2027 TURFGRASS RESEARCH GRANTS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2027 Call for Research Proposals

Introduction

The National Turfgrass Research Foundation (NTRF) is a registered Canadian charity that offers an annual research grant program to support high-quality, science-based projects that address priority needs within the turfgrass sector. Through this program, NTRF invests in research that advances product development, strengthens evidence-based management practices, promotes innovation and environmental stewardship, and supports more sustainable management and use of turfgrass environments across Canada.

2027 Research Priority Areas

Based on feedback and findings from the 2026 Research Matters survey, NTRF has identified the following priorities for research on living turfgrass used on golf courses, sports fields, lawns, parks, sod farms, and other managed turf areas across Canada:

- Climate resilience and extreme weather adaptation for turfgrass
- Turfgrass pest and disease management
- Ant management and control on putting greens
- Water efficiency and irrigation practices for managed turf, including the relationship between wetting agents and long-term soil health
- Turfgrass soil health, nutrient efficiency and carbon sequestration
- Sustainable turfgrass inputs and reduced chemical reliance, including regenerative practices that reduce reliance on synthetic chemicals
- Turf performance, durability, playability, wear tolerance and recovery
- Turfgrass management practices that respond to regulatory requirements and evolving environmental expectations
- Labour efficiency and practical operational innovation in turfgrass management
- Turfgrass management approaches that address rising costs and resource constraints
- Control of invasive plants in turf and managed fescue areas
- Creating usable compost from turfgrass clippings

- Ongoing trials of turfgrass species and varieties in locations representative of Canadian climates

Who Should Apply

NTRF invites qualified researchers from universities, colleges, research institutions, and other eligible organizations to submit proposals that address one or more of these priority areas.

Application Guidelines

- Proposals must clearly focus on one or more of NTRF's 2027 research priorities.
- Projects should demonstrate clear benefits for the turfgrass industry and promote sustainability.
- Funding is available for projects beginning in April 2027 or anytime thereafter within the calendar year.
- Each proposal must include a project description, objectives, methodology, timeline, and budget.
- Applications must be submitted by January 4th, 2027, to receive full consideration.

Submission Process

Please submit proposals and any questions to the NTRF office by email or through the NTRF website. All submissions will be acknowledged, and recipients will be notified by March 2, 2027.

info@ntrf.ca

https://ntrf.ca

For Internal Use Only

Date Received _____Proposal _____
Approved Project _____ Not Approved____

APPLICATION INFORMATION **Please provide the following details to complete your project application:**
Project Title:
Principal Investigator:
Co-Principal Investigator (if any):
Research University/Facility:
Department:

PROJECT SUMMARY		
Project Length (years)	**Start Date: April 2027, or anytime within the 2027 calendar year.**	**Expected End Date:**
<u>Project Summary</u> — *<u>maximum 100 words</u>* **Provide a concise description of the proposed research, including its key objectives and methods. Explain how the anticipated results will advance turfgrass management and provide environmental, economic, recreational, or other public benefits. Focus on the practical application and significance of the expected findings.**		

<u>Select one or more research priorities that best align with the proposed project:</u>

☐ Climate resilience and extreme weather adaptation for turfgrass
☐ Turfgrass pest and disease management
☐ Ant management and control on putting greens
☐ Water efficiency and irrigation practices for managed turf, including the relationship between wetting agents and long-term soil health
☐ Turfgrass soil health, nutrient efficiency, and carbon sequestration
☐ Sustainable turfgrass inputs and reduced chemical reliance, including regenerative practices
☐ Turf performance, durability, playability, wear tolerance, and recovery
☐ Turfgrass management practices that respond to regulatory requirements and evolving environmental expectations
☐ Labour efficiency and practical operational innovation in turfgrass management
☐ Turfgrass management approaches that address rising costs and resource constraints
☐ Control of invasive plants in turf and managed fescue areas
☐ Creation of usable compost from turfgrass clippings
☐ Ongoing trials of turfgrass species and varieties in locations representative of Canadian climates
☐ Other (please specify): _____

PROJECT DETAILS
1. **Provide a concise rationale and background for your project (maximum half page).**
2. **What are the anticipated benefits of this project for turfgrass management, the broader public, and end users?**
3. **Will this project be conducted as part of a larger initiative, possibly in collaboration with other researchers, departments, or institutions? If yes, please describe the nature and scope of these collaborations.**
4. **Will this research contribute to the development of a commercial product (e.g., a pest-control product, fertilizer, equipment, or turfgrass technology)? If yes, describe the product and disclose the involvement of any company in its development.**
5. **Outline the project's primary objectives and provide an estimated timeline with measurable milestones for each objective.**
6. **Describe the methodology that will be used to achieve the project objectives, including the research design, data-collection methods, analysis techniques, and relevant tools or procedures.**
7. **Describe the key deliverables expected upon completion of the project, including tangible outcomes, reports, tools, or innovations.**
8. **Summarize the plan for disseminating project results, including proposed channels such as scientific publications, websites, conference presentations, outreach events, or other media.**
9. **Identify potential risks or delays that could affect achievement of the project objectives or the proposed timeline and describe the planned mitigation measures.**

As a registered Canadian charity, the National Turfgrass Research Foundation (NTRF) does not provide funding for institutional overhead costs. Many universities permit an overhead exemption when an NTRF Charitable Status Exemption Request Letter is provided. This letter is available from NTRF upon request.

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET (in Canadian Dollars) The total project budget must equal the NTRF funding requested in Table 1 plus all other funding sources listed in Table 2.				
Estimated Total Project Expenses	**Year 1 (CAD $)**	**Year 2 (CAD $)**	**Year 3 (CAD $)**	**Total Project Cost**
Lab Technician Salaries				
Graduate Student Stipends				
Supplies				
Travel and communication				
Other (specify)				
Totals				

TABLE 1 Amount of funding requested from the National Turfgrass Research Foundation (NTRF) (in Canadian dollars)				
	Year 1 (CAD $)	**Year 2 (CAD $)**	**Year 3 (CAD $)**	**Total Requested Funding Amount**
Laboratory Technician Compensation				
Graduate Student Stipend Funding				
Supplies				
Travel and Communication				
Other (specify)				
TOTALS				

TABLE 2
List other funding sources for this project, including in-kind contributions.
For unsecured funding, select No in the Secured column and provide the expected funding decision date in the Expected Funding Decision Date column.

Funding Source	Amount (CAD)	In-Kind Contribution (Yes/No)	Secured (Yes/No)	Expected Funding Decision Date	Grant Approved? (Yes/No)

APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Mailing Address **Street:**		
City:	**Province/State:**	**Postal Code/ZIP:**
Phone:		
E-mail:		
Website Address (if applicable)		

Primary Research Area:	**Select the option that best describes the project's primary research area:** ☐ **Pathology** ☐ **Plant Nutrition** ☐ **Entomology** ☐ **Education / Extension** ☐ **Environmental Science / Ecology** ☐ **Turfgrass Physiology and Management** ☐ **Soil Science and Amendment** ☐ **Pest Management** ☐ **Genetics and Breeding** ☐ **Water Management / Irrigation** ☐ **Sustainable Turfgrass Practices** ☐ **Turfgrass Stress and Climate Adaptation** ☐ **Technology and Precision Turfgrass Management** ☐ **Weed Science** ☐ **Other (please specify): _____**

1. Please attach a one-page resume summarizing your key qualifications relevant to this project, including education, experience, and skills demonstrating your ability to complete it successfully.
2. Provide a brief background of your research facility (department), if an NTRF grant has not previously been awarded to your institution.
3. List any partners or collaborators involved with this project and briefly describe their functions and qualifications.
4. If this project is a continuation of a previously funded research project by a Canadian turfgrass research foundation, list the project title, completion year, and name of the funding foundation.

PRIVACY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Privacy and Acknowledgement

Privacy:

The Applicant acknowledges that information held by the National Turfgrass Research Foundation (NTRF) may be subject to disclosure to third parties in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and other applicable privacy legislation.

Acknowledgement:

By submitting this application, the Applicant warrants and agrees that:

All information provided is true, complete, and accurate to the best of their knowledge.

The NTRF may impose terms and conditions as part of its approval process.

The decision of the NTRF is final and binding.

The Applicant has disclosed all other funding sources applied for or secured in connection with this project.

Upon approval, the Applicant will enter into a project agreement with the NTRF incorporating the terms and conditions imposed.

The Applicant and associated principals' consent to the public disclosure of their names, funding amounts, and brief project summaries.

Certification:

The Applicant certifies that the application and supporting documents are accurate and complete, and that they have read and understood the Privacy and Acknowledgement terms.

Signature:	**Date:**
Position:	**Co-applicant Signature:** **(if applicable)**

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:
INFO@NTRF.CA