University of Minnesota Turfgrass Program

June 18, 2024   Greg Johnson   metrocouncil.org

Background

The University of Minnesota Turfgrass Science team has collaborated with the Metropolitan Council on lawn water efficiency projects since 2016. Their recent efforts have been focused on wrapping up field research, outreach, education, and the pilot study of the Yard Maverick program.

2025-2028 Proposed Contract Amendment Proposal

1. Reaching the public

2. Diffusing best lawn care practices through Twin Cities neighborhoods

3. Engaging new stakeholders

4. Lawn water conservation solutions

Proposed Contract Amendment - $425,000

Deliver Innovative Lawn Water Conservation Outreach Programs

- Best watering practices
- Smart irrigation options
- Summer drought issues
- Low-input lawns
- Grass seed selection and time of seeding
- Dormant seeding
- Bee lawns

Metropolitan Council

Survey Questions

1. What are your overall thoughts on this turf grass program? Do you support continuing to fund this program or this program with some enhancements?

2. How does your community/agency use what is produced by this program?

3. What changes/additions are needed to make to the program better meet your needs?

4. What are other ways that Met Council and U of M turf grass science staff could more effectively promote the U of M's program and encourage residents and businesses to install fine fescue turf mixes on their properties to save significant volumes of water for irrigation?

5. How can we more effectively measure and quantify the success of this program?