NYGCF
New York Golf
Course Foundation
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
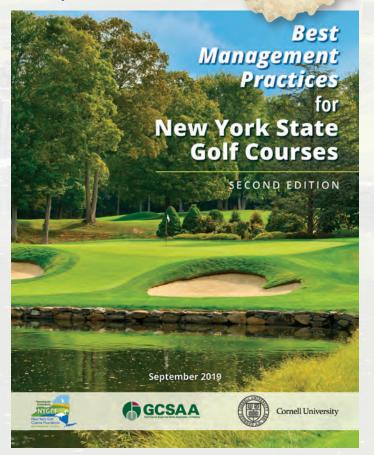*Protecting the Environment*

# Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund
## *Supporting Best Management Practices*





Since 2012, golf course superintendents and Cornell University scientists have been developing, implementing, and advocating the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on New York State golf courses to protect our natural resources. BMPs are methods or techniques found to be the most effective and practical way of achieving an objective, such as preventing water pollution or reducing pesticide usage. They are essentially a sustainable approach to providing environmental, economic, and social benefits to the game of golf and to society overall.

Since 2014, Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund (TESF) grants have provided critically needed financial support for the BMP initiative, including the following efforts:

- A comprehensive survey of the state's golf course superintendents, with the results used to create an education plan to address their needs.
- Ongoing outreach and education efforts, such as workshops, a dynamic website, and communication materials that give superintendents the information they need.
- Demonstration of a low-cost wash pad operation, which protects water quality from nutrient enrichment by filtering mower clippings.
- Case studies of the implementation of BMPs on golf facilities across the state.
- New publications that incorporate the latest research, providing superintendents detailed information on how to utilize new tools and methods to reduce fertilizer and pesticide usage.
- An update of the BMPs, which includes creating a template document that superintendents can access to create their own facility-specific BMP program.

Funding support has allowed the BMP initiative to grow into a robust, meaningful program that will continue to promote sustainable golf course management efforts in the years to come.



**Best Management Practices for New York State Golf Courses**

SECOND EDITION

September 2019

NYGCF | GCSAA | Cornell University

**N Y S G O L F B M P . C A L S . C O R N E L L . E D U**