

Essentials of Golf Course and Sports Turf Management

Golf and Sports Turf Management (ORH 4223), <http://grove.ufl.edu/~turf/golf/>
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Know Your Client(s)

1. Who is your client? The Greens Committee? The golfers? The President? The junior athletes? Their parents? The taxpayers? The environment? The community?
2. What is your client's objective? What resources are available? What is the client's equation relating resource expenditures to outcome?
3. How will you communicate with your client(s)? What factors will determine how you will communicate?
4. What examples have you seen in class regarding the relationship between the Golf Course Superintendent or Sports Turf Manager with the client? Mike Bailey? Ed Lamour? Bryan Bowles? Clint Smallridge?

Know Your Employees

5. What are the personal and professional goals of your employees?
6. What is the relative priority on making money and other needs such as feeling secure, feeling connected, and feeling appreciated? How do you spell R-E-S-P-E-C-T?
7. What does teamwork mean to you? As a boss? As a subordinate?
8. How can special needs be accommodated without upsetting the operation?

Know Yourself

9. See No. 6, above.
10. Do you have specific aptitudes or specific weaknesses that may or may not make you suitable for the profession of Golf Course Superintendent or Sports Turf Manager?

11. How can you grow professionally to meet the demands of an ever-changing work environment?
12. How will you work within your professional circles to enhance your profession?
13. How can your profession contribute to the greater community?
14. What other circles are important in your life to keep you a well-rounded person?
15. How will you pace your work life to manage a high level of stress, and what other coping skills might you need to develop?

Know the Game

16. What are the basic rules of golf, and the basic rules of various sports played in grassy fields? What terminology relates to these areas?
17. What examples did you learn in class how the nature of the game affects management of the turfgrass?
18. What are the specific activities of golf and sports turf management that have next to nothing to do with the grass, but are a big part of the job?
19. How can you conduct maintenance operations to have the least detrimental effect on the usability of the golf course or sports field, for the purpose it was intended?
20. What specific limits must you attempt to make on golf and sports activities, to maintain the turf areas?

Know the Grasses

21. Grass types - know the main warm- and cool-season turfgrass species, and where and how they are used. Make sure to know bermudagrass very well.
22. What environmental factors determine the success of grasses?
23. If you are dealing with bermudagrass varieties, what is the difference between asexual reproduction and sexual reproduction? How does this relate to the cultivars used in golf and sports turf? What are their chromosome numbers and specific origins?
24. What are the basic steps in renovation and establishment of turfgrasses and how can you as a golf or sports turf manager maximize the plant's natural ability to do well?

Know the Soil and Water

25. What are the basic aspects of soil physics that affect the usability of sports turf surfaces and our ability to maintain them?
26. Nutrients for turf growth. What nutrients are needed for plant growth? Which are commonly deficient, and why?
27. Know how to read the fertilizer label, and the nutrient formulations. What do these expressions mean, “phosphoric acid and potash,” “balanced fertilizer,” “organic fertilizer,” “natural fertilizer,” “interveinal chlorosis,” “acid-forming fertilizer,” and “root stimulation.”
28. What are the four (4) factors that determine evapotranspiration in plants? What is evapotranspiration? How does it relate to rainfall, runoff, percolation, and infiltration?
29. Irrigation. Know how and when an irrigation system should be used, serviced, and replaced or renovated.
30. What is irrigation uniformity by several measures, and how is it maximized? Why is this important?
31. What is the role of various factors in determining friction loss, and why is this important?

Know the Biological Organisms and the Environment

32. Know the role of turfgrass management and turfgrass systems in the community, the ecosystem, and the economy.
33. Pest management. Know the general concepts of susceptibility, environmental effects, and turfgrass tolerance. This actually covers insects, nematodes, and weeds, as well as diseases. Know the environmental relationships of pesticides.
34. How can biological including cultural control be used to minimize the need for pesticides?
35. Why are microbial enhancements usually pointless?

Know Mechanics

36. Equipment. Know what fundamental types of equipment are supposed to do, how they function, how they are supposed to be operated, and service.

37. What are the differences in mower types and when is one type of mower more appropriate than another, for particular turfgrasses.
38. Spray calibration. Be able to convert units and determine how much concentrate to mix in a spray tank, figure pounds per acre nutrient applied, etc.
39. Safety. Know how to protect people, animals, plants, and property from harm.

Know How to Improve

40. Know when to seek help and information, know what to believe, what not to believe, and what to question.
41. What books, magazines, and other resources are most valuable to keep and know how to use?
42. What kinds of commercial laboratories, consultants, universities, and other resources will you use to help you solve problems?