

# ROOTED IN NEW YORK

## Advocacy and Industry Priorities

The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) is the leading Northeast green industry organization advancing education, research, professional development, and sound land management policy. NYSTA supports economic impact and environmental stewardship across 3.4 million acres of turfgrass statewide, serving sectors that include lawn and landscape, golf, sports turf, parks and recreation, cemeteries, sod farms, equipment management, education, and industry manufacturing.

### TURFGRASS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP FUND

Since its inception in 2006, the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund has allocated over \$2 million toward turf research, education, workforce development, and best management practices (BMPs) statewide. We respectfully request:

**A \$350,000 line-item appropriation for the New York Greengrass Association in the 2026-2027 budget to support projects advancing science-based management, professional development, and job growth such as:**

- Education and Professional Development through Access to Conferences, Workshops, and Online Tools
- Environmental Stewardship Education, Outreach, and Activation including Golf Facility BMPs
- Jobs and Workforce Development: Apprenticeship Program Outreach
- Advancement of Golf's Water Sustainability Efforts for Long Island Golf Courses

### INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY-POWERED EQUIPMENT FOR GREEN INDUSTRY

We recognize the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Parks, golf courses, and natural grass fields are essential greenspaces serving New Yorkers. Transitioning to renewable energy-powered landscape equipment presents practical challenges:

- Insufficient infrastructure for widespread commercial use of battery-powered equipment
- Electric equipment costs that can be 2-4 times higher than gas-powered alternatives
- Significant investments needed to upgrade electrical systems for safe charging and storage

#### WE SUPPORT:

- State and federal funding for research and development of renewable energy-powered equipment
- Collaboration with legislators to develop a realistic roadmap for transitioning

#### WE OPPOSE THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

- **S00424 (Liu)/A03331 (Dinowitz)** – Prohibiting use of gas-powered lawn and leaf blowers from May 1 – September 30
- **A02114 (Carroll)** – Proposing ban on sale of gas-powered blowers and mowers by 2027

## SCIENCE-BASED PESTICIDE REGULATIONS VIA THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Pesticide regulation in New York is overseen by the DEC, with federal EPA oversight, ensuring rigorous research, testing, and risk assessment. Allowing municipalities to regulate pesticide use would disrupt the State's long-standing pre-emption framework.

- Local governments lack the scientific expertise and resources to conduct equivalent evaluations
- A patchwork of municipal laws would create inconsistent standards and administrative burdens — risking negative economic impacts, reduced greenspace quality, pest resistance, unintended public health impacts, and decisions driven by local pressure rather than science-based policy
- Prohibiting non-emergency applications on municipal and state lands would affect athletic fields and high-use public turf, increase labor costs, and set precedent for broader restrictions

### WE SUPPORT:

- Science-based policy grounded in federal and state expertise and consistent statewide standards
- A clear, DEC-standardized definition of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to promote sustainability, public health, and economic efficiency

### WE OPPOSE THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

- **A3557 (Burke)** – Authorizing municipal pesticide regulation
- **S1064 (Serrano)/A2645 (Rosenthal)** – Removing glyphosate management exceptions
- **S1363 (Serrano)/A1555 (Rosenthal)** – Prohibiting nonemergency pesticide applications on municipal and state lands and imposing 72-hour notice requirements

## ENSURING SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR OUTDOOR PROFESSIONALS

We recognize the importance of protecting workers from extreme heat and share the goal of safe working conditions. Managed greenspaces rely on trained outdoor professionals serving millions of New Yorkers. Rigid heat standards for outdoor environments present significant operational and financial challenges:

- Outdoor temperature control is inherently impractical, creating compliance ambiguity
- The bill would impose substantial financial and administrative burdens
- Expanded documentation and enforcement would increase regulatory oversight

### WE SUPPORT:

- Collaboration with legislators to develop practical, industry-informed heat safety standards
- Flexibility for employers already implementing best management practices
- An economic impact review prior to advancing statewide mandates affecting seasonal industries

### WE OPPOSE THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

- **S3412 (Ramos)/A3527 (Bronson): Temperature Extreme Mitigation (TEMP) Act** – Establishing comprehensive heat protection requirements for outdoor workers