

Ohio's Turfgrass Industry

The Greenest Part of Ohio's Economy

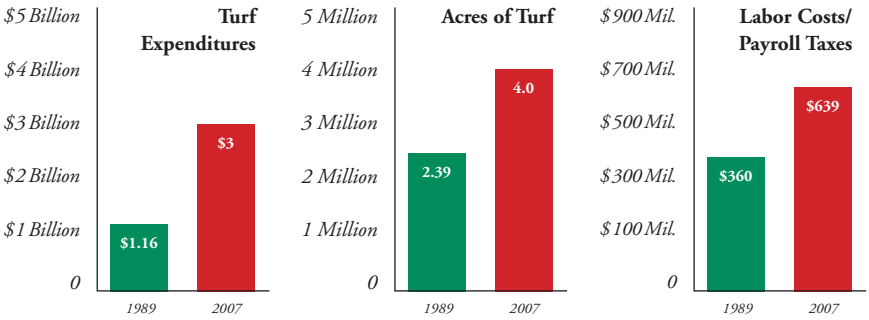
According to a 2007 Ohio Turfgrass Economic Impact Study, Ohio's turfgrass industry accounts for:

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

Turfgrass – It's Where You Live, Work & Play!

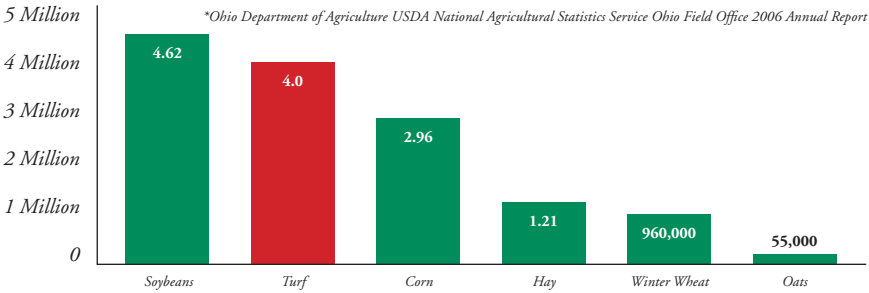
Growth of Ohio's Turfgrass Industry – 1989 to 2007*

*Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's Economic Impact of Ohio's Turfgrass Industry (2007)



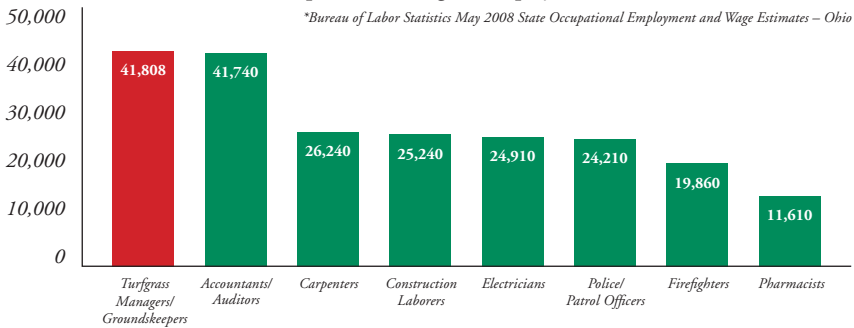
Comparison of Turfgrass Acres to Other Ohio Agricultural Crops*

*Ohio Department of Agriculture USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Ohio Field Office 2006 Annual Report



Comparison of Turfgrass Employment with Other Sectors in Ohio*

*Bureau of Labor Statistics May 2008 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates – Ohio



“The lawn is the canvas upon which the rest of the landscape is painted.”

– Alex Cusnow

How Do Ohio's 4+ Million Acres of Turfgrass Benefit the Environment?

- 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
- 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."

"Next in importance to the divine profusion of water, light and air – may be reckoned the universal beneficence of grass. Grass is the forgiveness of nature, her constant benediction."

– Senator John J. Ingalls (1833 – 1900)

How Our Legislators Can Help:

- Support Ohio Turfgrass Week (Senate Bill 51) to help create awareness of the industry and its economic and environmental benefits
 - Support Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center (OARDC) funded research (example: Urban Landscape Ecology Program)
 - Support Ohio State University Extension
 - Support Ohio Department of Agriculture's Regulatory Authority
 - Support statewide uniform property tax valuation policies for golf courses
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Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Mission

The purpose of the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation is to promote the turfgrass industry in Ohio, encourage the further study, research and education of turfgrass science and to speak on matters of policy affecting the turfgrass industry – all of which provide better turf for everyone.

The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation thanks the following organizations for supporting the 2007 Ohio Turfgrass Economic Impact Study:

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
(Ohio's 5 Chapters)
Ohio Lawn Care Association
Ohio Sod Producers Association
Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association
Ohio Turfgrass Research Trust

For more information, contact the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation
at 888-683-3445 or www.OhioTurfgrass.org.

