



The New York State Turfgrass Association is the premier green industry association in New York State representing the turfgrass industry through the development and support of educational programs, research projects, professional development and the advocacy for sound policy and environmental stewardship. There are just over 3.4 million acres of turfgrass in NYS and our industry employs over 43,000 people at a payroll in excess of \$465 million. Advocacy and support for the protection of turfgrass in parks, athletic fields, golf courses and home lawns is vital for the success of our industry. We are requesting support of the following:

A line item of \$200,000 be appropriated for the New York Greengrass Association in the 2023-2024 budget for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund. This funding will continue to help support-

- Workforce Development via NYS Apprenticeship Program- Phase II
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) for NYS Golf Courses- Continued Implementation of Facility BMPs
- Water Conservation BMPs
- Green Industry Educational Webinars
- Environmental Stewardship Education
- New York Greengrass Association Outreach

Pesticide Bans and Regulations be Governed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

- New York is only one of two states that conducts their own pesticide review process after federal registration. The NYSDEC is charged with reviewing and registering pesticide products before they can be used in New York (Article 33, EnCon Law).
- The economic impact of pesticide bans to New York's green industry and agriculture would be devastating.
- On January 1st, 2023, the NYSDEC made imidacloprid a restricted use pesticide allowing only NYS certified applicators the ability to use this chemical. Without the ability to apply this chemical, turfgrass sustainability would be greatly compromised due to the damage that can occur in untreated areas. There would be no preventative control for grub control on lawns in Long Island.
- S01856/A03226 (Hoylman-Sigal/Glick) bans the use of neonicotinoids in relation to enacting the birds and the bee's protection. A02097 (Colton) prohibits the use of pesticides containing neonicotinoids. S00261/A01615 (Serrano/Rosenthal) prohibits the use of glyphosate on state property. S4164 (Hoylman-Sigal) prohibits the sale and distribution of glyphosate and products containing glyphosate. We oppose these bills.

Greater Investment into the Technology and Development of Battery Powered Equipment by NYS for Landscape Use

- The technology and infrastructure to support large scale, commercial use of battery powered lawn and landscape equipment is currently inadequate.
- The cost difference between gas and battery powered equipment is a major obstacle for commercial users as it is 2-4 times more for battery power.
- Facilities need significant resources to upgrade their electrical infrastructure to support safe battery storage and charging.
- We support federal and state funding for the research and development of battery and electric equipment.
- We support working with legislatures on a road map to incorporation and a transition.
- We oppose S02132/A02133 (Liu/Dinowitz) prohibiting the use of gas-powered lawn and leaf blower from May 1st-September 30th.
- We oppose A705 (Carroll) proposing to ban the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers by 2025.