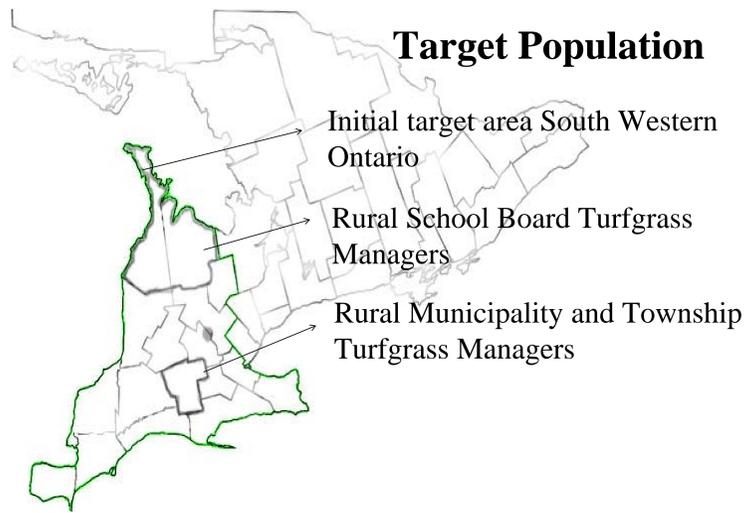


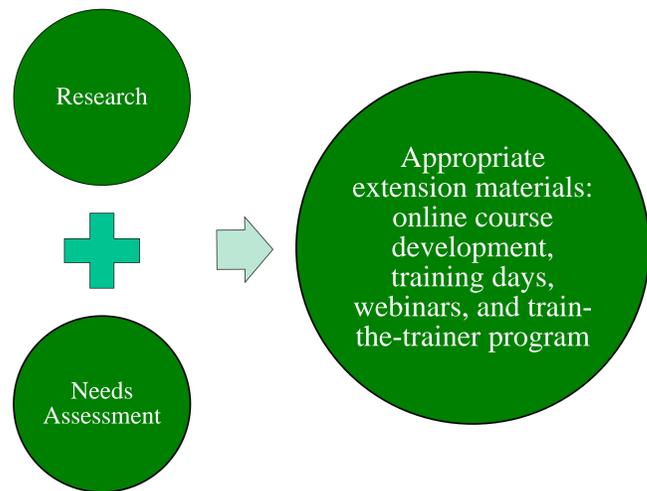
# TOP of the mornin' to ya! (Turfgrass Outreach Project)

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## Target Population



## The Outreach Model



## What this project is about

- The TOP goal is to maintain sustainable sport opportunities in rural communities by communicating new research in turfgrass management on integrated pest management and pesticide free turf management to rural turfgrass managers.

## What the researchers are doing

- Plant Agriculture is conducting research on best management practices for turfgrass in response to the 2009 provincial legislation that banned cosmetic pesticides use in Ontario.
- The School of Environmental Design and Rural Development is conducting a needs assessment of rural turfgrass managers. Data collection methods include a quantitative stratified survey to municipalities, school boards and conservation societies. There is also on going qualitative data collection from stakeholders through interviews and focus groups.
- Outreach programs are being created based on Plant Agriculture research and needs assessment results. These programs will will address the unique challenges that rural turfgrass managers face and provide tangible solutions.
- Current partners include OMAFRA, the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, Sports Turf Association, and individual turf managers from various target areas.



Clay soil drainage problems in Oxford County



Wear and tear turfgrass retention problems in Haldimand County

## What you need to know

- Rural turfgrass managers are a unique group of individuals and their needs and training vary depending on location. Understanding who the rural turfgrass manager is and the community they are working in is vital in creating accessible outreach materials.
- Partnerships and connections are being created across the province to meet the needs of all stakeholders that foster sustainable turfgrass management.

## Watch

TOP partnered with SPARK to create a short informational video about the project, watch here:



## To know more

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This project is supported by the KTT Program of the OMAFRA-U of G Partnership

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