

# TURFGRASS ECONOMIC SURVEY – 2018

## Commercial Business/Cemetery/Institution Version

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**United States  
Department of Agriculture**

**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**



**USDA/NASS**  
Northeast Region  
4050 Crums Mill Road  
Suite 203  
Harrisburg, PA 17112  
Phone: 1-717-787-3904  
Fax: 1-855-270-2719 Email:  
nassrfoner@nass.usda.gov

Please make corrections to name, address, and ZIP Code, if necessary.

The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. Your responses will be kept confidential and any person who willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you or your operation is subject to a jail term, a fine, or both. This survey is conducted in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws. For more information on how we protect your information please visit: <https://www.nass.usda.gov/confidentiality>. Response is **voluntary**.

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### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Report for **all** land operated, including land rented from others, in New Jersey.

· Report for all seasons (winter, spring, summer, and fall) during 2018.

**A. Company information**

1. Where is this institution or company located?  
Primary county: \_\_\_\_\_ List any additional counties: \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Which category best describes this organization?       For-profit       Non-profit

3. Which category best fits your institution or company?

**For-Profit**

- Cemetery
- Manufacturing
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Pharmaceutical
- Wholesaling/Retailing
- Technology firm
- Financial/Insurance

**Non-profit**

- Parks
- Cemetery
- Church
- Athletic field
- Highway
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Race tracks
- Educational Inst.

4. What was the approximate area under the following categories as of December 2018?

- Total area (include buildings) \_\_\_\_\_ acres
- Turf area (include lawns) \_\_\_\_\_ acres
- Athletic turf area (football, baseball, soccer fields; fairways, greens, rough, tees) \_\_\_\_\_ acres

5. Did you expand the area under turf or facilities in 2018?

- Yes
- No (skip Question 7)

6. How much new area was established under the following categories in 2018?

- Total area (including buildings) \_\_\_\_\_ acres
- Turf area \_\_\_\_\_ acres

**B. Turfgrass Specific**

7. What are the important sources of information for your turf-related problems? (Select all that apply).

- Rutgers Cooperative Extension Agent or Specialist
- Rutgers University (other)
- Commercial Tech Rep.
- Industry magazines
- Internet
- Books
- Lawn & Landscape Contractor
- Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education
- Private consultant
- Peers
- Professional Organization
- TV/Radio
- USGA Turf Advisory Svc.
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Turf and Landscape Problems**

8. What do you consider to be difficult turf and landscape related problems facing your organization? (Select all that apply under each category).

**a. Regulation**

- Local noise ordinances
- Water restrictions
- Signposting (chemical applications)
- Pesticide application (amount, type of chemical)
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**b. Management**

- Labor availability
- Health issues due to turf activity (i.e., poisoning, etc.)
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Immigration laws
- Employee training
- Language barriers

**c. Turfgrass**

- Soil related
- Weeds
- Water related
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Diseases
- Equipment Cost
- Shade
- Insects
- Erosion
- Traffic

**D. Expenses**

9. **Best Estimate of annual turf-related expenses during the year 2018 (to the nearest \$1,000):**

Note: Please provide your best estimate of turf-related expenses in the table below. Expense categories (Items a through g) are most important. Complete sub-categories (e.g. c1 through c9) if you can. If an outside service performs all turf-related maintenance on your site, put the total amount spent under Services purchased, Contract labor.

|           |  |          |
|-----------|--|----------|
| <b>a)</b> | <b>Seed</b> .....  | \$ _____ |
| <b>b)</b> | <b>Sod</b> .....   | \$ _____ |
| <b>c)</b> | <b>Equipment and Operation (exclude labor)</b> .....           | \$ _____ |
|           | c1) Tractors (depreciation).....                               | \$ _____ |
|           | c2) Mowers (depreciation).....                                 | \$ _____ |
|           | c3) Irrigation equipment (depreciation).....                   | \$ _____ |
|           | c4) Application equipment (depreciation).....                  | \$ _____ |
|           | c5) Other equipment (depreciation).....                        | \$ _____ |
|           | c6) Vehicles (depreciation).....                               | \$ _____ |
|           | c7) Fuel, lube and electricity.....                            | \$ _____ |
|           | c8) Repairs and maintenance.....                               | \$ _____ |
|           | c9) Equipment rental.....                                      | \$ _____ |
| <b>d)</b> | <b>Chemicals</b> .....   | \$ _____ |
|           | d1) Weed control products.....                                 | \$ _____ |
|           | d2) Insect control products.....                               | \$ _____ |
|           | d3) Disease control products.....                              | \$ _____ |
|           | d4) Plant-growth regulators.....                               | \$ _____ |
|           | d5) Other.....   | \$ _____ |
| <b>e)</b> | <b>Fertilizer and Soil Amendments</b> .....                    | \$ _____ |
|           | e1) Fertilizer .....   | \$ _____ |
|           | e2) Organic Fertilizer .....                                   | \$ _____ |
|           | e3) Lime.....  | \$ _____ |
|           | e4) Manure and compost.....                                    | \$ _____ |
|           | e5) Other.....   | \$ _____ |
| <b>f)</b> | <b>Labor (salaries/wages, not taxes, not management)</b> ..... | \$ _____ |
|           | f1) Production wages/salaries.....                             | \$ _____ |
|           | f2) Supervisory wages/salaries.....                            | \$ _____ |
|           | f3) Mechanics/Maintenance wages/salaries.....                  | \$ _____ |
|           | f4) Clerical/sales wages/salaries.....                         | \$ _____ |
| <b>g)</b> | <b>Services purchased</b> .....                                | \$ _____ |
|           | g1) Chemical/fertilizer application.....                       | \$ _____ |
|           | g2) Sod installation.....                                      | \$ _____ |
|           | g3) Irrigation installation.....                               | \$ _____ |
|           | g4) Other contract labor.....                                  | \$ _____ |
| <b>h)</b> | <b>Other direct turf-related expenses (Specify)</b> .....      | \$ _____ |
|           | h1) .....  | \$ _____ |
|           | h2) .....  | \$ _____ |
|           | h3) .....  | \$ _____ |
|           | h4) .....  | \$ _____ |
| <b>g)</b> | <b>Total Turf-related Expenses</b> .....                       | \$ _____ |

10. Equipment/supplies purchased in 2018 from vendors outside of New Jersey was \_\_\_\_\_% of total expense.

11. What was the estimated value of turf related buildings and land owned and used by this firm as of December 2018 (to the nearest \$1,000)? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

12. What was the estimated value of turf related equipment owned and used by this firm as of December 2018 (to the nearest \$1,000)? (include tractors, mowers, etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
13. How many total positions did this institution or company have in 2018? \_\_\_\_\_ employees
14. Please indicate the percentage of total hours devoted to turf-related activities by those employees. \_\_\_\_\_%

### E. Cultural Practices and Equipment

15. Person(s) responsible for turf care at this property?  
 Hired maintenance contractor       Employees
16. How are grass clippings handled on this property?  
 always collected and removed       collected and composted       disposed with trash  
 rarely or never removed       collected and removed only for heavy growth
17. What is the irrigated turf area on this property? \_\_\_\_\_ acres or \_\_\_\_\_% of total turf area
18. What type of equipment is used to water the turf?  
 Hoses and sprinklers       Installed sprinklers, manual  
 Installed sprinklers, automatic       Other/Combination (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
19. Do you monitor the water needs of turf on your site?       Yes       No
20. Do you regulate the amount of water being applied to turf on your site?       Yes       No
21. What are the sources of water used? (indicate percentage provided by each)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ % Municipal      \_\_\_\_\_ % Recycled      \_\_\_\_\_ % Wells  
 \_\_\_\_\_ % Surface water      \_\_\_\_\_ % Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
22. Please indicate the number of times per year your turf area receives fertilizer applications: \_\_\_\_\_ times per year
23. Please indicate the number of times per year your turf area receives other chemical (e.g., insecticides, herbicides, etc.) applications: \_\_\_\_\_ times per year
24. Which practices are performed on your turf? (Select all that apply).  
 Biological control       Aeration       Correct drainage  
 Soil test       Soil amendments       Top-dressing  
 Dethatching       Edging       Clipping removal  
 Overseeding       Turf selection       Initial laying of sod  
 Mowing       Weed Control       Disease Control  
 Insect Control       Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### F. Opinion/General

25. Will this institution or company be increasing the area under turf over the next 5 years?  
 Definitely will       Probably will       Not sure  
 Probably will not       Definitely will not  
 If so, how much will you expand your turf area? \_\_\_\_\_ acres

26. Do you believe pesticide residues on turf present potential health risks to turf users?  
 Yes  No  Don't know
27. Is it important to develop turfgrasses that require less pesticide inputs?  
 Yes  No  Don't know
28. Is it important to develop turfgrasses that use less water?  
 Yes  No  Don't know
29. In the past 5 years, was your organization affected by water regulations during a time of drought?  
 Yes  No
30. If yes, please estimate the cost of damage to the lawn and ornamental plantings in this property associated with the drought?  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_
31. Did you lose any of the following due to damage associated with the drought (select all that apply)?  
 Shrubs  Trees  
 Flowers  Lawn  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

| Response  |      | Respondent  |      | Mode   |      | Enum. | Eval.   | Change | Office Use for POID   |      |      |      |      |
|---|------|---|------|--|------|-------|---------|--------|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| 1-Comp<br>2-R<br>3-Inac<br>4-Office Hold<br>5-R – Est<br>6-Inac – Est<br>7-Off Hold – Est | 9901 | 1-Op/Mgr<br>2-Sp<br>3-Acct/Bkpr<br>4-Partner<br>9-Oth | 9902 | 1-PASI (Mail)<br>2-PATI (Tel)<br>33-PAPI (Face-toFace)<br>6-Email<br>7-Fax<br>19-Other | 9903 | 9998  | 9900    | 9985   | 9989                  |      |      |      |      |
|   |      |   |      |  |      |       |         |        | _____ - _____ - _____ |      |      |      |      |
|   |      |   |      |  |      |       |         |        | Optional Use          |      |      |      |      |
|   |      |   |      |  |      |       | R. Unit |        |                       |      |      |      |      |
|   |      |   |      |  |      |       | 9921    |        |                       | 9907 | 9908 | 9906 | 9916 |

S/E Name