

WHY SHOULD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVEST IN TURFGRASS RESEARCH?

- ✓ Turfgrass covers 50 million acres in the U.S., with an estimated value of \$40 billion annually.
- ✓ Turfgrass is enjoyed by millions of homeowners with lawns, millions of athletes, young and old, that use athletic facilities, 26 million golfers and the many people that use parks and other recreational facilities on a daily basis.
- ✓ Turfgrass provides many environmental and societal benefits including reducing soil erosion, filtering water, trapping dust and pollutants, reducing heat build-up in urban areas, and safer playing surfaces for athletes.
- ✓ Turfgrass provides economic opportunities for the millions of people it employs at lawn care companies, athletic and park facilities, golf courses, highway departments, sod and seed producers, as well as support industries such as equipment manufacturers and fertilizer suppliers.
- ✓ There are many challenges facing the turfgrass industry in the 21st century:
 - Water use restrictions and/or mandated use of recycled water on turf
 - Pesticide use restrictions or bans on pesticide use in some areas
 - Fertilizer use restrictions and/or bans on fertilizer use in some areas
 - Safety concerns due to intense demand and subsequent abuse of turf on athletic fields, parks and other recreational facilities
 - Limited diversity of germplasm presently available and being utilized
- ✓ Privately-funded foundations currently support more than \$10 million in turfgrass research annually. However, almost no federal dollars are devoted to directly support turfgrass research.
- ✓ Long-term, basic research is much needed in the turfgrass industry. However, private foundations and universities do not have the time nor the resources to conduct risky, long-term studies. The industry looks to the Federal Government to fund this type of research, the building blocks to which industry and universities utilize to further their more applied, limited-term research programs.