**National Turfgrass Federation Talking Points**

—Turf comprises 65M acres nationwide. It is horticulture’s most visible, diverse,

 and utilized non-edible crop. **It is the foundation of our natural ecosystem!**

—Turf forms the foundation for the greening of America through:

 —rural and urban landscapes

 —parks and recreation

 —organized sports

 —residential lawn care

 —natural grasslands, pastures, roadsides / highway medians

 —commercial and historic properties

 —ornamental gardens

—Turfgrass provides excellent buffer zones that impede pollutant water runoff for

 surface and groundwater systems. **It is an environmental preservation facilitator.**

—Turf research provides benefits for:

 —preservation and enhancement of nature’s ecosystems

 —golf courses, lawns and gardens requiring less water and fertilizer use

 —utilization of natural organics in a variety of weather conditions

 —helps maintain and enhance wildlife habitats

 —restore and renew areas once known as brownfield industrial sites

 —innovative solutions for aiding erosion control and storm water management

—Turfgrass research is especially important for Midwest and Western landscapes

 through creation of drought tolerant and low-maintenance grasses requiring less

 fertilizer applications.

—Imagine landscapes devoid of green grass; imagine environmental threats to

 soil erosion where turf does not exist; imagine farms and waterways devoid of

 protective grasslands. Turf research produces grasses that aid as natural water

 filtration systems, as well as stabilizing and protecting soils and other ground

 cover.

—NTF supports public / private research in areas which maintain and sustain

 our green environment — for recreation, relaxation, athletics, ornamental displays,

 and safeguarding our environmental integrity.

—Turf is an integral part of green roof designs. It aids in evaporative cooling

 and heat absorption.

—Turf offers multiple choices for managing recreation and open space lands.

 NTF favors more dialogue between the turf industry and federal, state, & local

 governments to craft reasonable solutions that promote resource management,

 while relieving turf management groups of burdensome and costly regulations.