Key Points: Georgia’s Turfgrass Industry and UGA’s Turfgrass Program

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<th>Industry</th>
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<td>◼ Estimates suggest that at 1.8 million acres, turfgrass is one of the largest agricultural commodities in the state.</td>
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<td>◼ This includes home lawns, sports fields, golf courses, sod farms, and other managed landscapes areas.</td>
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<td>◼ The Georgia turfgrass and related industries contribute a total of $7.8 billion annually to the economy.</td>
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<td>◼ In terms of earnings and value added, the turfgrass and related industries contribute $4.6 billion each year.</td>
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<td>◼ The federal, state, and local tax impact is over $1 billion dollars annually.</td>
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<td>◼ This industry accounts for 87,000 full- and part-time jobs.</td>
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<td>◼ The majority of these jobs are related to landscape maintenance of buildings and households.</td>
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<td>◼ The landscape industry has a history of professional development and use of researched-based information.</td>
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<td>◼ Through drought periods, the golf and landscape segments have demonstrated exceptional environmental stewardship with their Best Management Practices (BMPs) approach to water use efficiency and conservation.</td>
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<td>◼ This industry has strived to be a part of the solution to Georgia’s environmental issues.</td>
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<td>◼ UGA is the research, development, and education arm of Georgia’s turfgrass industry.</td>
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<td>◼ UGA has a 60+ year history of providing scientifically based information to the turfgrass industry.</td>
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<td>◼ UGA is known for its renowned scientists and specialists developing practices, pest management strategies, and grasses that are best adapted to Georgia.</td>
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<td>◼ Turfgrass breeding for warm-season species dates back to the 1950s and continues today with two productive programs focused on sustainable bermudagrass, centipedegrass, seashore paspalum (pronounced pass-pal-um), and zoysiagrass cultivars.</td>
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<td>◼ These scientists are continuing to stretch the scientific boundaries with novel approaches and strategies to solve the most challenging management and environmental issues that face this industry.</td>
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<td>◼ UGA scientists continue to be involved with water conservation and have demonstrated effective methods of achieving sustainability of natural resources (i.e. water) while maintaining industry viability.</td>
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<td>◼ Extension and professional development of Georgia’s turfgrass practitioners is also of strong emphasis. Without a well-educated workforce, economic development of the turfgrass industry would not be where it is today.</td>
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<td>◼ Opportunities exist with continued support of strong academic programs along with industry partnership to increase economic development, further scientific exploration, and enhance the environment.</td>
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