

TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL

September/October E-Newsletter

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Minnesota, & Tennessee

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Biloxi, MS 11/27-29

December

RTF Producers Meeting
Austin, TX 12/6

NCSU Turfgrass Research
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Raleigh, NC 12/6

Texas Turfgrass Conference
San Antonio, TX 12/11

January

Tennessee Turfgrass
Conference
Murfreesboro, TN 1/7

STMA Conference
Phoenix, AZ 1/22

Turfgrass Producers of Texas
College Station, TX 1/28



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE | THE WESTIN CHARLOTTE
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 18-20, 2019

**TPI 2019 International Education Conference registration is
NOW OPEN!**



TPI
NATURAL GRASS

TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL



5 ways to keep your lawn green - and still save water

By Jeanette Marantos - September 22, 2018 [LosAngelestimes.com](https://www.losangelestimes.com)

Attention, Southern California lawn owners: Cast off your cone of shame!

Yes, your lawn uses water — more about that later — but when you sense judgment from the smug neighbor who replaced *her* lawn with colored rocks and succulents, don't lower your eyes and slink inside.

Instead, stroll over, sadly toe a few rocks and note how *your* lawn is combating the “urban heat island effect” by making the neighborhood cooler and reducing the state's demand for electricity, most of which — *ahem* — is produced using water.

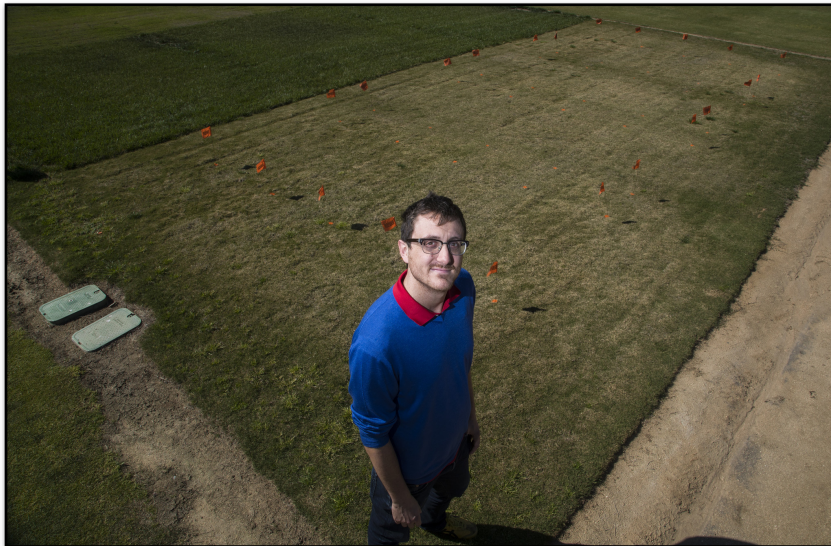


“‘Turf’ has become this four-letter word, but our position is that turf doesn't waste water,” said Jim Baird, a turf grass specialist at [UC Riverside's Turfgrass Research Facility](https://www.ucr.edu/turfgrass). “By removing turf, we're creating a situation that requires more energy to cool the environment, and about two-thirds of energy production in the state requires water.”



The Environmental Protection Agency has found that air temperatures in hard-surface-areas of cities can be as much as 12 degrees warmer than in green areas, especially after sunset, said Baird. About 5% to 10% of community-wide demand for electricity is used to combat the heat island effect, he said.

So keeping your lawn can be very good for the environment, along with the more obvious benefits: erosion control, a reduction in dust, noise and fire danger, and that lovely aroma when it's mowed.



Marco Schiavon from UC Riverside , bermudagrass in foreground, Tall fescue in the background.
Gina Ferazzi, Los Angeles Times

But don't congratulate yourself just yet. Most SoCal lawn owners waste a *lot* of water, due to faulty irrigation and maintenance, said Baird and turf grass researcher Marco Schiavon.

It's possible to reduce your water consumption significantly and still have a healthy lawn, even in the midst of drought-like conditions, they said, but it means making some changes.

Here are their five top tips:

1. Less is best with watering

Step 1: Think "deficit" irrigation, instead of "optimal" irrigation. That means learning how to use your sprinkler timer and turning off your irrigation in the cool months between November and April. When it warms up, water deeply in the early morning or evening for 10 to 15 minutes a maximum of three or four days a week, depending on your lawn type (three days for warm-season grasses like Bermuda, four days for cool-season grasses like



fescue). If runoff is a problem, divide your watering time into three-minute cycles, Baird said. "Your lawn won't be super lush," he said, "but it will be good enough."

2. Choose the right turf



Tall fescue, left, grows next to bermudagrass at the Turfgrass Research Facility at UC Riverside. Gina Ferazzi, Los Angeles Times

About 90% of SoCal lawns are planted with deep-green fescue grass, Baird said, but warm-season grasses like Bermuda or buffalograss need about 20% less water to stay green in hot, dry conditions. Think three days of watering each week for Bermuda grasses, versus four days for fescue.

Bermuda lawns aren't popular because they go brown in the winter, when temperatures consistently dip below 80 degrees, but there are many varieties of Bermuda, Baird said, and UCR's Turfgrass Research Facility is developing new varieties that stay green during its dormant season.



3. Feed your lawn

Lawns are greener and less weedy if fertilized four times a year. ("The best herbicide is a healthy turf stand," Schiavon said.) Grass only responds to nitrogen, Baird said, so other amendments aren't necessary. Baird recommends fertilizing fescue and other cool-season grasses around St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day and Halloween. Bermuda and other warm-season grasses should be fed around Easter, Fourth of July, Labor Day and Halloween.

4. Mow wisely

Sharpen your mower blades at least once a year (or make sure your gardener has sharp blades), because dull blades shred and stress the grass. Be sure you (or your gardener) is mowing to the right height — 3 to 4 inches for fescue/cool-season grasses and just 1.5 to 2 inches for Bermuda/warm-season grasses. And leave the clippings on the ground, for good, free fertilizer. "I still can't believe all the gardeners I see collecting clippings to create more waste," Baird said.

5. Maintain your sprinklers

People tend to water more when they see brown spots on their lawn, Schiavon said. What they don't realize is that no above-ground irrigation system provides 100% distribution, so it's better to just hand-water brown spots. Every spring, before you resume regular irrigation, clean or replace the filters in your sprinklers and be sure they're working properly. Fixed-spray nozzles of the same size are more efficient than rotary type sprinklers, but if you're replacing or installing a lawn, Schiavon says the most efficient system is sub-surface irrigation, a series of PVC pipes with holes, spaced about one foot apart, 4 to 6 inches deep.

The original article from Los Angeles Times can be found at: <http://www.latimes.com/home/la-hm-lawn-care-during-a-drought-20180922-htmlstory.html>



Third Annual NCSU Turfgrass Research Symposium - Registration is NOW OPEN!

NC STATE
UNIVERSITY



North Carolina State University's Center for Turfgrass Environmental Research & Education Third Annual Research Symposium

Keynote Speakers:



Lane Tredway
Senior Technical
Representative
Syngenta



Casey Reynolds
Executive Director
Turfgrass Producers
International



Vance Crowe
Director of Millennial
Engagement
Bayer

Thursday, December 6th 8:00AM – 3:30PM EST
NC State University Club

The symposium will be **streamed live**
For registration: **events.reporter.ncsu.edu/turf**

Live Streaming

The symposium will be streamed live online for those unable to attend in person. To attend the symposium via streaming, you will need to register [here](#). Please notice that the link for live streaming will be sent out Wednesday, December 5th at 5:00pm EST. You must be registered by Tuesday, December 4th in order to receive the link.



Sports Turf Managers Association to Host 30th Annual Conference & Exhibition in Phoenix, Ariz.

1,600 Turf Professionals Converge in the Valley of the Sun January 22 – 25, 2019

(LAWRENCE, Kan.) – Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) – the non-profit, professional association for the 2,700 devoted men and women who manage outdoor sports fields worldwide to provide the safest possible playing surfaces – will host its 30th annual Conference & Exhibition January 22-25, 2019 in Phoenix, Ariz.

The coalition of more than 1,600 leaders in the sports turf industry will flock to the Phoenix Convention Center for four days of industry education, networking events and exhibitor demonstrations. The summit is highlighted by daily events including a volunteer field rebuild at Lindo Park in partnership with Project Evergreen, Sports Turf Talk Show, Women’s Forum & Lunch and the STMA Awards Reception & Banquet.

Participants will enjoy the “Seminar On-Wheels” tour.

Facility visits include University of Phoenix Stadium (home of the Arizona Cardinals), Camelback Ranch (Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago White Sox training

facility), Sun Devil Stadium at Arizona State University, Sloan Park & Riverview Park (Chicago Cubs Spring Training complex), and Salt River Fields at Talking Stick (MLB Spring Training home of Colorado Rockies and Arizona Diamondbacks).

“For three decades, STMA members from around the globe have come together for this annual event to share innovative ideas and best practices to advance our industry,” says Kim Heck, CAE, CEO of STMA. “Our conference’s intersection of leading experts and





young professionals provide attendees with insightful educational programs and ample networking opportunities.”

On schedule for 2019 are fifty learning sessions and panels given by commercial representatives and renowned sports turf managers and academics from professional sports stadiums, universities, high schools, parks, and recreational facilities. Learning sessions are split into eight tracks including turfgrass management, facility management, synthetic, pest control, water, industry developments, baseball, and professional development.

Additionally, turfgrass management programs nationwide will enter a team of up to four students in the STMA Student Challenge for a chance of winning one of two \$5,000 grants. The competition will test the students’ skills and knowledge of the sports turf management industry. Students will be challenged on several knowledge areas including turfgrass identification, soils, fertility, irrigation and drainage, pest management, sports field maintenance practices, human resource management, among others.

After raising over \$37,000 last year, the SAFE Foundation – STMA’s charitable arm enriching communities by championing safe, sustainable sports and recreation fields – will once again host a variety of fundraising events including a live memorabilia auction, two silent auctions, a bowling competition, and a golf tournament at Grand Canyon University Golf Course. All proceeds will benefit the scholarship, research, and educational outreach programs.

Registration for the Conference opens Monday, October 1. Receive complimentary entrance with new membership dues. Take advantage of the lowest rates by booking online before January 4.

Registration is open now at
STMA.org





TPI Staff visit with members in Tennessee, Minnesota, and Portugal

TPI staff members Karen Cooper and Casey Reynolds, PhD continue to visit with current and potential TPI members at local and regional events. On Sept 11th, 2018 Karen Cooper visited McCurdy Sod Farms for the MidSouth Turfgrass Council Field Day hosted by incoming TPI Board Member Bob McCurdy. This event was an opportunity for local and regional growers to hear discussions on a variety of farm-based research trials where Mr. McCurdy and his staff are experimenting with various products in sod production. It also allowed growers to get hands-on with sod production and interact with their peers while making new connections and re-affirming old ones. The TPI staff and board of directors also visited Willard Wagner at Wagner Sod Farms in Minnesota as part of the 2018 TPI Fall Board meeting and preview of the 2018 TPI Summer Convention and Field Days!



 **BARENBRUG**

barusa.com

TPI Staff visit with members in Tennessee, Minnesota, and Portugal (continued)

TPI Executive Director Casey Reynolds spoke at the European Turfgrass Producers 2018 Turf Expo in Troia, Comporta, Portugal from October 24th to 26th where ETP members gathered for a trade show, education sessions, and field day. The event began with a golf tournament the morning of October 24th at Troia Golf before lunch and the ETP General Assembly. This was followed by educational seminars from a variety of international speakers covering a wide range of topics on turfgrass management, new technologies, the environment, planting techniques, irrigation, construction, sustainability, and more.



Panoramic view of the trade show floor at the 2018 European Turfgrass Producers Turf Expo

After 2 days of indoor trade shows and seminars, ETP traveled briefly south to Novogreen Sod Farm in Comporta, Portugal to check out the latest in equipment, seed, and more. One of the interesting parts of international organizations like TPI and ETP is getting to visit and build relationships with seed and sod producers as well as industry partners from around the world. Several TPI members from the United States were also there to participate, as well as speak in seminars. Special thanks to ETP for inviting TPI and hosting a great event!

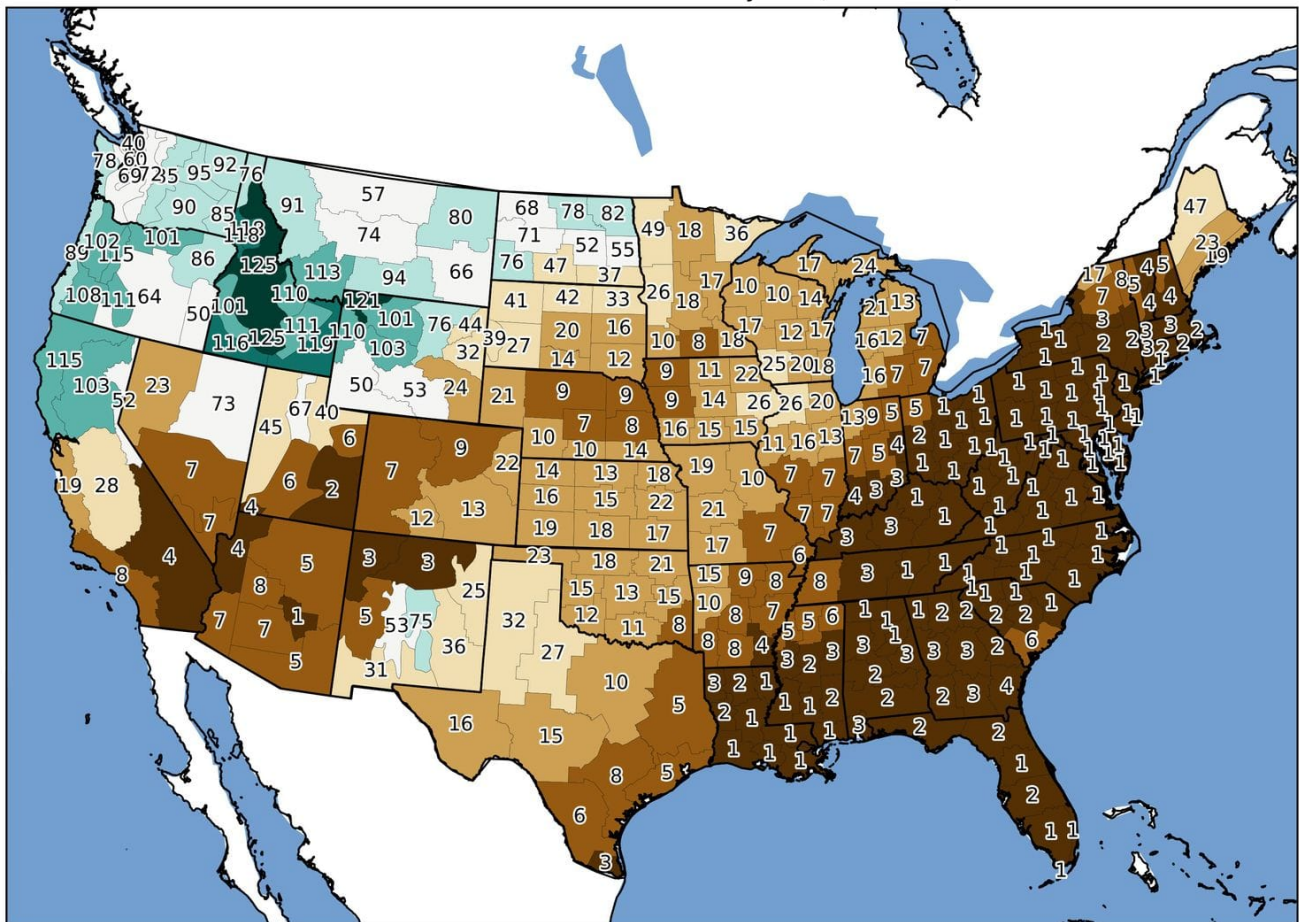
This swampy, brown map sums up September in the eastern U.S.


By Angela Fritz - October 2, 2018, *The Washington Post.com*

There are very few positive ways to describe the month of September. It was hot, steamy, oppressive and smelly. The mud was never-ending. The mushrooms are still growing. The most generous thing I can say for the month is that it's finally over.

September overnight temperature rankings

Each number represents the region's average overnight low temperature in September, with 1 being the hottest out of 126 years of data, from 1893 to 2018.



Source: Iowa Environmental Mesonet 



I saw this ugly map today, and I thought it really hit the nail on the head. Brown colors show where overnight temperatures were warmer than normal in September. Where the swampy hues coincide with a “1,” it means the location had the warmest nighttime temperatures on record last month. In general, the lower the number, the more oppressive the nights in September were.

It takes only a cursory scan to see that September was miserable across the eastern United States — at least after the sun went down. There probably won’t be much argument if we say it was miserable during the day, too. They are connected by the two things that made last month particularly unbearably: clouds and humidity.

This summer was beyond humid — it was unbearably muggy. The dew point, which is how meteorologists measure humidity, was above 70 degrees for a record-setting duration this year in Boston; Hartford, Conn.; Portland, Maine; and Providence, R.I. Some of the moisture was coming from bath-like water temperatures off the Northeast coast. Some of it was blowing north from the Gulf of Mexico.

Humidity has an interesting affect on temperature. Although moisture on your skin helps to cool your body when it’s hot out, moisture in the air prevents the temperature from dropping overnight. Water vapor is a greenhouse gas, meaning it has heat-trapping properties. When it’s very humid at night, less of the day’s heat can escape to space.

The other element that prevents heat from escaping at night is clouds. Depending on the height of the cloud, its thickness and the time of day, it can have a warming or cooling effect. Overall, at night, clouds tend to have a net warming effect. They trap heat near the surface of the Earth, preventing overnight temperatures from cooling.

These two factors — clouds and humidity — are what contributed most to September’s gross weather. I’m ready for fall now.

The original article from The Washington Post can be found at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2018/10/02/this-swampy-brown-map-sums-up-september-eastern-us/?utm_term=.b7b85d2abbe8&wpisrc=nl_energy202&wpmm=1



TPI 2019 International Education Conference Agenda!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019

8:15 am - 4:00 pm	Tour of Charlotte Motor Speedway, Hendrick Motorsports, and Bank of America Stadium, home of NFL's Carolina Panthers (Optional activity)*
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm	First Time Attendee Welcome Reception
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	President's Welcome Reception

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

8:00 am - 9:00 am	Breakfast & Annual Business Meeting
9:15 am - 10:30 am	Education Session Creating A Pivot Point: Leveraging Change Without Sacrificing Results <i>Shawn Rhodes, international business consultant & former US military war correspondent</i>
10:45 am - 11:45 am	Concurrent Breakout Sessions I Business Office Best Practices (panel discussion) Preparing for and Adjusting to Change in Your Workplace Principles and Practices for Extending Sod Shelf-Life**
11:45 am - 1:15 pm	Networking Lunch
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Concurrent Breakout Sessions II Natural Turfgrass Consumer Research and Upcoming Public Relations Initiative Turfgrass May Not be as Thirsty as Your Neighbors Think** What Drives the Market: Pricing, Marketing, and Forecasting
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm	Concurrent Breakout Sessions III What I Wish I'd Known (panel discussion) Turfgrass May Not be as Thirsty as Your Neighbors Think** What Drives the Market: Pricing, Marketing, and Forecasting
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	TLI Committee Meeting – Research All are Welcome TPI Working Group Meeting – Membership All are Welcome
5:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Exhibit Hall Open, Dinner Served in Hall



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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019

7:00 am - 8:00 am	TLI Committee Meeting – Public Relations All are Welcome TPI Working Group Meeting – Scholarship All are Welcome
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Inspirational Breakfast – All Are Welcome
9:00 am - 10:30 am	Education Session The Grass Is Always Greener... Until It Isn't: The Changing Perceptions of Public Opinion <i>Phil Davis, Tungsten Branding</i>
10:45 am - 11:45 am	Concurrent Breakout Sessions I Government Relations and Regulatory Update Plant and Soil Interactions for Turfgrass Producers Innovative Farm Management
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open, Lunch Served in Hall
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm	Concurrent Breakout Sessions II What I Wish I'd Known (panel discussion) Plant and Soil Interactions for Turfgrass Producers Principles and Practices for Extending Sod Shelf-Life**
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Show & Tell Sessions <i>Incoming members of TPI Board of Trustees</i>
5:30 pm - 9:30 pm	TLI Banquet and Fundraising Auction at NASCAR Hall of Fame

* Optional Activity Requiring Separate Registration.

** TLI FUNDED RESEARCH

Schedule is preliminary and subject to change.



Thanks to the TPI 2019 International Education Conference Sponsors! Please be sure to drop by and see them!



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Columbia Seeds LLC
DLF Pickseed & Seed Research of Oregon
Donkey Forklift
Firefly Automatrix, Inc.
First Products, Inc.
Geoponics
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Jacklin Seed
Jonathan Green & Sons, Inc.
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The Lawn Institute to Raffle a Corvette to Benefit Research, Public Relations Campaign, Education, and Scholarships



Don't miss your chance to win a 1975 Corvette convertible!! Raffle tickets are available now for your chance to win the 1975 Corvette convertible generously donated by TPI member Brian Bouchard of Kingston Turf in Rhode Island. The drawing will be held during the TLI Banquet and Fundraising Auction held in conjunction with the 2019 International Education Conference in Charlotte, NC in February. Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased by calling the TPI office at 847-649-5555 or emailing info@TurfGrassSod.org.

All raffle proceeds go to TLI to support research, education, scholarships, and the campaign to promote natural grass.



TPI 2019 International Education Conference Concludes with Banquet and TLI Auction at NASCAR Hall of Fame

Attendees from TPI's 2019 International Education Conference will converge upon NASCAR's Hall of Fame in Charlotte, North Carolina for a night of fundraising and fellowship on Wednesday, February 20 to benefit The Lawn Institute.

The night will feature a cocktail hour, a southern-themed dinner, and many fun activities as attendees have full run of the Hall's exciting exhibits and activities. There will be a TPI 500 Stock Car Race, sponsored by Trebro Manufacturing, Inc., where participants can race their friends for a trophy and bragging rights! The High Octane Theater, sponsored by Sod Solutions, will provide an exciting video introduction to the history of racing from the sandy beaches of Daytona to the present day.





TLI Auction (continued)

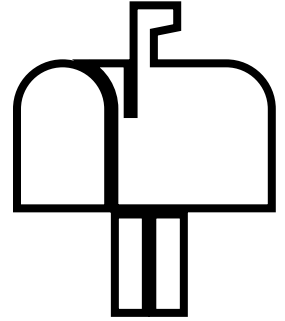
The event will also feature a very important fundraising auction. All proceeds from the event go to support TLI initiatives, including research, education, scholarships, and the campaign to promote natural grass. Generous donors have created an exciting range of items, with someone for every interest!

Items available for auction include:

- Magnum Sod Installer, donated by Magnum ENP
- Parts Package, donated by R&R Products
- Weekend for two at a Texas Lodge, donated by Texas Sod Leasing
- Lodging and paragliding trip in Australia, donated by Australian Lawn Concepts
- Brouwer Turf Roller, donated by Brouwer Kesmac
- Steak and Wine Package, donated by Hilltop Herefords and Drs. Doug Karcher, Mike Richardson, and John Sorochoan
- American Red Snapper Fishing Trip, donated by Bethel Farms
- Green Egg Grilling Package, donated by Harmony Brands
- Dinner for 8 with your own private chef, donated by Hank and Mary Kerfoot of Modern Turf
- 2020 TPI International Education Conference & Field Day package in Orlando, FL donated by TPI
- Four-day Seed Production Trip, donated by Summit Seed
- Remington 81212 Model 870 Express Tactical 12 gauge shotgun

More items are being added. Please check our website <http://www.turfgrassod.org/pages/events/auction-fundraiser/> for an updated list! If you have an item to donate for the auction or wish to be a sponsor for the evening, please contact Karen Cooper at kcooper@turfgrassod.org.

Proxy bidding is possible if you are interested in an item and not able to attend. Please contact Karen Cooper at kcooper@turfgrassod.org for information.



TPI Membership Renewal Statements Mailing Soon

TPI members will soon be seeing dues renewal information in their mailboxes. This is the first year that TPI dues will be collected on a calendar year basis. Also included with the dues statements will be an account audit. TPI staff is asking each member organization to review the individuals listed on their account and make changes or additions as needed.

If you are not a TPI member, now is a great time to join up and support the world's largest association of turfgrass producers and suppliers. An introductory rate of \$250 is available for new members! Contact Karen Cooper at kcooper@TurfGrassSod.org or 847-737-7631 to learn more!

NEW Supplier Membership Classes NOW OPEN!

Ask about how to get more exposure for your company & employees when renewing!

	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



2019 TPI Member Benefits Brochure!



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pallets of sod for a
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larger farm.

MEMBERSHIP RATES

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A-1 (1-99 acres): \$500
A-2 (100-299 acres): \$750
A-3 (300+ acres): \$1250
A-NEW*: \$250

International

A-Int: \$500 (all farm sizes)
A-NEW*: \$250

Suppliers

B-Supplier: \$995

* Members new to TPI or have not
been a TPI member in the previous
5 years qualify for a one-year
introductory rate of \$250.

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ACCESSING OUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION IS EASY!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.TurfGrassSod.org

SCAN OUR QR CODE: QUESTIONS? CONTACT US:



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Associate Executive Director
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kcooper@TurfGrassSod.org



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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Comments

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

creynolds@TurfgrassSod.org