Getting Started with the TGIF database

The Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) data base is designed to be flexible for all users – from those accessing for the first time to the more sophisticated researcher/user. TGIF provides bibliographic and descriptive records for all types of works related to turfgrass culture. The TGIF database was established in 1983 by the United States Golf Association (USGA) Turfgrass Research Committee and the Michigan State University Libraries, and is now maintained by the Turfgrass Information Center, a division of the MSU Libraries. The ultimate goals of TGIF are to:

1) identify all available print or online materials reporting on turfgrass and its maintenance;
2) provide access to records representing each item; and
3) provide a direct link to the full-text or actual content of each item when possible.

TGIF is accessible via many different routes, including over 75 academic institutions worldwide, over a dozen professional organizations, and individual subscriptions!

For a list of routes to access TGIF, see: https://tic.msu.edu/tgif

Basic Search

The default search within the TGIF database is Basic Search, which is the easiest and most familiar search for many people. Use the following tips to help guide your searching experience:

- As opposed to using a question or common language in Basic Search, type only the most important words, such as **white grub control.**

- Type phrases such as **brown patch** without quotation marks.

- Shortening the search word may produce better results – for example, typing **fertili** will search for **fertilizer, fertilization, fertilisation, fertility**, etc.

- When searching for two or more topics, put semicolons between them. For example, if **winterkill; cold tolerance** is typed, TGIF will retrieve everything about **winterkill** as well as everything about **cold tolerance.**

- To search the underlying full-text of items (not just the content within the TGIF record), check the "Dig Deeper" box.

- Some words are so common they are automatically removed from the Basic Search, such as: and, for, from, the, to, turf, etc. If you would like these words included in your search, click the checkbox next to "Include Stopwords".

Guided Search

To search using Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT), choose Guided Search. In the first "Search for" box, type in a key word or phrase. By leaving the drop box as **Anywhere**, the word will be searched anywhere in the TGIF record. To limit to the title, author, keyword, language, etc. field, use the drop-down menu.

It is possible to search on multiple topics/words by using the three "Search for" boxes using AND, OR, or NOT by selecting from the drop box.

Additionally, limits by publication type, industry sector, years, or item type can be selected using the drop down boxes. Not limiting allows for all formats, years, sectors, and item types to be searched. If you are having difficulty finding what you are looking for, try removing some of the selected limiters.

It is also possible to limit the search to USGA® publications, full-text materials, and the ability to exclude abstract-only records and blog records.

The Browse Index can be used if you are unsure of a word. Start by clicking on "Browse Index". In the box, type in the unsure word and click on "Display Index". A list of the words that are alphabetically near it will appear. Check the word(s) to use for searching and click on the "Use Selected Terms" button. The terms will be added to the search and the session will return to the search page.

Power Search

This interface is intended for more experienced searchers. In this search window, full Boolean and proximity operators, wildcards, nesting (the use of parentheses), field limiters, etc. are able to be used. A complete reference guide to using Power Search is at https://tic.msu.edu/power.

TGIF Information

Date Coverage: TGIF includes all ages of turf material. Further details about "completeness" of coverage can be found at https://tic.msu.edu/complete.
Update Frequency: Updated on a continuous basis; about 15,000 records are added per year
File Size: Over 260,000 records as of April 2016.
Full Text Content: Over 60% of TGIF records are linked to web-accessible full text or include full text.
More Detailed Instructions on searching TGIF can be found at https://tic.msu.edu/search.

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