



The Lawn Institute Research Grant Program

“To ensure and protect the future of natural turfgrass through science and education.”

The Lawn Institute Research Committee invites you to submit a request for research funding. Enclosed are the materials necessary to complete a grant application. ***Your proposal must be submitted on the enclosed form, an electronic version or an exact duplicate.*** Grant awards will vary depending on the adjudged value of the project to the needs of the turfgrass sod production industry. Typical awards range from \$5,000 - \$10,000. However, all proposals will be considered regardless of the grant amount requested. For additional information, refer to the attached “Requirements of Principal Investigator/Institution”.

Although space has been limited to encourage concise grant applications, additional information may be requested at a later date. It is important that you complete all areas in the application. Research topics that will be given the highest priority are included as “Research Prioritized Objectives”.

In preparing the application, be sure that all pertinent information is typed (no smaller than 10-point type) in English. **Completed applications must be received** (not postmarked) **at The Lawn Institute address (via mail, fax or email) by December 1, 2015.**

The Lawn Institute
2 East Main St.
East Dundee, IL 60118 USA
Phone: 800/405-8873 Fax: 847/649-5678
Email: info@thelawninstitute.org

Recommendations on grant awards will be made by The Lawn Institute Research Committee to The Lawn Institute Board of Trustees for final approval. Grant awards will be announced no later than May 20, 2016. When writing your proposal, remember that the selection committee is made up of industry representatives from around the world as well as research scientists. It is important that you clearly define the problem that your research addresses, the scope of the problem, and how your research addresses it as well as how your research will impact turfgrass producers. The Lawn Institute reserves the right to negotiate proprietary rights for projects on a per-grant basis including copyrights, source codes, and/or patents.

Sincerely,

The Lawn Institute Research Committee
Duane Klundt, Chair

The Lawn Institute Research Grant Program

Requirements of Principal Investigator/Institution

In order for a project to be considered and approved, the following requirements must be observed in all respects.

Project Submission

- A. Only those forms, formats and deadlines as established by The Lawn Institute may be used to apply for grants.

Funding

- A. Only one new project per institution each year will be approved; however, multiple projects may be submitted for consideration. (Applications for renewal of on-going projects are not considered a new project.)
- B. Multi-year proposals may be approved, with succeeding year funding subject to interim progress reports and anticipated results.
- C. Funds cannot be used for faculty salaries.
- D. Proposals seeking funds for capital expenditures related to sod-specific research needs (in addition to research project support) will be treated on a case-by-case basis.
- E. Administrative costs must be at absolute minimums, but in no case may they exceed 16 percent of the total funding requested. Lower administrative costs will be given greater weight in the review process.
- F. Grants will be paid in equal portions:
 - a. Project initiation portion, as near June 1, 2016 as possible after receipt of all necessary documentation.
 - b. Project completion portion, upon receipt of final report.
 - c. If the research is performed over multiple years, interim installments will be paid annually, pending receipt of an annual progress report and accounting of grant disbursement.

Reports

A minimum of two reports and one magazine article are required of all grant recipients. All submissions should be presented in lay terms.

- A. Interim Report(s) – a 2-3 page description of project initiation and progress is required. If the research is conducted in a 12-month period or less, the interim report is requested at the midway point. If the research is conducted over a period greater than 12 months, interim reports are requested every year.
- B. Final Report – upon completion of research and analysis of data, explaining in detail the entire project and results. Receipt of a Final Report will be required prior to the release of the final grant payment.
- C. Magazine Article – at the conclusion of the project, a 2,000 to 2,500-word article is required for possible publication in *Turf News* magazine. In addition to the results of the research, the article should provide sufficient interpretation so that the reader will have a reasonable understanding of the practical implications and applications of the research.

A copy of any thesis, dissertation or peer-reviewed article based on the grant-supported research should be sent to The Lawn Institute following publication.

Educational Presentation – at the invitation of The Lawn Institute, the researcher may be asked to present the findings of this research at a conference. Expenses to participate in this event will be borne by The Lawn Institute or associated entity.

Support Acknowledgement

All presentations (regardless of format or media) must include acknowledgement of The Lawn Institute's financial support for this project, whether the support is total or partial.

Release of Sensitive Information

Any information resulting from a project supported by The Lawn Institute that could be construed to favor or endorse the product of one manufacturer or supplier over another must be cleared with The Lawn Institute before data or information is released to the public.

(Revised September 2015)

Research Prioritized Objectives

As the only foundation dedicated to the specific research needs of the turfgrass sod production industry, The Lawn Institute will distribute grants based on the potential benefit to this industry.

The following research topics will be given high priority by the grant proposal review committee when determining funding. The following recommendations are intended as a means of identifying research areas of greatest interest, recognizing that they are not stated in scientific terms or protocols. **Research proposals may be submitted on areas not included in this document.**

A. Cultural Impact of Turfgrass

Studies exploring turfgrass' influence on societal health and wellness are becoming increasingly important to messaging within the turfgrass industry. The committee has identified a need to determine whether or not turfgrass provides personal benefits including improved fitness and activity levels for families with turfgrass lawns vs. families without lawns (i.e. urban areas, hardscape yards, native plant yards); fewer and less serious injuries sustained by student and professional athletes who regularly practice and play on natural vs. synthetic grass; and reduced crime rates in areas with turfgrass lawns compared to areas other types of yards or no yards.

B. Research Communication & Education

Vast amounts of research have been completed on nutrients, pesticides, water, mowing, timing of applications, etc.; however, little has been done to scientifically review multiple findings (on a single or related topic) and present them in a unified, understandable publication. The committee has termed this process “researching the research”, because it would require the analysis of existing research findings rather than the accumulation of new research data.

Of particular interest to The Lawn Institute would be in-depth reports (in lay-person language) that bring together scientific findings related to:

- The fate and mobility of turfgrass nutrients and pesticides and the potential of turf as a remedial agent in protecting the environment.
- The inter-relationships between turf quality, environment impacts and the frequency and timing of mowing, irrigation, nutrient and pesticide applications.

C. Extending Harvested Turf “Shelf Life”

Heating of harvested turfgrass sod, stacked on pallets for transport, continues to be a major concern in many areas. Some research is in progress, but a break-through could expand the harvest-delivery cycle.

- Long-term studies might focus on identification of the specific causes of heating and later to processes/techniques or products that might address the cause(s).
- Short-term studies might address “quick-fix” solutions that result in delay of temperature build-up; temperature reduction techniques; harvesting time-of-day issues; sensing technology to make growers aware of temperature build-up, etc.

D. Environmental Awareness

Traditionally, the aesthetic values of turfgrass have been the industry's exclusive marketing focus; however, as greater attention and interest is focused on environmental issues, there is a need for solid answers to perplexing questions.

Potential areas of study might include:

- Non-traditional pest management techniques and/or products.
- Techniques or tools that reduce input requirements for water, nutrients and pesticides.
- Carbon sequestration capacity of turfgrass (as well as comparisons to other plant forms).
- Pollution entrapment capacity of with comparisons to other plant forms.
- Safe-play areas for competitive and non-competitive athletes, addressing specifically the injuries related to various natural and man-made surfaces.
- Reducing water use during establishment and/or management.

E. Production Costs

Labor is typically the single largest cost element of turfgrass production, therefore any technique or tool that could reduce costs would be positive. This issue could be addressed through improved mechanization of growing and harvesting techniques, further computerization or perhaps Global Positioning Systems (GPS) for robotic field operations. In addition, time and motion studies that propose improvements in field preparation, irrigation, mowing, harvesting patterns, techniques, etc., would be of interest. Reducing fertilizer needs and therefore the costs could be included.

Please print:

Name: _____ Email: _____

The Lawn Institute
GENERAL RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION

(Applications must be submitted on this form or exact duplicate (**2 page max**). Email copies accepted in Microsoft Word only.
Use no smaller than 10-point type.)

Project Title:

Principal Investigator(s):

Institution:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Statement of problem or issues to be addressed by this project:

Proposed project completion date (when results will be publicly available):

Descriptive summary of proposed research plan/project:

Current knowledge about project topic/area (include citations where appropriate):

Please print:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Significant potential benefits of project findings:

Deliverables (list form and date available of information or technical advancements resulting from this project, i.e., peer-reviewed journal article(s); trade magazine article(s); educational talk(s); technical manual(s);

Technical qualifications and expertise of investigators necessary to accomplish this project:

Budget Requirements (U.S. Dollars)

	(Year)	(Total Budget)	(Funds Requested from The Lawn Institute)
1 st	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
2 nd	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
3 rd	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
	Total	\$ _____	\$ _____

Current or Pending Source(s) of Other or Additional Project Funds or Partners:

Source _____ Project Support \$ _____

Source _____ Project Support \$ _____

Source _____ Project Support \$ _____

Total of "Other Support" \$ _____

Understanding and Agreement:

As the Principal Investigator, I understand and agree to abide by The Lawn Institute's Requirements of Principal Investigator/Institution document. Specifically, I understand and agree that failure to fully comply with each and every item may result in this project not being considered or approved, or if approved, support being withdrawn. I accept these conditions to receive a Research Grant from The Lawn Institute.

(Signature of Principal Investigator)

Date ____/____/____