

TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL

May/June E-Newsletter

In This Issue

USGA Releases New Putting Green Recommendations

Another D-1 University Football Program Goes Natural

The National Turfgrass Federation Visits Capitol Hill

Plastic Fields are Heating Up on Twitter

Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation Releases New Website

And more!!!

Catch TPI at These Upcoming Events

July

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

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

August

NC State University Turfgrass Field Day
Raleigh, NC. 8/8

Western Canada Turfgrass Association
Alberta, Canada. 8/23



The TPI 2019 International Education Conference Exhibitor Prospectus is NOW available! See Page 18 for details!





USGA Publishes New Recommendations for Putting Green Construction

The USGA Recommendations for a Method of Putting Green Construction and supplementary document *Building the USGA Green: Tips for Success*, have been revised and are now available through the USGA Green Section Record. After a comprehensive review process, the USGA Recommendations have been refreshed to incorporate the latest research, testing procedures, and construction techniques to ensure that the USGA Recommendations continue to provide superb performance around the world.



2018 USGA Putting Green Recommendations

<http://gsrpdf.lib.msu.edu/ticpdf.py?file=/2010s/2018/2018-02-16.pdf>

USGA Putting Green Construction Video Series

<http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/specialty-articles/usga-putting-green-construction.html>



Razorbacks Plan Return to Natural Grass Field

By: [Tom Murphy](#) [twitter](#)

Published: Saturday, May 26, 2018



“Let me say my preference is I love natural grass, that’s just me.”

-CHAD MORRIS, NEW HEAD FOOTBALL COACH AT ARKANSAS

Photo by [Anthony Reyes](#)

A field is shown at Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium. The field, installed in 2009, will be replaced prior to the 2019 season.

The Arkansas Razorbacks will return to natural grass in 2019 after playing a 10th year on their current artificial turf surface at Reynolds Razorback Stadium. Razorbacks Athletic Director Hunter Yurachek said in Hoover, Ala., the decision has been made to install real grass when the 2018 season comes to an end. The life cycle of artificial turf such as the PowerBlade 2.5 installed at Razorback Stadium for the 2009 season at the behest of then-Coach Bobby Petrino is typically 10 years. The turf project cost roughly \$1.1 million upon installation. The surface at the stadium was natural grass through the 2008 season.

First-year Coach Chad Morris expressed a preference for grass over turf early this spring. "Let me say my preference is I love natural grass," Morris said on March 3. "That's just me. Maybe that's just the high school coach in me." Worrying about what the next surface out here looks like is irrelevant to me. I just want to get through a practice and get better today. But I prefer, I'm a natural grass type of guy. I love being on a grass field. There's nothing better than that in college football, or football period." The announcement of a move to natural grass had been expected.



The Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation

The Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation is a federation of organizations from across Canada committed to supporting scientific research of amenity turf management that benefits end users of our communities' recreational infrastructure and that enhances our urban environments.

The Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation (CTRF) is pleased to announce its website, www.turfresearchcanada.ca, has had major content updates over the past several weeks.

"Updating the site was a time consuming but important task to ensure research results are being disseminated to the turf management industry," stated Executive Secretary Jerry Rousseau, adding, "we're still working on edits but did not want to delay any longer in sharing both new and previously unposted research reports from CTRF funded projects. Most of the remaining updates are aesthetic." Links to over 20 reports have been added to either the 'Current Research' or 'Past Research' pages depending on project status.

About the CTRF

The Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation is a federation of organizations from across Canada committed to supporting scientific research of amenity turf management that benefits end users of our communities' recreational infrastructure and that enhances our urban environments.

Contacts:

Paul Schofield, Chair - plsc1956@hotmail.com

Jerry Rousseau, Executive Secretary – exec.director@wctaturf.com

Website: www.turfresearchCanada.ca

**Contact Us Today to Discuss
Your Sod Seed Needs at 800-457-6748**

If it's not 3-D Sod, It's Just Grass®



A Day on the Hill with the National Turfgrass Federation

Representatives from the National Turfgrass Federation (NTF) made a trip to Washington, D.C. in early May to discuss the impacts and importance of the natural turfgrass industry on the United States economy, environmental health, and urban well-being. The timing of this trip comes during the United States House of Representatives and Senate negotiations for the 2019 United States Farm Bill, which is the primary legislative tool that affects U.S agriculture and food policy.



The objectives of this visit were to introduce the natural turfgrass industry to policy-makers and express the importance of federal support, both in the form of farm bill language and appropriations, for facing current and future challenges including water use, drought, pests, public perception, etc. Estimates place turfgrass as potentially the 4th largest crop in the United States at over 60 million acres, and unlike many agricultural crops, it is present in every city, county, and district in America. Turfgrass maintenance alone is estimated to be a \$60 billion industry nationwide, yet federal funding for turfgrass science and research lags far behind other major agricultural crops. Currently, with less than \$750,000 of dedicated annual federal support in USDA-ARS, turfgrass scientists receive approximately 0.00125% of the industry's economic impact in maintenance alone.

Over the course of the visit, NTF visited with republicans and democrats from Georgia, Utah, Arizona, Kansas, Maryland, and representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture. The message delivered was that university scientists have great success at returning value on each dollar of private or publicly funded grants.

However, there are currently few grant opportunities at the federal level large enough to support large-scale projects in turfgrass genomics, developing hardier varieties that tolerate heat, drought, salt, etc., and understanding the ecosystem services of the natural turfgrass industry on a national scale. In order to explore these areas, it's important for policy-makers to understand that turfgrass science is an integral part of the agricultural industry and should be recognized as such. It overlaps with other sectors of science and is one of the most dynamic crops in agriculture.



“You don’t have to convince me of the value that farmers bring to society.”

-USDA SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE SONNY PERDUE

Dr. Brian Schwartz from the University of Georgia, and home state of the USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue, highlighted the value that new varieties bring to turfgrass producers and the industry as whole. Dr. Casey Reynolds of TPI discussed that even though many people think of natural turfgrass as present in urban and suburban communities, the turfgrass producers who harvest this crop are farmers who face many of the same challenges as growers of any other agricultural crop. Federal recognition in the farm bill and support of turfgrass research to produce new varieties that meet the needs of homeowners, landscapers, athletic field managers, and golf course superintendents will not only bring added value to turfgrass producers, but also to end users who have a need for newer, lower input turfgrasses. As Secretary Perdue convincingly stated in response to NTF, “You don’t have to convince me of the value that farmers bring to society.”



**National Turfgrass Federation Personnel visited with USDA Staff
in Washington, DC on May 22nd, 2018.**

Language in Title VII of the current House of Representatives Farm Bill states the case for the National Turfgrass Research Initiative, and NTF will continue to pursue these efforts. The current farm bill, the Agricultural Act of 2014, is set to expire at the end of 2018.

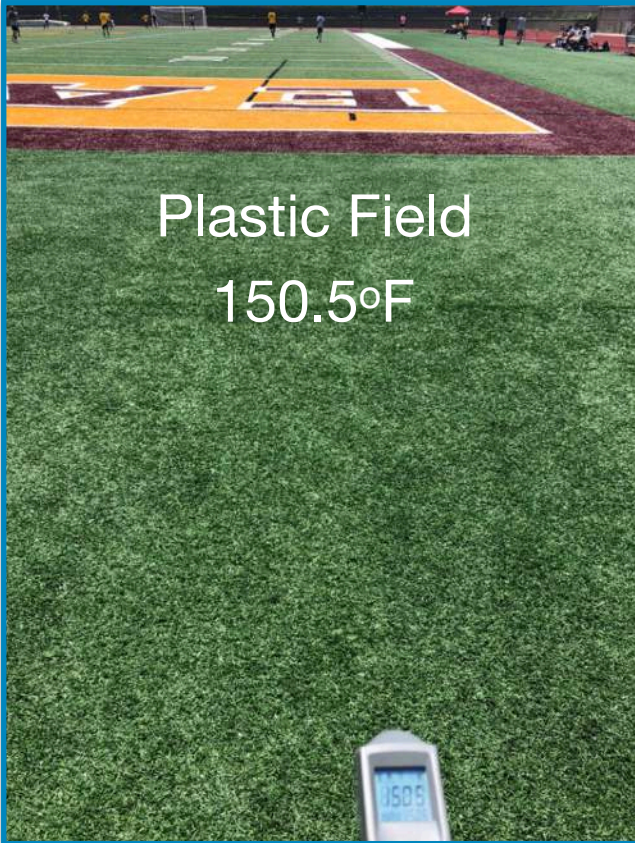
On-hand for the National Turfgrass Federation were Kevin Morris of NTEP, Dr. Mike Kenna of the USGA, Dr. Brian Schwartz of the University of Georgia, Dr. Joe DiPaola of Agronomic Intelligence, Mark Johnson of GCSAA, and Dr. Casey Reynolds, Executive Director of TPI. Johnathan Moore, a public affairs consultant, and Robert Helland, Director of Congressional and Federal Affairs for the GCSAA, were also present and were vital to the success of the visit. Special thanks to Kevin Morris of NTEP, for taking a lead role in this endeavor.



Plastic Fields are Really Heating UP on Twitter!

All you have to do is walk outside to know how hot 2018 has already been. If you find yourself on a plastic (synthetic) football field, then you can expect it to be even hotter! Check out some of these recent Tweets from sports field managers and parents.





Temperature readings from an infrared thermometer during a 104°F heat index in Iowa, US.





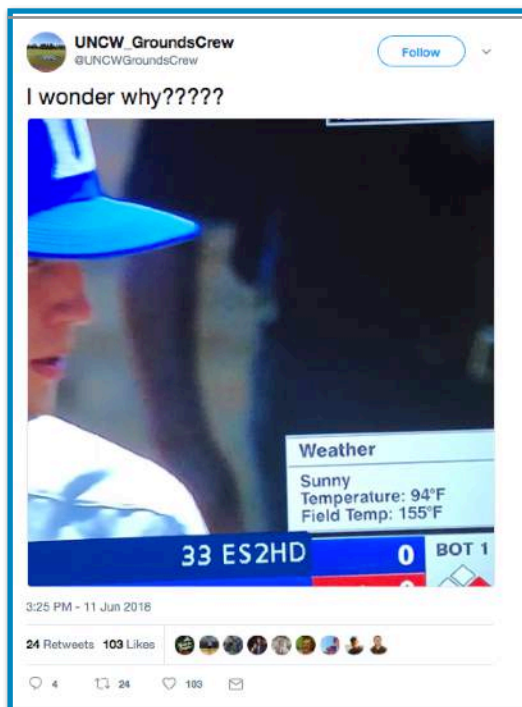
Plastic Fields are Really Heating UP on Twitter! (continued)



Plastic Fields are Really Heating UP on Twitter! (continued)



NCAA Division I College Baseball
Regionals in Lubbock, Texas
featured a 155°F plastic field.



This Southern US location features plastic fields at 145 to 150°F and natural grass from 87 to 93°F.





Child Burned on DC Playground Highlights Turf, Rubber Surface Concerns

From WUSA9 in Washington, D.C.



DC

CHILD BURNED ON DC PLAYGROUND HIGHLIGHTS TURF, RUBBER SURFACE CONCERNS

For the full 2-minute report, click on the link below:

https://www.wusa9.com/amp/article?section=news&subsection=local&topic=dc&headline=child-burned-on-dc-playground-highlights-turf-rubber-surface-concerns&contentId=65-565420139&__twitter_impression=true



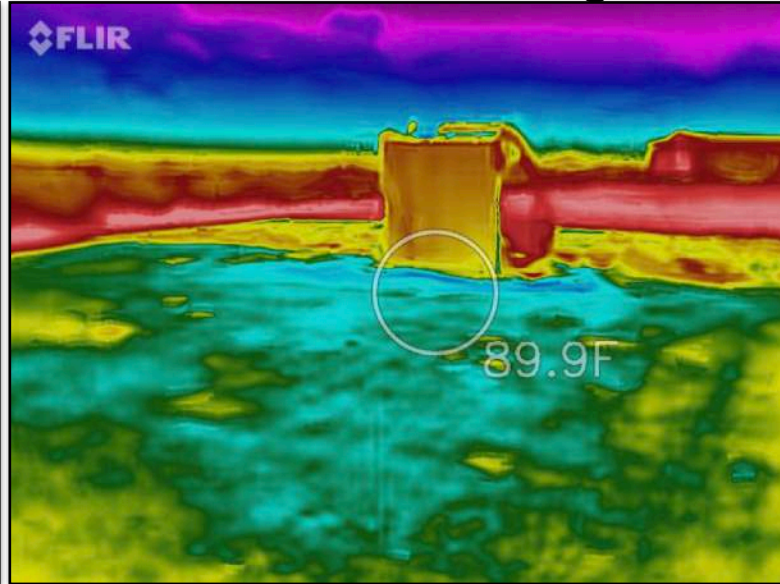
@matteoserena1 105F day, decided to look at #heatisland effect study, would you rather have a building surrounded by #xeriscape or #turfgrass



105° F Day



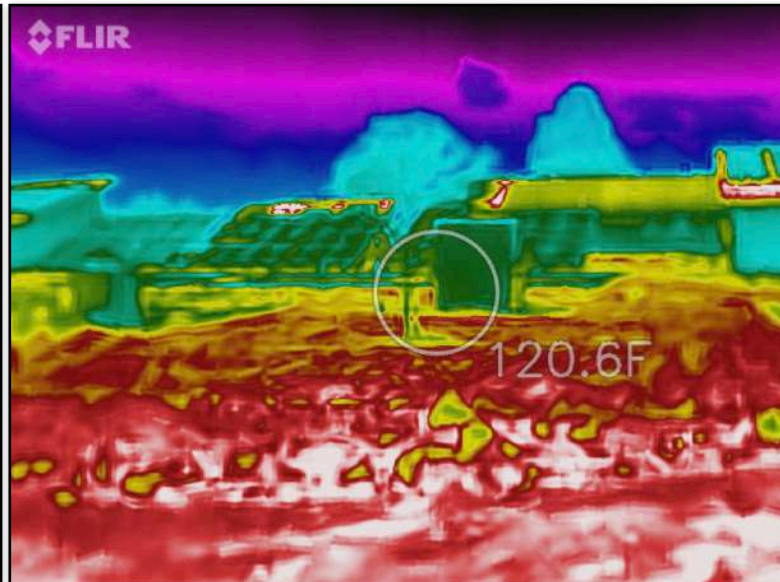
89.9° F in Natural Turfgrass



105° F Day



120.6° F in Xeriscape





Joint bid wins 2026 World Cup for the United States, Canada, and Mexico

June 13, 2018

By Tim Hackett: Sports Illustrated

The joint bid to host the 2026 World Cup in the U.S., Canada and Mexico overwhelmingly won Wednesday and beat out a solo bid from Morocco by a final count of 134-65. The 2026 World Cup will be the first men's edition in North America since 1994, which was hosted solely by the U.S. As part of the first World Cup hosted by three nations, Mexico will become the first country to host the event three times after doing so on its own in 1970 and 1986.

There are still a few factors left to be decided, including exactly which cities across the three nations will be hosting games. The 2026 World Cup will expand to 48 qualified teams, up from the 32 that will be going to Russia. A total of 80 matches will be played, 60 in the U.S. and 10 each in Mexico and Canada.

As part of the United Bid's proposal, the opening day will feature one match in each of the three nations. Every match from the quarterfinals on will be played in the U.S. The final could potentially be held at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, while AT&T Stadium in Dallas and the Rose Bowl in Los Angeles have also been touted as possibilities. Canada and Mexico have three host cities apiece approved for selection, while the U.S. has submitted a list of 17 finalists, which is expected to be whittled down to 10 by 2021. Washington, D.C.

The original story can be found below:

<https://www.si.com/soccer/2018/06/13/2026-world-cup-host-cities-usa-canada-mexico>




Precious. Pure. Perfect.






NEW BROCHURE now available in the TPI Member-Only Toolkit!



TURFGRASS FERTILIZATION FOR NEW SOD

2018

Perennial turfgrasses, like all plants, obtain their mineral nutrients from the surrounding environment including the soil, air, and water. There are many essential nutrients required for growth and depending upon desired turfgrass use and soil nutrient status, newly planted sod may benefit from supplemental fertilization. This guide contains helpful tips to make sure your newly laid sod remains healthy and ready to enjoy!



TheLawnInstitute.org

A new pamphlet titled "Turfgrass Fertilization for New Sod" is now in the TPI Member-Only section at www.TurfgrassSod.org!

Customize this pamphlet with your own company logo to provide customers with information on how to fertilize and care for new sod. *Not a TPI Member? Join Today* to take advantage of these and other resources!

FERTILIZER MATH & APPLICATION

Once you select an appropriate fertilizer, it is important to accurately determine the application rate. Fertilizer nutrients are typically applied at rates of 0.5 to 1.0 lb of nutrient per 1,000 ft². To calculate how much fertilizer to apply based on this range, simply follow these steps:

- 1) Measure the area of the turfgrass in square feet (Area)
- 2) Select the rate at which you are applying the nutrient in the fertilizer (Application Rate)
- 3) Determine the analysis of the fertilizer (Analysis)

Multiply these three values together as done below to determine how much fertilizer to apply.

Example: A homeowner wants to apply 1.0 lb of nitrogen per 1,000 ft² to a 5,500 ft² lawn and is purchasing fertilizer with an analysis of 16-4-8 based on a recent soil test.

Area	Rate	Analysis	Total Amount
5,500 ft ² x	1 lb of N	1 lb of 16-4-8	= 34 lbs of 16-4-8
1,000 ft ²		0.16 lbs of N	

Many fertilizer products will also state on their label how many square feet they will cover. This eliminates the need for calculation, but still requires that the area be accurately measured. For example, "This bag covers 5,000 ft²" means the fertilizer manufacturer has determined how much area this bag will cover by using math similar to that shown above.

Fertilizers are most commonly applied using a rotary or drop spreader. Rotary spreaders cover a larger area and are less prone to error while drop spreaders are great for small areas and areas adjacent to sidewalks, driveways, or other hardscapes. In order to improve the uniformity of coverage using either type, it is often recommended to apply half of the fertilizer in one direction and the other half perpendicular to that direction.



SOIL TESTING

The best way to determine the presence of naturally occurring mineral elements is through soil testing. There are many accredited private, university, and governmental labs available and sending in a soil sample is an inexpensive, yet effective way to determine a soil's fertility status and potential need for supplemental fertilization.



TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL FERTILIZATION

- An accurate measurement of the total turfgrass area being fertilized is essential to determining how much fertilizer to apply.
- Soil tests are the most accurate and reliable way to determine the soil nutrient status.
- When applying fertilizer to newly laid sod, nutrients such as phosphorus and potassium can be tilled into the soil prior to re-plant soil renovations.
- Areas that receive traffic, athletic play, events, etc. are likely to benefit from supplemental fertilization.
- Nitrogen is unique from other mineral elements in that its application can stimulate excess growth.
- A combination of quick and slow-release nutrient fertilizers is recommended to provide uniform, long-lasting responses.
- Avoid fertilizing turfgrass using moderate irrigation and avoid irrigation prior to excessive rainfall.
- When applying fertilizer to hardscapes such as driveways, sidewalks, etc. and sweep or blow any fertilizer that may accidentally contact these areas back into the lawn.
- Consult with University Turfgrass Specialists or other professionals in your area for tips on developing long-term fertilization programs based on local climate, soil type, turfgrass species, etc.



For more information on how to care for newly laid sod and establishment, please check out the Lawn Institute at <http://www.thelawninstitute.org>.




Roosevelt Road #346 • Lombard, IL 60148 USA
1-800-405-TURF (8873) • www.TheLawnInstitute.org



Plan Now to Attend TPI's 2019 International Education Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, February 18-20

By Karen Cooper

Events are being planned, exhibitors are signing up, and education speakers are being scheduled for a conference lineup that you cannot afford to miss! There will be three days of learning about new products and technologies, hearing from top speakers and experienced panelists in turfgrass management, agricultural economics, and farm and office management, as well as networking with colleagues and friends. Watch your email inbox, the September/October issue of *Turf News*, and the TPI website for more information on events and activities.

Registration and housing will open September 1, 2018.



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

THE WESTIN CHARLOTTE
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 18-22, 2019

Don't Miss Your Chance to Support The Lawn Institute in Charlotte & Win a Corvette!

The TLI Banquet and Fundraising Auction will be held on Wednesday, February 20, at the NASCAR Hall of Fame, which is conveniently located across the street from the Westin Charlotte, the official TPI conference hotel. In addition to participating in an exciting auction to raise funds for TLI, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in simulated stock car races, challenge their friends in a pit crew contest, and see the world's largest collection of stock car racing memorabilia, while also enjoying a cocktail hour and a North Carolina-themed dinner.

If you have questions or would like to donate an item for the auction, please contact Karen Cooper at kcooper@TurfGrassSod.org or 847-737-7631.



The evening will end with a raffle for a Corvette, donated by Brian Bouchard of Kingston Turf. Funds raised during the evening will support TLI initiatives such as the public relations research and marketing campaign on natural turfgrass, the TPI Member-Only toolkit, university research projects, and scholarships.



2019 International Education Conference Exhibitor Prospectus

The exhibitor prospectus for the 2019 International Education Conference was recently mailed to TPI Supplier/Manufacturer members! You can access a copy on our website (<http://www.turfgrassod.org/pages/events/international-conference-field-day/>) or contact Karen Cooper at kcooper@TurfGrassSod.org or 847-737-7631.

We have already had several exhibitors sign up so act now to reserve your booth for this opportunity to meet with leading turfgrass producers from around the world. A number of sponsorship opportunities are available to help promote your support of TPI and The Lawn Institute. We look forward to seeing you all in Charlotte!



**TPI Member
Pit Crew
Challenges!**

**Come Join the FUN with
turfgrass producers from
around the world!
Sponsorship opportunities
NOW available!**



It's Your Time to Grow! 2018 Membership Renewals Have Been Mailed!



TPI Membership dues statements were mailed to all members at the end of May. If you have not received your dues invoice in the mail, please contact TPI at 847-649-5555 and we will send you a new one. You can also log in to the TPI website and renew online.

Remember that the 2018 statement reflects a half-year of dues because of the recently-approved membership year change.

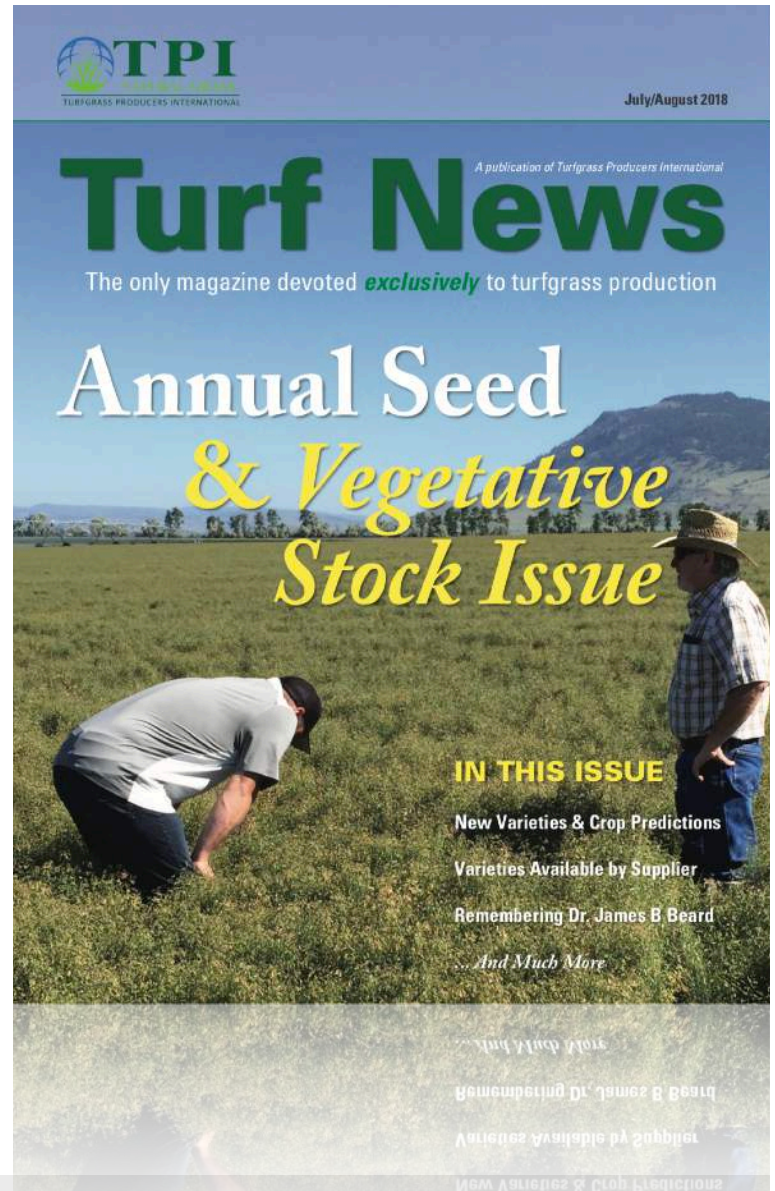
If you have questions about the membership renewal process, please contact Karen Cooper at kcooper@TurfGrassSod.org or 847-737-7631. Thank you for your continued support of TPI and TLI!



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!



Contact Information

Turfgrass Producers International
444 E. Roosevelt Road, Suite 346
Lombard, IL 60148
info@TurfgrassSod.org
Toll Free: 800-405-8873
Phone: 847-649-5555
www.TurfgrassSod.org

Social Media



@TPITurfTalk



Comments

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

creynolds@TurfgrassSod.org