

NEWS RELEASE



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OHIO TURFGRASS WEEK

May 27 - June 3, 2010

OTF is currently seeking a legislative proclamation (Senate bill 51) naming the last week of May as Ohio Turfgrass Week.

What is Ohio Turfgrass Week?

OTF successfully launched Ohio Turfgrass Week in May 2006 with two primary goals:

- 1) To generate public awareness for the turfgrass industry in Ohio
- 2) To create new funding sources for turfgrass research and education

According to a Ohio Turfgrass Economic Impact Study, Ohio's turfgrass industry accounts for:

- \$4.6 Billion Total Economic Impact
- \$937 Million in Payroll, Payroll Taxes and Contracted Services
- 41,808 employed
- 4+ Million Acres of Maintained Turfgrass

Ohio's 4+ Million Acres of Turfgrass Benefits the Environment by:

- Capturing Carbon: with the majority of its biomass below ground, carbon dioxide is captured by the leaves and sequestered into the soil by the roots - where it remains for decades
- 2500 sq ft of green turf absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and releases enough oxygen for a family of 4 to breathe

(OVER)

- Air Quality: Turfgrass removes smoke, dust and other pollutants from the air
- Water Quality Protection: turfgrass reduces pollutants leaching through the soil into the water supply and reduces surface water runoff.
- Reduced Soil Erosion: turfgrass holds soil in place, keeping sediments and other pollutants out of lakes, streams, storm drains and roads
- Reduced Temperatures: on a block of 8 average houses, front lawns have the cooling effect of 70 tons of air conditioning and on a hot summer day, lawns will be 30 degrees cooler than asphalt and 14 degrees cooler than bare soil
- Fire Retardation: a buffer zone of grass around homes and buildings helps retard the spread of fire.

According to EPA's *Healthy Lawn, Healthy Environment*, "Healthy grass provides feeding ground for birds, who find it a rich source of insects, worms and other food. Thick grass prevents soil erosion, filters contaminants from rainwater, and absorbs many airborne pollutants, like dust and soot. Grass is also highly efficient at converting carbon dioxide to oxygen, a process that helps clean the air."

OTF hopes to increase 2010 fundraising efforts by adding fun and competition for those wishing to support these efforts. A contest involves selling raffle tickets to golfers, fans, customers, and all others who benefit from the expertise of turfgrass management.

Professional turfgrass managers will donate a prize and sell raffle tickets to their customers for a chance to win the prize (example: golf course offers a chance to win a free foursome round of golf). Participants will then conduct their own drawing on June 3 and contact the winner. Funds generated from raffle ticket sales will then be sent to OTF.

Everyone who purchases a raffle ticket has a chance to win great prizes. Plus, raffle players learn about the importance of turfgrass research, because the raffle tickets offer valuable information about the environmental benefits of turfgrass research.

Everyone who uses and enjoys professionally-managed turfgrass space in Ohio can help the environment by supporting turfgrass research.

For more information about the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation, please contact 888-683-3445; 740-452-2552 (fax); info@OhioTurfgrass.org; www.OhioTurfgrass.org.