



OVERVIEW

Today's Golf Course Superintendent

Today's Golf Course Superintendent is an educated leader with a broad base of facility management skills. They are trusted stewards of the land and oversee a facility's largest financial asset. Technology has taken the industry from grazing livestock and horse drawn mowers to computerized irrigation equipment. The superintendent manages labor, time, materials and finances in a manner that is compatible with the environment, meets financial goals and enhances the enjoyment of the game.

The Golf Course Superintendent is responsible for working with other management team members, owners or board of directors, green chairs and committees, golfers, vendors, suppliers, golf professionals, golf course architects and others in the golf industry. Additionally, the superintendent is called upon to educate community groups and the media about golf course and turfgrass management in today's changing world.

The superintendent usually reports to the golf course owner, a general manager or green chairman. When a city owns the golf course, the superintendent may report to the director of parks and recreation. In managing the golf course, the superintendent works together with the club manager and golf professional to ensure the success of the entire facility.

Golf Course Superintendents generally earn a good living. Those complete a rigorous Associate or Bachelor degree program, generally earn even higher salaries and have a greater opportunity to advance in the profession. It is not unusual for Golf Course Superintendents to earn a six-figure income as they advance in their careers. Golf Course Superintendents will often go on to other areas of management, such as general manager of a facility.



Every day, the superintendent communicates with his/her maintenance staff to assign tasks and plan for the day's play. Crew organization and management directly affects golfers' enjoyment of the game. According to a survey by Golf Digest magazine, avid golfers ranked well-maintained greens and bunkers as the most important aspect to their enjoyment and satisfaction in playing the game of golf.

Golf Course Superintendents schedule times throughout the season/year for watering, fertilizing, topdressing, seeding/sodding, drainage, verticutting and other primary maintenance duties to ensure the health and beauty of the course. Superintendents also are involved in construction and renovation of the course, planning, management, budgeting and various other business-related activities at the facility, including staffing and training. All daily tasks assigned, including dew removal and trash pick-up are equally important in getting the course ready for play.