all day long': Texas Rangers players sound off on new stadium

BY MAC ENGEL

tengel@star-telegram.com

SURPRISE, ARIZ.

The Texas Rangers have yet to officially announce their decision on the type of playing surface they will use at new Tax Hike Friendly Ballpark, [but sources indicate the plan is still to go with artificial grass](#). The desire to use the new place as a multi-use venue for concerts, football games and any other type of event is driving the Rangers' desire to go with a synthetic field. Fake grass is hard on the body, but it's easier on the wallet.

And if you hate this idea, there is a group of people who detest it even more: The players.



There are two other stadiums

in MLB that feature synthetic grass - Toronto and Tampa. Players hate 'em, both. Despite all of the advances from the knee-shredding days of AstroTurf to the improved state of "sport field," the consensus is nearly universal from the players who run around on it every day. So don't take it from me. Listen to them.

Rangers shortstop Elvis Andrus: "Real grass all day long. When I play on (artificial grass), I feel it my hamstrings and my back, for sure."

Rangers catcher Robinson Chrinios: "I'd say grass. When I play on turf, I feel it in my legs and my back. Takes about two or three days (to get over it.)"



Rangers outfielder Ryan Rua: "You don't see it very much in minor league stadiums, but it's different for sure for first-time guys up in Toronto and Tampa. Maybe guys who play there get used to it, but when you're on it the first time you notice it. It's tougher on your legs and your back. "When you're in the outfield, you have to be aware of the bounces. The ball kicks off much higher on that surface. It's faster. Grass slows the ball down. You'll find the majority of the players prefer grass."

Rangers first baseman Joey Gallo: "Grass, all the way. When you play on that fake grass, your knees hurt like hell, your hips and your back, too."

Rangers outfielder Willie Calhoun: "I've played on (artificial grass) twice and I don't feel there really is a difference. Maybe the ball comes out faster."

Nomar Mazara and Delino DeShields say they prefer playing on real grass



"When we had that series against Houston in Tampa (the '17 series that was moved to Florida because of Hurricane Harvey), and I was playing outfield and my feet and my back were killing me. Guys kept coming up

with lower body injuries. That was the series (Adrian Beltre) got hurt. I definitely felt it for a few days. A lot of the guys were talking about it.

"I don't think anybody wants artificial turf, especially outfielders. You can feel it gets hotter. You can definitely feel it on the bottom of your feet." Rangers outfielder Nomar Mazara:



"When we played that series against Houston (in Tampa), I could definitely feel it in my knees. (Former Rangers outfielder) Carlos Gomez and a lot of the guys said they didn't like it. That it hurt. I don't like it."

Rangers catcher Curt Casali (he played last season in Tampa): "I can't speak for them, but I know when I was in Tampa the outfielders all had a problem with it. All of them struggled with it. Personally, I didn't love it. "Because there is no moisture for the dirt, it feels different. It's dry and you can't get a grip. I know they wet it down, but it dries up. "Real grass is just softer and slower. If you just stand on it for 5 minutes, you can feel it in your back. "I hope you're wrong on this and it's grass."

Rangers outfielder Delino DeShields: "On artificial surface, your cleats get stuck in the grass and the dirt. Real grass has give. It's softer. The game on real grass just feels more natural.

"I remember the first time I ran on (artificial grass) was during a pre-draft workout in Toronto. I was running in the outfield and the first time I tried to sprint I nearly fell over. My cleats got stuck. "And when I play on it, my shins really bug me. Your legs just get stuck.

"I know the artificial surface is better now than it was before, and it's getting better, but it's not grass. I really hope they don't put in (fake grass) at the new stadium. If it was up to me, it would be grass."

It's not up to Delino - or any other player.

The decision hasn't been announced, which means we can expect artificial grass.

Players, get the ice bags ready.

“Grass all the way. When you play on that fake grass, your knees hurt, and your hips and back too.”

-TEXAS RANGERS 1ST BASEMAN JOEY GALLO

Read the original story here:

<http://www.star-telegram.com/sports/spt-columns-blogs/mac-engel/article203061049.html>



Right to Farm Upheld by Michigan Attorney General

March 29th, 2018. Michigan Farm Bureau

On behalf of its more than 42,000 farm family members, Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) applauds Attorney General (AG) Bill Schuette’s [recent opinion](#) asserting that the state’s Right to Farm Act preempts local government ordinances attempting to restrict farming activities. As the largest state farm organization, MFB has been concerned with the alarming trend of local governments approving unnecessary and illegal ordinances regulating farming activities. Members and staff of the organization have been working to defend the integrity of the Right to Farm Act, including recent challenges in [Leroy Township](#) and [Fenton Township](#).



“Agriculture is Michigan’s second-largest industry, but it will always be Michigan’s first and oldest industry,” Schuette said. “Farming the land is part and parcel of what makes Michigan great. Whether it is raising livestock or growing commercial crops, Michigan is America’s agricultural powerhouse. This common sense opinion recognizes that the state’s Right to Farm Act preempts local ordinances from restricting the practice of farming. The law recognizes what we already know – farming is good for Michigan,” he said.

Requested by the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, the opinion concludes: “It is my opinion, therefore, that unless otherwise approved under sections 4(7), 4(6) of the Right to Farm Act preempts provisions in ordinances adopted by local units of government that regulate farming activities when the Commission of Agriculture and Rural



Development has developed generally accepted agricultural and management practices that address those farming activities.”

The opinion upholds Right to Farm Act’s intent to prevent farms from being found a nuisance if the farm is in conformance with the state’s Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices. It also affirms that the law nullifies locally-made regulations that extend or revise the law’s provisions or GAAMPs, which outline specific farming practices under the umbrellas of: care of farm animals, site selection, nutrient utilization, manure management, irrigation and water use, pesticide utilization and pest control, cranberry production, and farm markets.

“Attorney General Schuette’s opinion validates that the recent trend of local governments approving—or trying to approve — ordinances that regulate farming activities are unnecessary and illegal,” said MFB President Carl Bednarski. “As farmers, our goal is to provide safe, abundant, affordable food for consumers. The Right to Farm Act ensures we’re able to do that.” Read more about Michigan Farm Bureau, the state’s largest agricultural organization and its member-developed, grass-roots policy on the Right to Farm Act at www.michfb.com.

“Attorney General Schuette’s opinion that the recent trend of ordinances that regulate farming activities are unnecessary and illegal.”

-MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT

Read the original story here:

https://www.michfb.com/MI/Farm_News/Content/Politics/Right_to_Farm_upheld_by_AG/

Fast Acting Fire Ant Control
Now labeled for use on sod farms
Total colony control within 72 hours

[LEARN MORE](#)

Advion
Fire ant bait

syngenta



TPI Partners with FleishmanHillard to begin Market Research and Public Relations Campaign on Natural Turfgrass

The TPI Board of Trustees has recently approved funds to be devoted for developing and conducting market research and a public relations campaign to promote natural turfgrass. Proposals from several nationally recognized professional public relations firms were accepted for review at the TPI Board of Trustees Winter Board Meeting in Tucson, AZ last February. These proposals were reviewed and narrowed down to the top three which were then further developed and examined at the TPI Board of Trustees Spring Board Meeting in Charlotte, NC in April. After having reviewed these proposals, the board selected FleishmanHillard to be TPI's official PR firm for market and consumer research and public relations initiatives.

Over the next 6-8 months, TPI will work closely with FleishmanHillard to develop research that will provide further insight into consumer views on natural turfgrass. This research will be instrumental in helping TPI develop new benefits for its members that they can use to promote natural turfgrass locally,

while at the same time promoting their own businesses and products. This research will also allow TPI to take a more deliberate and instrumental role in promoting natural turfgrasses to benefit it's members and the entire green industry.

TPI's Executive Director Dr. Casey Reynolds says, "We are committed to promoting our members and the natural turfgrasses they produce that we are all so passionate about. This initiative is about bringing new benefits to TPI members while at the same time



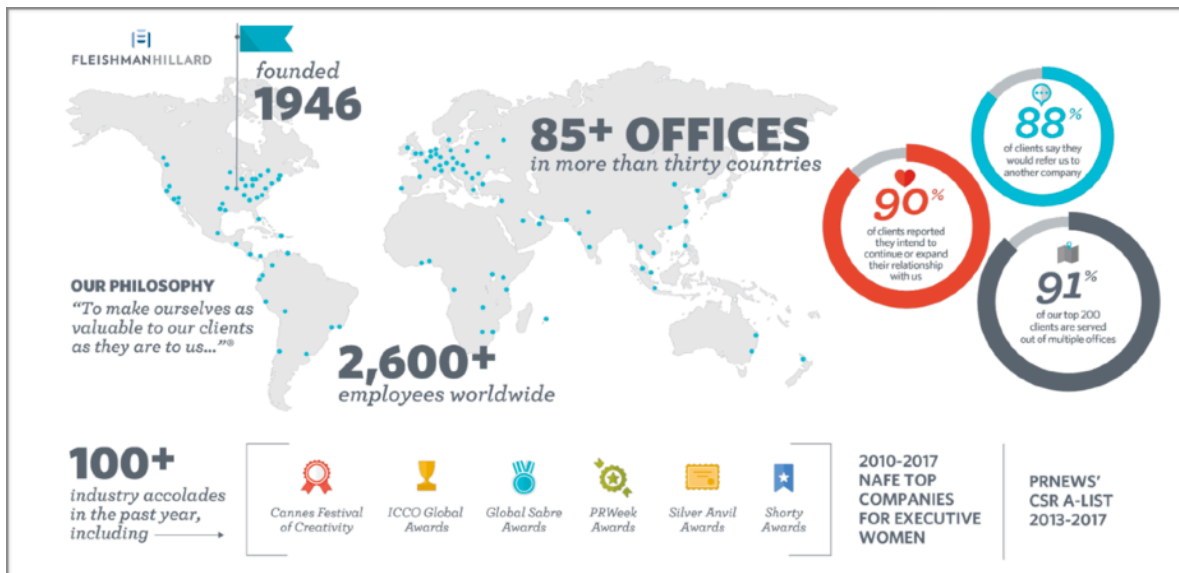
FLEISHMANHILLARD

"Continually building upon our experiences, we compel key audiences, transform behaviors, and help to build, maintain and protect our clients' brands and reputation."

-FLEISHMANHILLARD

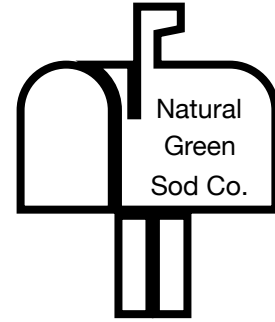


allowing TPI to take a lead role in promoting natural turfgrasses.” FleishmanHillard was selected not only for the quality of its reputation and work, but also due to its international presence. “It is important to us that as we develop these resources, we do it in a way that not only benefits US growers, but Canadian, European, Australian, and other international TPI members as well”, says Dr. Reynolds. FleishmanHillard has over 85 offices worldwide that will allow TPI to meet regionally specific needs and markets in which it’s international members operate.



FleishmanHillard’s international presence will allow TPI to serve its international members with locally and regionally specific information.

TPI members can be on the lookout for these resources to hit the Members-Only Toolkit found on the TPI website sometime in early 2019. The contents of the toolkit will be largely based upon the results of the market research, but items available to TPI members could include pre-packaged media kits, social media posts, brochures, pamphlets, or more that can all be customizable by location and member farms. “We will continue to strive to bring as much value as possible to TPI members and hope that these new resources will assist our members locally, while TPI simultaneously works to promote natural turfgrasses nationally and globally”- Casey Reynolds, PhD.



TPI Membership Renewals Mailing Soon!

Membership renewal statements for the July 1 – December 31, 2018, membership year will be mailed to all members in May. At the 2018 Annual Business Meeting in Tucson, members approved a change to the TPI bylaws to move the membership year from July 1 - June 30 to January 1 – December 31 each year, beginning in 2019. This results in a short 2018 membership year from July 1 to December 31, 2018, in which membership dues will be pro-rated for the 6-month membership year. *Turf News* subscription notices will also be included on the dues invoices this year.

After 2018, this will allow TPI members to pay annual dues in either December or January. Annual membership renewals for 2019 will be mailed in November 2018.

NEW Supplier Membership Classes NOW OPEN! (Class B-1 and B-2 Suppliers)

TPI Supplier Members, want to increase your exposure and connections with turfgrass producers all over the world? TPI has created two new supplier categories that are open for membership. In addition to the current Supplier Member class, Classes B-1 and B-2 have been designed for supplier members with regional sales reps, distributors, technical/service staff, etc. who will each receive *Turf News* and each be listed in the annual TPI Membership Directory, allowing for increased communication and access between suppliers and producers at local/regional levels.

Contact Karen Cooper at kcooper@TurfgrassSod.org or 847-737-7631 to renew your current Class B membership or upgrade to a Class B-1 or B-2 for even more exposure!

	Class B	Class B-1 NEW!	Class B-2 NEW!
Employee Members	Up to 10	Up to 10	Up to 25
Turf News Subscriptions	1 (Primary Rep)	Up to 10 (Primary Rep + 9 employees)	Up to 25 (Primary Rep + 24 employees)
TPI Membership Directory Listings	1 (Primary Rep)	Up to 10 (Primary Rep + 9 employees)	Up to 25 (Primary Rep + 24 employees)
TPI E-Newsletter Subscriptions	All employees	All employees	All employees



Members Host Industry Events on Farms

- The Wisconsin Sod Producers Association will be hosting a summer picnic and field day at Jasperson Sod Farm in Franksville, Wisconsin, on Thursday, July 19.
- JB Instant Lawn will be hosting the Washington Association of Landscape Professional's 2018 Field Day on July 26, 2018, at their Redmond, Washington, location.
- Central Sod Farms will be hosting the Mid-Atlantic Turf Field Day in Centreville, MD on October 11, 2018.
- In June 2019, Jasperson Sod Farm will be hosting the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 2019 Day on the Farm event at their farm in Franksville, Wisconsin.



Upcoming Events in your area? Let us know and we will help you promote them!

We want to help you make your event successful for your attendees and sponsoring industry partners. Contact Karen Cooper at 847.737.7631 or kcooper@TurfGrassSod.org for more information for promotion in the TPI E-Newsletter and *Turf News* Calendar.



TLI Call for Auction Items Now Open for Charlotte 2019!

Did you know that TLI has been funding turfgrass research for 25 years? In 1993, TPI (then ASPA) established the Ben Warren Memorial Foundation as a tribute to the association's founding president with the goal of supporting turfgrass research to ensure and protect the future of the turfgrass sod production industry through science and education. This foundation, known today as The Lawn Institute (TLI), has provided financial support to projects on topics ranging from weed and pest management to drought resistance to new varieties, and more. TLI has also underwritten the publication of media fact sheets, brochures about turfgrass care and management, and media campaigns promoting natural turfgrass.

After 25 years, TLI is going strong with a renewed vigor. In Tucson, TPI President Jimmy Fox and Executive Director Casey Reynolds, PhD announced the launch of a new PR and marketing campaign that will help TPI and TLI be the voice of natural turfgrass and will result in new member-only tools to help you promote your business. New research projects are being evaluated and funded each year—these projects are chosen by a committee of members and university researchers to ensure that they will result in findings to advance our industry.

Your support for TLI is more important than ever. When your member renewal statement arrives at the end of May, you will have the opportunity to include a donation to TLI with your dues payment. There will also be a fundraising auction at the 2019 International Education Conference at the [NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte, NC](#). If you would like to donate an item, please contact Karen Cooper, associate executive director, at 847.737.7631 or kcooper@turfgrassod.org. Please contact us today to help TLI continue to grow and improve!





Thanks to the Turfgrass Producers of Florida for hosting TPI at it's Annual Meeting

The Turfgrass Producers of Florida hosted it's annual meeting and field day from May 3rd to 4th at the Mission Inn Resort & Conference Center in Florida. The event began with the Annual Meeting & Lunch highlighted by guest speaker Nathan Whitaker, co-author of Tony Dungy's *Quiet Strength* and *Through My Eyes* from Tim Tebow. The morning session was then followed up by a skeet shoot among Turfgrass Producer of Florida producers, suppliers, and friends in which a team from Firefly and A. Duda & Sons (Buck Leonard and Paul Lopez) took top prize!

After a fantastic dinner and fun "Reverse Draw" raffle, the event continued for field day at Lake Jem Farms in Mount Dora, FL. Attendees visited with vendors and saw equipment demos before dining together for a catered lunch. The event was a huge success and thanks so much to Betsy McGill for hosting such a wonderful event and for letting TPI be a part of it. We hope to see you next year!



Roberto Gurgel of Sod Solutions dropped by the TPI Booth with TPI members Qually Grama, all the way from Brazil.



Suppliers and Vendors setting up for the morning session of the TPF Field Day.



TURF NEWS wins 2 awards at Annual TOCA Awards Banquet!

TPI Members know what a great magazine *Turf News* has been over the years and judges at the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA) agree. This year, Steve and Suz Trusty, co-editor of *Turf News* and Jane Tomlinson of Ink Umbrella Design walked away with some more hardware for their trophy cases. Of the over 400 entries, they won awards for:

1. Merit Award in the Photography, Video, Multimedia category, Best use of photography, judging three issues.
2. First Place Award in the Special Projects category, Best coverage in a magazine of an on-site event. "TPI's 2017 International Education Conference & Field Day Recap" This is the third year in a row that *Turf News* received the First Place Award in this category.

Congratulations to the *Turf News* team!!!





Would you like to be part of a panel discussion at the 2019 International Education Conference in Charlotte?

TPI's Conference and Education Committee is currently seeking participants for several panel discussions scheduled as part of the education program at the International Education Conference in Charlotte, February 18-20, 2019. Proposed topics include:

- **Office management:** The Committee is specifically looking for office managers to participate in a discussion about their office processes, software usage, scheduling plans, efficiencies, or other unique activities relating to management of the office.
- **Shelf life:** The Committee would like to have individuals share their techniques for extending the shelf life of cut sod.
- **Employee incentives:** The Committee is searching for individuals or farms that have developed effective techniques or incentive programs to for employees; programs can range from financial earnings to workplace improvements to time off—anything you have done to help retain or motivate good employees!

In addition, the Committee is seeking proposals from individuals who have a topic of interest to conference attendees. In addition to agronomic topics specifically tailored to the sod production industry, other topics of particular interest to our members include:

- Industry Best Management Practices: What works & doesn't work for your business
- Office Management: Efficiency processes, software, training, and continuity plans
- Economic Forecasts for the Agriculture Industry
- New Tax Laws: What they mean for small businesses and how to adapt to them
- Accountability and Incentive programs for staff

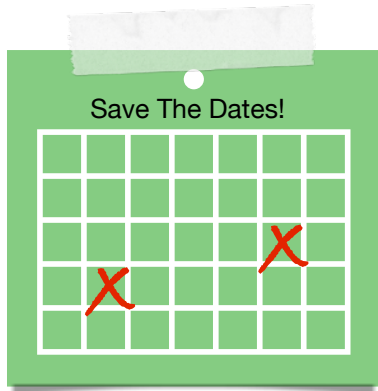
Presentation proposals must be submitted online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6BM89QX> by June 4, 2018. Please contact Karen Cooper at 847-737-7631 or kcooper@turfgrassod.org if you have questions or problems with submission.

Please remember that all topics must be educational in content and cannot promote specific products, services, or companies.



TPI 2019 International Education Conference

Feb 18-21, 2019



TPI 2019 Summer Convention & Field DAY

July 23-25, 2019





New Members!! Please join us in welcoming the following people and organizations who have recently joined TPI!

Member	Company	Location
Mike Jenzeh	Magnation Water Technologies	Oakland, CA
David Gerken	Johnston Seed Company	Enid, OK
Fumiaki Miyachi	Chubu Co. Ltd.	Totorri, Japan
Willard Wagner	Wagner Sod Company	Inver Grove Heights, MN
Raymond Snell	Macon Meadows Sod Farm	Oakland, TN
Matt & Audrey Parsons	Pro-Grass	Macdoel, CA
Mike Tebeau	Big River Sod Farms	Hazelwood, MO
Tim Stroh	Mid-America Turf & Landscaping, LLC	Warrensburg, MO



Stay up-to-date with the latest in Turfgrass Production by checking out the current issue of **Turf News**, the only magazine devoted *exclusively* to turfgrass production!

Not a member of TPI and interested in joining? We'd love to have you on our team!

Please visit www.TurfgrassSod.org or contact us at any of the information below!



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Social Media



@TPITurTalk



Comments

Please email any comments or suggestions for future E-newsletters to Casey Reynolds.

creynolds@TurfgrassSod.org