

Texas Turfgrass Association

Awards Categories and Entry Information

Football, Baseball, Softball and Soccer Field of the Year

Please note: This submission is intended for consideration by the Texas Turfgrass Association and will be reviewed by a select Awards committee. All entries must be received by October 15th, 2025, to ensure eligibility for this year's Field of the Year recognition.

- Age of field
- Geographic location (city and part of state)
- Description of maintenance program, including use of modern technology such as GPS-guided equipment, robotic mowers, and data-driven turf management software
- Supplies used, noting any eco-friendly or advanced materials like organic fertilizers or smart irrigation systems
- Operating budget for field
- Irrigation: specify if the system is automatic, manual, or utilizes smart sensors for water conservation
- Total number of maintenance personnel for field, including any specialized technicians for advanced equipment
- Does field have LED lighting or smart controls for night games
- Number of events and months of use on field per year; include digital scheduling tools if applicable
- Why do you think the field is one of the best, highlighting innovative practices, sustainability initiatives, and adoption of cutting-edge turf technology
- Is the facility monitored for player, spectator and staff safety for lightning protection with audible horns and messaging.

Submission Instructions:

For added convenience and efficiency, applications may be submitted digitally via email or by sharing a Google Drive link containing all required documents and materials.

Deadline: All entries must be received by October 15, 2025, to ensure eligibility.

Green Thumb Field of the Year:

This will be someone who just had it all come together and had an outstanding year growing turfgrass. Success for a candidate in the Green Thumb Award often involves not only achieving exceptional turf quality but also demonstrating innovative approaches to turf management.

Submission Instructions:

Please submit a written nomination; Deadline: All entries must be received by October 15, 2025, to ensure eligibility.

Golf Course or Private Resort of the Year

To be considered for a Golf Course Maintenance Award, applicants should provide comprehensive details about their facility, maintenance program, and innovative practices. The evaluation focuses on courses that demonstrate excellence in sustainability, adoption of modern technology, and superior turf care. Below are the recommended guidelines for submitting a strong application.

- **Course Overview:** Provide a summary of the golf course, including its age, total acreage or square footage (specify if over or under 10,000 sq. ft.), and geographic location (city and region).
- **Maintenance Program:** Describe the golf course maintenance program, emphasizing use of modern technology such as GPS-guided equipment, robotic mowers, and data-driven turf management software tailored for golf course care.
- **Supplies and Materials:** List all turf and landscape maintenance supplies used on the course, highlighting any eco-friendly or advanced materials (e.g., organic fertilizers, sand topdressing, specialized grass varieties, smart irrigation systems).
- **Irrigation and Drainage Systems:** Specify whether the course uses an automatic, manual, or smart sensor-based irrigation system for water conservation and describe any advanced drainage solutions implemented.
- **Operating Budget:** Outline the operating budget dedicated to golf course maintenance, and mention any significant cost obstacles encountered (e.g., water restrictions, labor costs, equipment upgrades).
- **Maintenance Personnel:** Indicate the total number of golf course maintenance staff, including any specialized roles such as certified golf course superintendents or irrigation technicians.
- **Lighting (if applicable):** State if the course or specific practice areas have LED lighting or smart controls to support extended play or special events.
- **Course Usage:** Provide the number of tournaments, outings, and months in use per year; mention any digital scheduling tools utilized for course management.

- **Innovative Practices & Sustainability:** Explain why your golf course stands out—highlight innovative maintenance practices, sustainability initiatives (e.g., integrated pest management, water conservation efforts), and adoption of advanced turf technology.
- **Safety Monitoring:** Confirm if the facility is monitored for player, spectator, and staff safety, including lightning protection systems with audible horns and messaging, and any other relevant safety protocols for golf course environments.
- **Photo Submission:** Please include 6–10 color photos that highlight tee boxes, fairways, greens, roughs, out-of-bounds areas, hazards, irrigation and drainage systems, and maintenance crew at work.

Submission Instructions:

For added convenience and efficiency, applications may be submitted digitally via email or by sharing a Google Drive link containing all required documents and materials.

Deadline: All entries must be received by October 15, 2025, to ensure eligibility.

Turf Maintenance Field of the Year Application Guidelines

To be considered for the Texas Turfgrass Association’s Turf Maintenance Field of the Year Award, applicants must provide detailed information about their field, maintenance program, and innovative practices. The award recognizes outstanding fields in two size categories: Over 10,000 square feet and Under 10,000 square feet. Submissions should showcase how your facility excels in sustainability, technology adoption, and overall field care.

- **Field Overview:** Indicate the size category (Over 10,000 sq. ft. or Under 10,000 sq. ft.), age of the field, and geographic location (city and region of Texas).
- **Maintenance Program:** Describe the maintenance plan, emphasizing the use of modern technology such as GPS-guided equipment, robotic mowers, and data-driven turf management software.
- **Supplies & Materials:** List all supplies used, with special attention to eco-friendly or advanced materials (e.g., organic fertilizers, smart irrigation systems).
- **Operating Budget & Cost Obstacles:** Outline the annual operating budget and highlight any significant cost challenges encountered.
- **Irrigation System:** Specify whether the field uses an automatic, manual, or smart sensor-based irrigation system for water conservation.
- **Maintenance Personnel:** State the total number of maintenance staff, including any specialized technicians for advanced equipment.
- **Lighting:** Indicate if the field is equipped with LED lighting or smart controls to support night games and events.
- **Field Usage:** Provide the number of events hosted and months of field use per year; mention any digital scheduling tools utilized.

- **Innovation & Sustainability:** Explain why your field stands out by highlighting innovative practices, sustainability initiatives, and adoption of cutting-edge turf technology.
- **Safety Monitoring:** Confirm whether the facility has safety monitoring systems, including lightning protection with audible horns and messaging for players, spectators, and staff.
- **Photos:** Include 6–10 color photos showcasing the field and maintenance activities.

Submission Instructions:

Submit your application digitally via email or by sharing a Google Drive link containing all required documents and materials. Deadline: All entries must be received by October 15, 2025, to ensure eligibility.

Outstanding Commercial Affiliate of the Year

Purpose of the Award:

This prestigious award is designed to honor an individual or organization that has made a significant and lasting impact on the advancement of the turfgrass industry within the current year. The recipient will be recognized for their exceptional contributions, leadership, and commitment to fostering innovation, growth, and excellence across all facets of the industry.

Award Criteria and Guidelines:

- **Active Membership:** The nominee must be an active member of the Texas Turfgrass Association (TTA) and remain in good standing, demonstrating ongoing support and engagement with the organization.
- **Sponsorship and Support:** The nominee should have made meaningful donations or contributions, including sponsorship of TTA events and initiatives, providing tangible benefits to both the association and its current members.
- **Recruitment and Engagement:** The nominee must demonstrate active participation in the recruitment of new members, helping to grow and strengthen the TTA community for the benefit of the turfgrass industry.
- **Promotion of the Turfgrass Industry:** The nominee should actively promote the turfgrass industry through professional achievements, community involvement, and volunteer service, serving as an ambassador for the field both within and outside the association.
- **Contribution to TTA Development:** The nominee's efforts should have directly contributed to the advancement and development of the Texas Turfgrass Association, supporting its mission and ensuring its continued success.

Nominees who exemplify these qualities not only enhance the reputation of the TTA but also inspire others through their commitment and dedication to the turfgrass industry. This award seeks to acknowledge and celebrate those who go above and beyond in their service, leadership, and advocacy

Submission Instructions:

Please submit a written nomination; Deadline: All entries must be received by October 15, 2025, to ensure eligibility.

A.W. Crain Award: Criteria for Selection

The A.W. Crain Award stands as the highest honor bestowed by the Texas Turfgrass Association, recognizing individuals or friends of the Association for exemplary service and outstanding contributions to the turfgrass industry. Nominees for this prestigious award must meet the following criteria:

- **Sustained Service:** Demonstrated a record of active and dedicated years of service within the turfgrass industry.
- **Industry Advancement:** Engaged in initiatives and programs that have led to meaningful improvements in the turfgrass industry.
- **Innovation:** Initiated special projects or programs that address key needs or advance the interests of the turfgrass community.
- **Extraordinary Commitment:** Shown a willingness and ability to take on turfgrass-related responsibilities beyond typical expectations.
- **Active Participation:** Played an active role in the affairs and activities of the Texas Turfgrass Association.
- **Personal Integrity:** Maintained the highest standards of personal conduct and professional appearance.
- **Community Involvement:** Established a track record of civic and community responsibility, reflecting positively on the industry.
- **Support and Contribution:** Provided significant contributions to projects that benefit the turfgrass industry.
- **Leadership in Progress:** Contributed measurably to the forward momentum and development of the Texas Turfgrass Association.

Recipients of the A.W. Crain Award exemplify exceptional leadership, commitment, and advocacy, serving as role models who inspire others and elevate the standards of excellence within the turfgrass industry.

Submission Instructions:

Please submit a written nomination; Deadline: All entries must be received by October 15, 2026, to ensure eligibility.