

**Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development**  
**Environmental Stewardship Division**  
**MAEAP TURFGRASS – FY15**



**Manager:** Joe Kelpinski, 517-284-5608, kelpinskij@michigan.gov

**Legal Authority:** Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 82 (Conservation Practices) and Part 87 (Groundwater and Freshwater Protection), as amended, and Public Acts 1 and 2 of 2011, as amended

**Description of the Program:**

- The Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program (MTESP) is a voluntary, proactive initiative designed to protect groundwater and surface water resources by advancing turfgrass management practices, preventing pollution, and increasing regulatory compliance within the golf industry.
- The program provides on-site visits and workshops providing compliance assistance, technical assistance, pollution prevention and “green” purchasing information.
- MTESP is intended to organize efforts of the turfgrass industry, state agencies, Michigan State University, and environmental advocacy groups to advance the environmental stewardship of the turfgrass industry and to recognize environmental achievements.



**Why It Matters:**

- The program identifies state and federal laws affecting the golf industry related to drinking water and irrigation wells, fuel storage, pesticides and fertilizers, and emergency response plans.
- The MTESP has been used as a model for other voluntary, industry-based environmental programs in Michigan.
- There is strong interest in expanding this program into additional segments of the green industry by the Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association, professional lawn care companies, parks, and municipalities.

**Key Stakeholders**

- Michigan Turfgrass Foundation
- Michigan State University
- Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality
- Michigan Golf Course Owners Association
- Golf Association of Michigan
- Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association

**Key Statistics**

- Michigan turfgrass encompasses 1.89 million acres
- 286 participating golf properties.
- 85 golf properties certified by the program.

**FY15 Accomplishments:**

- Promoted MTESP activities at the 2015 Michigan Turfgrass Conference.
- Completed updating the underground storage tank rules in the MTESP electronic workbook to reflect recent changes in federal regulations.
- Continuing demonstration plots research to look at nutrient and sedimentation runoff.

**Measuring Success:**

<b>Metric</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>
Workshops provided	4	5
Workshop participation	317	307
On-site visits	1	10
Participating courses	255	286
Total certified courses	75	85

**Dashboards and Scorecards:**

- The MAEAP Turfgrass Program did not have an item on the departmental scorecard for FY15. Staff is working with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Director of Strategy and Business Performance to design measures toward this end.

**FY16 Program Goals:**

- Refine and update the online training tool designed to reduce the environmental impact of the golf industry on water quality.
- Pursue incentives for assessment completion and certification, and to increase initial participation and continuing participation in the program.