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.

The Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund has been one of the priority issues at our annual Turfgrass Advocacy Day in Albany. NYSTA is pleased to report this initiative has been recently funded! The 2006-07 New York State budget includes $175,000 for the "services and expenses of the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund." Senator 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.