The 13th International Turfgrass Research Conference will be held 16–21 July 2017 in New Brunswick, NJ. Every four years, the International Turfgrass Society (ITS) brings together researchers and professionals from academia and industry for presentations, discussions, and tours to share recent advances in turfgrass research. In addition to these in-person events, conference papers will be published in the July–August 2017 issues of Agronomy Journal, Crop Science, and the International Turfgrass Society Research Journal.

Conference papers reflect the conference theme of “Meeting the Challenges of a Changing Environment.” Conference organizers explain the themed was chosen “because it reflects the tremendous impact that the environment has had and continues to have on our personal and professional lives. From the changing climate, to the changing regulatory environment for pesticides and fertilizers, and the rapid technological changes in molecular biology and other aspects of turfgrass science, the environment continues to affect the way we live and conduct turfgrass research.”

Bruce Clarke, Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers University and current ITS president, points out how the keynote talks demonstrate the diversity of topics that will be covered at the conference. Keynotes include:

- “Can the Plant Mycobiome Serve as a Tool for Improving Grass Stress Resistance?” by Christine Hawkes, University of Texas at Austin.
- “Managing Water Use by Warm-Season Turfgrasses in a Drying Climate” by Tim Colmer, University of Western Australia.
- “Breeding Improved Cool-Season Turfgrasses for Stress Tolerance and Sustainability in a Changing Environment” by William Meyer From Rutgers University.
- “Climate Impacts on Crops and Turfgrass: Building Effective Adaptation Strategies” by Jerry Hatfield, National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment in Ames, IA.

With the conference topics in mind, and thinking about the greatest research needs in turfgrass science, James Murphy, Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management at Rutgers, and Editor of the International Turfgrass Society Research Journal says, “We need continued genetic improvement in existing turfgrass species along with development of underutilized grass species for niches in turf systems that currently do not have one or more species ideally suited to the niches. We also need further advances in turf management practices that improve efficiency in resource use (water, nutrient, pesticides, and labor) as well as development of multi-functional uses for turf landscapes that include environmental services as well as recreational and aesthetic uses.”