

Federal Turfgrass Research Funding Update

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NATIONAL TURFGRASS FEDERATION
Advancing Turfgrass Science for Society

History



**Increased Federal
turfgrass research
funding starts in
Fiscal Year 2002**

The
**NATIONAL
TURFGRASS
RESEARCH
INITIATIVE**



Enhancing America's Beauty
Protecting America's Natural Resources
Ensuring the Health and Safety of all Americans

April, 2003

1 SEC. . NATIONAL TURFGRASS RESEARCH INITIATIVE.
2 Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
3 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310
4 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:
5 "SEC. 1473E. NATIONAL TURFGRASS RESEARCH INITIATIVE.
6 "(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
7 National Turfgrass Research Initiative (referred to in this
8 section as the 'Initiative'), to be carried out through a coa-
9 lition that shall include—
10 "(1) the Administrator of the Agricultural Re-
11 search Service;
12 "(2) representatives of colleges and universities
13 that carry out agricultural research; and
14 "(3) representatives of the turfgrass industry.
15 "(b) DUTIES.—The Initiative shall coordinate re-
16 search relating to the production of turfgrass, including—
17 "(1) the use of water, fertilizer, pesticides, fos-
18 sil fuels, and machinery for turf establishment and

2008 Farm Bill

Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)



2008 Farm Bill



Turfgrass listed as specialty crop

Federal Funding Secured vs. Lobbying Costs



2001

2008

2019



\$12,950,000

NATIONAL
TURFGRASS
RESEARCH
INITIATIVE



SCRI



\$20,516,255

TOTAL (2001-2019)

\$33,466,255

Or

\$1.761 Million/yr

LOBBYING COSTS = \$1,059,381

ROI = 3,059.04%

Federal Turfgrass Research Funding Summary

ESTIMATED INDUSTRY VALUE = \$60 BILLION/YEAR

\$1.76 Million per year federal research funding

FEDERAL R&D investment in turf = .0000293% per year

National Turfgrass Industry Needs

NATIONAL TURFGRASS FEDERATION
Advancing Turfgrass Science for Society

The
**NATIONAL
TURFGRASS
RESEARCH
INITIATIVE**

▶ National Turfgrass Research Summit, Sept. 19-20, 2017

▶ U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC

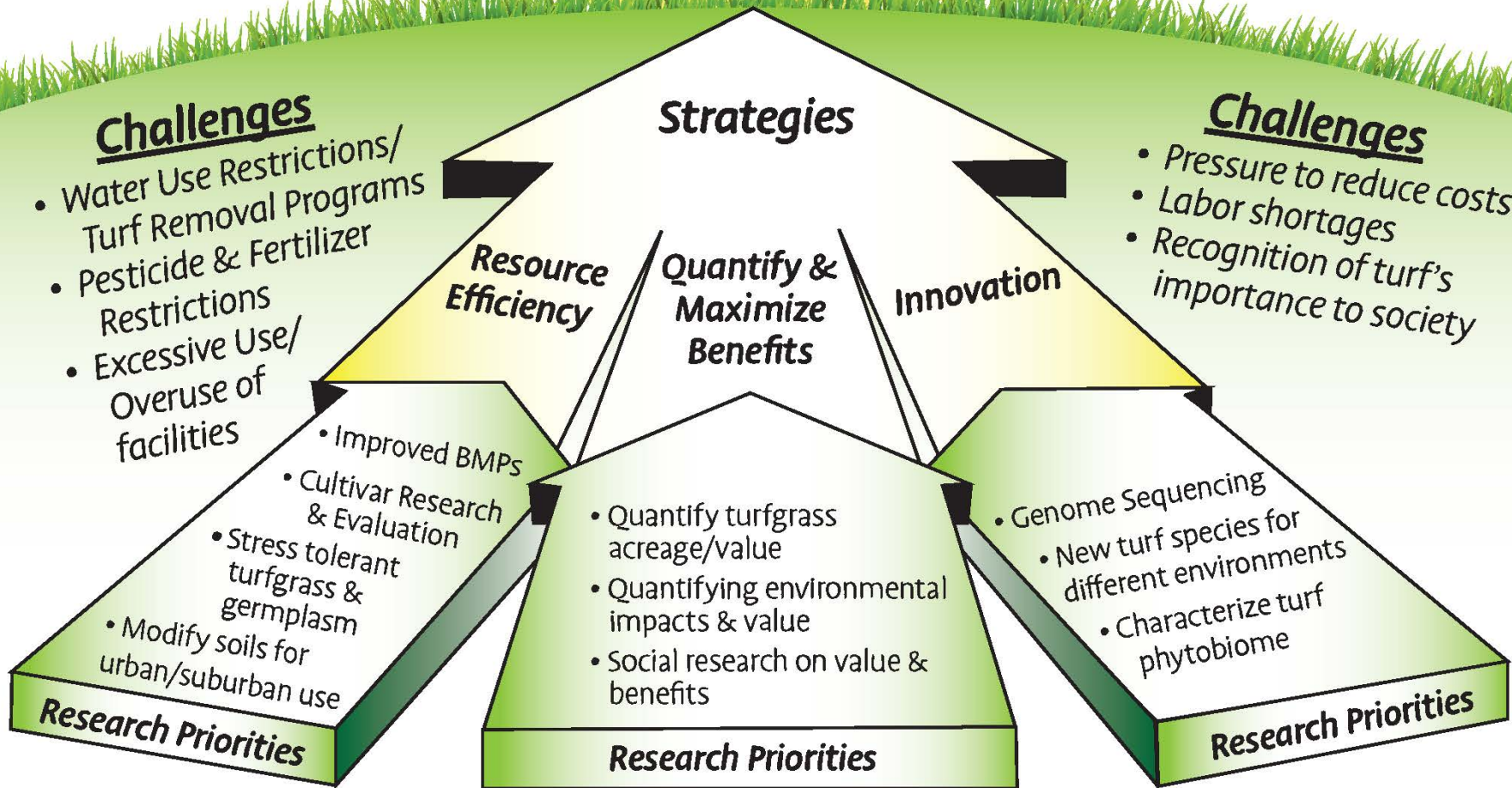


Turfgrass Stakeholder Summit II: October 20, 2020

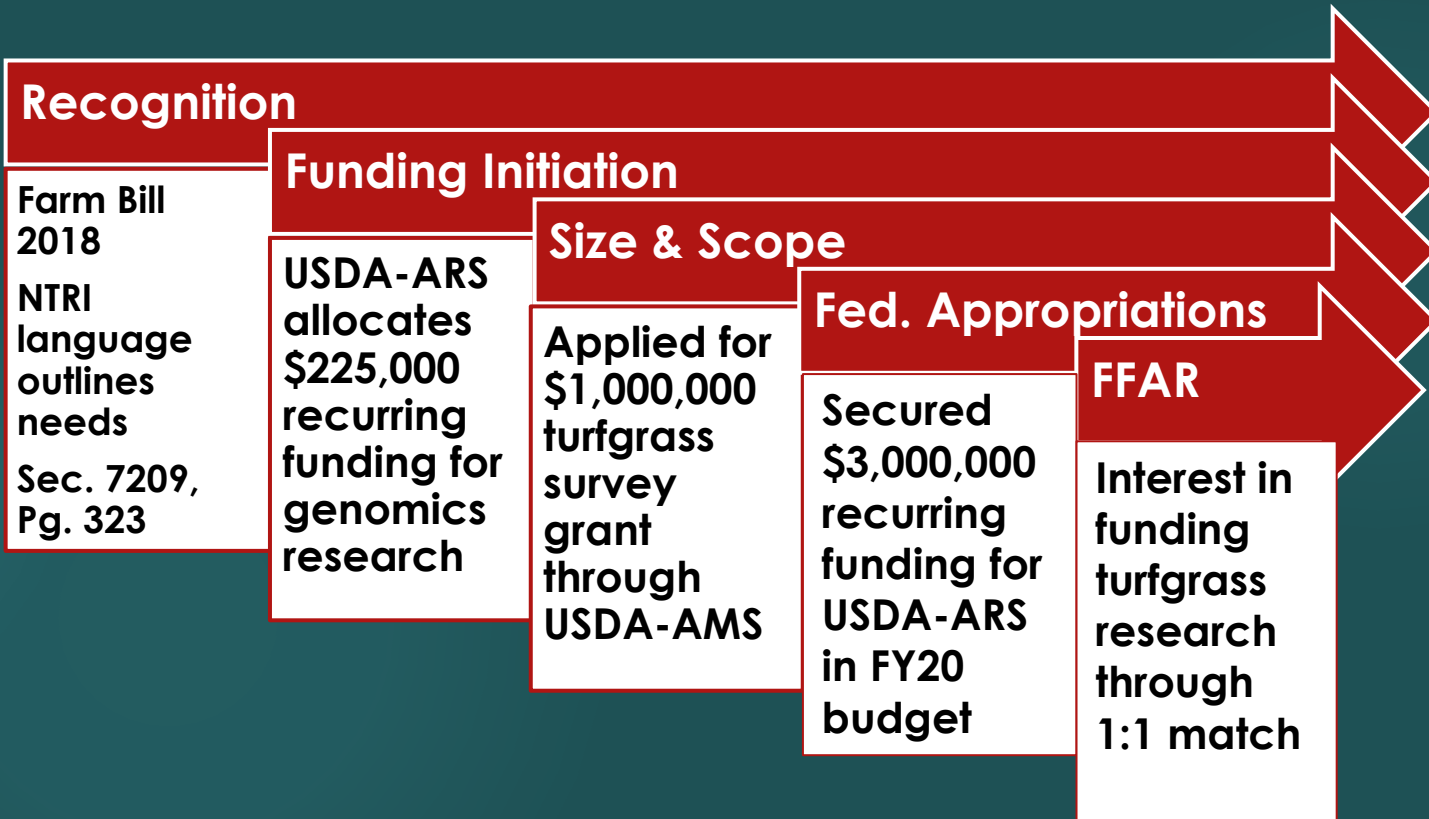
**Keeping Industry
Viable & Healthy**

Goals

**Providing a Great
Turf Product**



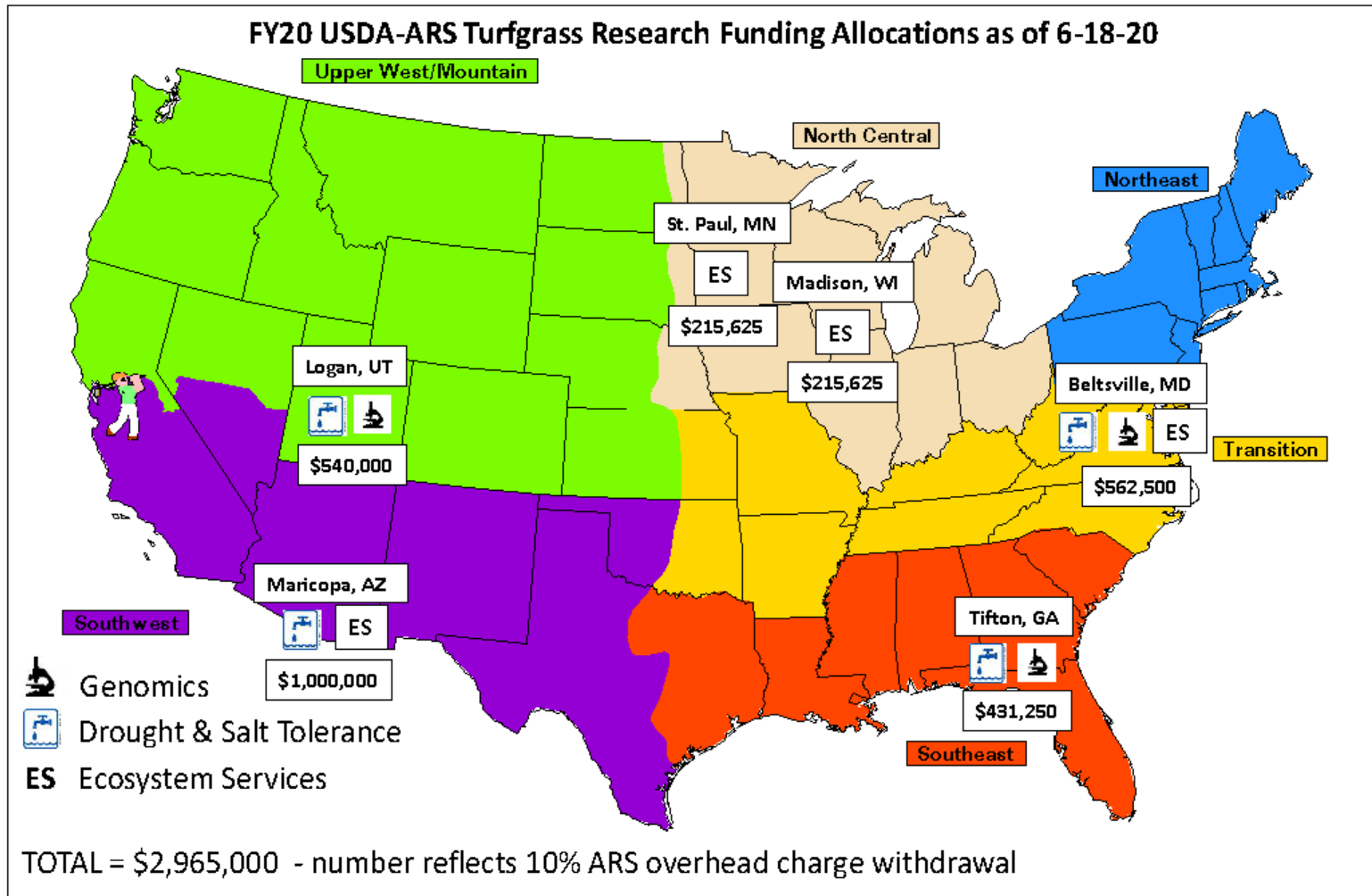
Progress Since Sept. 2017 Summit



TURFGRASS RESEARCH FUNDING FY20

USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

\$3 Million new appropriation (recurring) + \$225,000 for genomics



National Turfgrass Survey

- ▶ **USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Multi-State Program**
- ▶ **Requested \$1,000,000 for national survey of industry**
- ▶ **Try again in 2021**





foundationfar.org

The
**NATIONAL
TURFGRASS
RESEARCH
INITIATIVE**

- ▶ **'We seek bold, innovative ideas with potential to fill critical research and advance science'**
- ▶ **Authorized by Congress in 2014 Farm Bill - \$200 Million allocated**
- ▶ **Re-authorized by Congress in 2018 Farm Bill – additional \$185 Million**
- ▶ **Requires 1:1 match with industry, non-profits, foundations – not federal sources....university sources?**
- ▶ **Turfgrass Stakeholder Summit II – Turfgrass Convening Event**

Future Plans

- ▶ **Update National Turfgrass Research Initiative**
- ▶ **National Turfgrass Survey funding**
- ▶ **Investigate funding from other federal sources (examples):**
- ▶ **National Park Service (\$6.5 billion in new maintenance funds and facility improvements)**
- ▶ **Dept. of Defense – lots of golf courses, other turf areas**
- ▶ **USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - grants**
- ▶ **Farm bill 2023 – funding for National Turfgrass Res. Init. (NTRI)??, national turfgrass survey?**