

Characteristics of the Turfgrass Industry in 2020: A Delphi Study with Implications for Agricultural Education Programs. (C05-seagle103517-Oral)

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Abstract:

The primary purpose of this study was to determine the characteristics of the turfgrass industry in the year 2020 in order to recommend curriculum content for agricultural education programs of the future. This was a national study using a three-round Delphi technique. The panel of experts was nominated by turfgrass professionals (teaching, research, and extension) at all land-grant institutions, the four-year and two-year colleges offering turfgrass, and the executive boards of related turfgrass associations. The 38 most frequently nominated experts were invited to participate in the study. A structured Delphi instrument consisting of nine categories was developed from the literature. This instrument was circulated to the panel of experts for comments on each category. Their responses were used in the development of a structured Delphi instrument consisting of 147-items on a Likert-type scale. The mean and standard deviations indicated that the central tendency was a movement toward consensus. The responses were found to be very stable from round 2 to round 3. Thirty-two content items were indentified as essential inclusion in agricultural education curriculum.

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