

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 January 12, 2018.**

The Lawn Institute
444 E. Roosevelt Rd. # 346
Lombard, IL 60148 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 19, 2018. 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

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 from time-to-time 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 the availability of funds, 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 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. (Lower administrative costs will be given greater weight in the review process).
- F. Initial grant payment of 50 percent of the total of the funding approved for the fiscal year (June 1 – May 31) will be made during the first week of June. Subsequent payments will be made within one month of receipt of the Interim Report (see below).

Reports

A minimum of two reports, prepared and submitted semi-annually, and one magazine article, prepared and submitted at the conclusion of the research, are required of all grant recipients. An invitation to speak at a meeting may also result. All items should be presented in lay terms.

- A. Interim Report – approximately every 6 months after initiation (as near October 1 and April 1 as possible), a 2-3 page description of project initiation and progress.
- B. Final Report – at conclusion of the term of the grant, explaining in detail the entire project and results. Receipt of a Final Report will be required prior to the release of the final payment of funds.
- C. Magazine Article – at the conclusion of the project, a 1,500 to 2,000-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 this 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 Turfgrass Producers International (TPI), the researcher may be asked to present the findings of this research at an International Education Conference or Summer Convention. Expenses to participate in this event will be borne by TPI or The Lawn Institute.

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.

Proprietary Rights

- A. The general policy of The Lawn Institute is that all technology, inventions, and writings developed or first made in the performance of the research project and any patents, plant variety protection and copyrights thereon shall become the property of the university. However, The Lawn Institute, in effect, shall have the right of first refusal if the university elects not to file a patent or plant variety protection application on any invention conceived or reduced to practice in the course of the research project.
- B. It is the policy that The Lawn Institute receives 50 percent of all royalties (less patenting and licensing costs) or the monetary equivalent of any other consideration received by the university or The Lawn Institute from the sale, licensing or sub-licensing of proprietary rights. It should be noted that all royalties received by The Lawn Institute shall be deposited in The Lawn Institute Foundation for the perpetuation of turfgrass and environmental research and education.

(Revised August 2016)

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 with 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):