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NYSTA
News

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Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund Receives Legislative Appropriation

Professional turfgrass managers are constantly challenged to meet consumer expectations and environmental safety,

while complying with a myriad of government regulations. Scientific research to date tells us that achieving healthy turf while preserving and protecting the environment is possible. However, more research is needed to provide

improved turf management solutions. For this reason, the New York State Turfgrass Association for several years has advocated for a state supported fund to provide professional turf managers with the skills they need to enhance turf quality, while protecting the environment.

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Catharine Young, who represents the 57th Senate District (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Livingston Counties) and is Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, originally expressed her support for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund at our 2006 Turfgrass Advocacy day in February and then proceeded to secure this appropriation in the state budget.

The Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund will support environmental research that looks beyond the traditional agronomic aspects of turfgrass science and seeks to determine the influence of practices on the environment. Preference will be given to research that will have a positive impact on the environment such as water quality protection methods, Integrated Pest Management that strives to reduce reliance on pesticides, and the development of biological control practices that enhance the ecological compatibility of turf systems. The fund will also improve research and technology information dissemination and promote the value of turfgrass to the citizens of New York. NYSTA and its members wish to thank Senator Young for her support of the Fund and her recognition of the value of scientific research.

Upcoming NYSTA Events in 2007

January 30-31	Southeast Regional Conference & GCSAA Seminar, Holiday Inn-Suffern, Suffern, NY
February 7	2007 Turfgrass Advocacy Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY
March 5	Western Regional Conference, Buffalo/Niagara Marriott, Amherst, NY
March 27	Adirondack Regional Conference Crowne Plaza Lake Placid Resort, Lake Placid, NY
November 13-15	Empire State Green Industry Show Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY