

COVID 19 and turfgrass management

November 12, 2020

Even with the promising news of a viable vaccine, Covid-19 continues to affect us in ways we could not have imagined less than 9 months ago. With local and national numbers increasing, turfgrass management information on proactive measures are important. Turfgrass scientists from nine regions (including Nebraska) of the US have provided science-based information for professional turfgrass managers and policy influencers in two recent publications, “**A justification for continued management of turfgrass during economic contraction**” and “**Estimating economic minimums of mowing, fertilizing, and irrigating turfgrass**”. The research articles are open access and links and corresponding abstracts are provided below. We hope you find this information useful.

A justification for continued management of turfgrass during economic contraction

<https://access.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ael2.20033>

“A novel coronavirus, termed COVID-19, spread worldwide and become a global pandemic in 2020. Forecasts show that COVID-19 will cause substantial economic contraction affecting almost every industry. Managed turfgrass, particularly in urban settings, has many positive societal and environmental benefits. In a contracted economy, will resources be available to manage turfgrass to achieve these benefits? In this paper, we outline the benefits of managed turfgrass on golf courses, playing fields, recreational parks, and urban landscapes to assist decision makers with resource allocation in the COVID-19 era.”

Estimating economic minimums of mowing, fertilizing, and irrigating turfgrass

<https://access.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ael2.20032>

“The public health crisis and economic recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have forced turfgrass industry professionals to re-evaluate standard practices. Minimum costs required to fertilize, irrigate, and mow turfgrasses can be roughly estimated using climate data, turfgrass physiology information, and resource costs. Although the actual minimum costs vary situationally and regionally, mowing golf putting greens optimally requires about US\$34 per acre per month, whereas other turfgrass areas cost less than US\$11 per acre per growing month. Fertilizer applications to turfgrass cost US\$22 or less per acre per growing month. Irrigation costs (water and electricity for pumping) vary widely, with the least expensive regions requiring ~US\$300 per acre per year compared with 12 times more than that total in other parts of the United States.”

Any questions feel free to send me an email. Be well.

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