

# 2020 TLI Research Objectives, Requirements for Principal Investigators, and Call for Proposals

(Due December 4, 2020)





## TLI Research Objectives

The Lawn Institute (TLI) is a charitable foundation that was created in 1955 to assist in and encourage the improvement of lawns and sportsturf through research and education. The Lawn Institute provides homeowners, lawn care professionals, policy-makers, and others with research-based information on the care and importance of natural grass as an essential component of urban and suburban landscapes. Applications for research funds can be requested on any topic, but the TLI Research Committee will place priority on proposals in the following research areas:

- **Cultural Impacts of Natural Grass** - Research that includes, but is not limited to societal health and well-being, fitness, athletic field safety, socio-economics, consumer attitudes, etc.
- **Environmental Awareness of Natural Grass** - Research that includes but is not limited to, carbon sequestration, heat abatement, pollution entrapment, soil remediation, run-off reduction, etc.
- **Natural Grass Input Reductions** - Research that includes, but is not limited to drought tolerance, reduced water use, nutrient requirements, traffic tolerance, integrated pest management, etc.
- **Extending Harvested Shelf-Life of Natural Grass Sod**
- **Reducing Production Costs of Natural Grass Seed or Sod**
- **Natural Grass Research Communication & Education** - Information that can be used to develop content on The Lawn Institute website for educating policy makers, homeowners, and the general public on turfgrass science, management, impacts, etc. This can include literature reviews on environmental impacts, benefits, regionally specific information on selection and management, weed/insect/disease control, and more.



# TLI Requirements for Principal Investigators

## Project Submission Guidelines

Applicants are encouraged to adhere to all TLI forms, formats, and deadlines for full consideration of proposals. Proposals for single or multiple-year projects will be considered as long as the years and funding amounts are clearly stated by the principal investigator in the TLI Research Call for Proposals. Typical funding for projects is \$5,000 - \$10,000 per year. Funds cannot be used for faculty or staff salaries and proposals seeking funds for capital expenditures will be reviewed individually.

Overhead or administrative costs shall be held to an absolute minimum but will not exceed 16 percent. The Lawn Institute is a charitable foundation and is vitally interested in providing the maximum direct support to research from available funds. As such, The Lawn Institute will not support overhead or administrative costs for grants of \$10,000 or less. Matching or partial support from university, local, or regional funding sources is favorably viewed but is not a requirement for consideration.

The TLI Research Proposal Application found on pages 5-8 of this document includes an annual budget (page 8) that outlines the amount of funds requested for each year of the project. For single-year projects, 100% of the total award will be released to the principal investigator by April 1<sup>st</sup> during the year in which the proposal was awarded. For projects requesting multiple years of support, 100% of the funding for the first year of the award will be released by April 1<sup>st</sup> during the first year of the project and by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each subsequent year contingent upon the receipt of interim project reports due to TLI on April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. A final report will be required for all projects and shall be due to TLI on April 1<sup>st</sup> after the final year of funding.

Interim or final project reports shall include information on methods, status updates, high-resolution digital images, and any relevant data. Principal investigators may be asked to work with TLI staff to prepare information for presentation at conferences and in *Turf News* magazine. TLI will work with principal investigators to make sure that any reporting of data in TLI sources (conferences, magazines, social media, etc.) does not jeopardize or otherwise interfere with publication in peer-reviewed academic journals. The Lawn Institute asks that principal investigators acknowledge TLI as a funding source during presentations or submissions to trade magazines, academic journals, or other published outlets.



## Project Submission Timeline

	February	April	August	November	December
<b>Progress</b>	TLI research committee votes on proposals  Project winners notified		TLI Call for Proposals released	Research proposals due to TLI	
<b>Payments</b>		Payments awarded			
<b>Reports</b>		Annual and Final Reports Due to TLI	TLI submits reports to <i>Turf News</i> for use in Sept/Oct annual research issue		Interim and final reports due to TLI
<b>Date</b>	TPI Winter Conference (TBD annually)	April 1st	August	November 30th	



## TLI Research Proposal Cover Sheet

Title of Proposal:

Principal Investigator:

Institution:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Project Start Date:

Project End Date:

Total Amount Requested:

*\*This Cover Sheet must accompany the Executive Summary and Budget*



# Executive Summary

(Two-page maximum, single-spaced, 12-point Trebuchet MS font)

**Title of Proposal**

**Statement of Problem and Current Knowledge (include appropriate citations)**

**Descriptive Summary of Research Plan**

**Potential Benefits and Deliverables**



## Executive Summary (continued)



## Budget Summary

(One-page maximum)

### TLI Research Proposal Funding Requests and Additional Support

Year	TLI Funds Requested	Additional Support <sup>†</sup>	Sources <sup>†</sup>
2020			
2021			
2022			
<b>Total</b>			

<sup>†</sup>Additional support from other funding sources is not a requirement to receive funding from The Lawn Institute. However, if additional support is intended to be used for this project please list the source(s).

#### Understanding and Agreement

As the Principal Investigator, I understand and agree to abide by The Lawn Institute's Requirements of Principal Investigator and Institutions section of this document.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Principal Investigator)

Date:

Email completed proposals including Cover Sheet, Executive Summary, and Budget Summary to [creynolds@TurfgrassSod.org](mailto:creynolds@TurfgrassSod.org) by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.