

turfgrass acreage

An estimated 1.1 million acres of turf were maintained in Maryland in 2005, representing approximately 18 percent of the total land area (6.2 million acres). This is more than any single agricultural crop, and compares with an estimated 2.6 million acres of forest land¹ and 2.1 million acres in farmland² in the State of Maryland. The greatest portion of this turfgrass area, an estimated 937,000 acres, is in single family residences. A large area of turf is also owned by county governments, who care for an estimated 78,200 acres of turfgrass.

Nearly 31,000 acres of new turf were installed in calendar year 2005 at an expense of over \$89 million. This comes to an average \$2887 per acre to install new turfgrass. The majority of the new turfgrass installed was by single family homeowners, who established an estimated 28,190 acres of turf in 2005.

Turfgrass areas used and maintained in Maryland, 2005

Sector	Turf Acres	Percent of Turf Acres	New Turf Established	Cost of Established New Turf	Average Cost per Acre to Establish New Turf
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
Airports	5,000	0.4	-----	-----	
Cemeteries	4,200	0.4	130	361,000	2,777
Religious Facilities	9,400	0.8	250	581,000	2,324
Parks and Athletic Fields	21,800	1.9	320	3,275,000	10,234
Golf Courses	16,400	1.4	310	2,105,000	6,790
County Government	78,200	6.9	480	3,914,000	8,154
State Highways	9,000	0.8	650	1,570,000	2,415
Apartments	7,500	0.7	200	765,000	3,825
Lawn Care	^{1/}		^{1/}	^{1/}	
Sod Farms	8,000	0.7	^{2/}	^{2/}	
Single Family Homes	936,900	82.6	28,190	73,112,000	2,594
Schools	38,400	3.4	360	3,481,000	9,669
Total	1,134,800		30,890	89,164,000	2,887

¹ Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 2006.

² USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Maryland Field Office, 2006.