



The Importance of Agronomic Research

The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of GCSAA.

Imagine the functionality of today's golf courses or the ability to manage them in an economically viable manner if there were no resources to fuel innovation, address challenges brought on by Mother Nature or respond to regulatory pressures. The absence of ongoing university-based research, education, advocacy programs and course operation resources threatens the ability of these small businesses to succeed and of golfers to maximize their experience. In short, the lack of this support directly impacts our quality of life.

Research

Research in areas such as water quality and conservation, pest management and nutrient use significantly enhances the ability of golf facilities to operate more efficiently. This agronomic-focused research directly supports new and improved management programs and the development of new products. It can also have an impact in the following areas:

- Water quality protection research helps ensure regulatory compliance and environmental stewardship
- Water management research ensures healthy turfgrass and operational efficiency
- Nutrient management helps improve playing surfaces and water quality
- Pest management research contributes to improvements in the way threats to turfgrasses are controlled in the never-ending fight against pests

Education

Turfgrass and golf course superintendent associations partner with university scientists and industry professionals to conduct high-quality, research-based education. Expanding knowledge is critical in developing innovative management programs that benefit both the golf course and the golfer.

Advocacy

Since golf facilities are businesses that have the ability to impact the environment, it is only natural that they are subject to regulation that may impact land and water use, storm water runoff, energy consumption and the use of nutrients and pesticides. However, a regulation can have unintended negative consequences if it is not created with a comprehensive view. By taking an active approach to the regulatory process, the golf industry can actually help craft or influence policy in a manner that is beneficial to all parties involved.

Scholarships

Scholarships are an investment in the future of the game. They are a commitment to the people who will directly impact the game, supporting the educational pursuits of future golf course managers.

Scholarships have been a part of the EIFG's focus since 1955, when the organization was founded as the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Fund. In 2011, the EIFG awarded 53 scholarships totaling more than \$130,000.

Environmental Programs

The EIFG is focused on providing golf courses with resources that enhance their social, economic and environmental value to communities. Resources for golf course managers include case studies, the GCSAA Values document, best management practices and the IPM Planning Guide.

Help us keep the future of our game green. Support the EIFG's Rounds 4 Research program.