



TECH TALK: TOP 10 PHONE APPS FOR SUPERINTENDENTS

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So, you have an iPhone or are thinking about getting an iPhone? In that case, you will want some tech savvy superintendent apps! There are hundreds of thousands of apps to choose from at the App Store, how do you sift through them all to find those diamonds in the rough? I have ten recommendations to start transforming your iPhone into the ultimate multi tool.

Before I dive in, I should note quickly that the iPhone comes with several built in apps that are also great tools. Email (exchange, gmail, mobileme), Notes (make to do lists), Voice Memos (record notes to yourself on the course), Clock (great for a stop watch or timing how long a mower route takes), and iCal (Calendar for all your events during the season) Ok, so maybe you get 15 app recommendations.

Fahrenheit (\$99)- Weather and Temperature on your Home Screen. This app is quickly becoming my favorite weather app. It is a simple upgrade to the iPhone weather app. Fahrenheit allows the current temp to show in a badge on the app icon. It also gives details about the day and the next 10 days. Initially you get a cloud radar, but is upgradable. (in app upgrade for an additional \$.99 gets you more radar views). I think the best feature is to see the current temp at a glance.

WeatherBug (Free) - Weatherbug is the only truly live local weather app. It provides radar views, current and extended forecasts, maps, video and local area structure mounted cameras. The downside to the free version is that it does have some ads within the app. If these ads bother you, there is a \$.99 Weatherbug Elite advertisement free version.

Facebook (Free) - Facebook is a great way to communicate with the public or your membership. You can post pictures, course conditions, status updates, golf/cart specials, special outings, and course maintenance updates.

Twitter (Free) - Twitter is a quick form of communication in 149 characters or less. It is a really easy way to post course updates, blogposts, and ask questions of fellow turf professionals. The app will also allow you to post videos, pictures and even your location. There are many other apps that tie into Twitter as well. When you make an update to Facebook, for

instance, it can also update your Twitter status.

BlogPress (\$2.99) - BlogPress is a really good go-to app if you host a course maintenance blog. BlogPress allows you to post to sites like, Blogger, WordPress, TypePad, Tumblr, and more. Once you have your blog set up on the web, this app lets you make a new post in just a few minutes.

DropBox (Free) - DropBox is free online (cloud) storage. This app allows you to "keep the course in your pocket." DropBox lets you store virtually any file type. I carry around budgets, employee info, course pictures, maps, spreadsheets, word docs, etc. Not only can you view and edit some files, but you can also share files with coworkers or colleagues across the country. Simply by emailing them a link to the file right from the app.

GoodReader (\$4.99) - GoodReader is a robust PDF reader with advanced reading and annotating capabilities. This app is on the higher priced side, however it has many valuable features. The app allows you to view a wide variety of files. Editing, however, is allowed only for PDF files. You can zoom in on file text with a simple pinch. The app can search text, download email attachments, download web content, WiFi file transfer, and USB file transfer. You can download and upload to Google Docs, DropBox, WebDav, SugarSync and Box.net. This app also allows the user to create a folder system that is completely customizable.

Evernote (Free) - Evernote is considered by many to be one of the Top 10 apps of all time. To quote the Evernote folks "Evernote turns your iPhone, iPod and iPad into an extension of your brain, helping you remember anything and everything in your life." Evernote stores notes, pics, voice recordings, documents, virtually anything you can think of. I use this app to store all my course invoices, web research, articles, contracts, bids, etc.

Turf Management Calculator (\$5.99) - Turf Management Calc was developed at the Univ of Georgia for turf pros and students alike. The app has over 17,000 programmed calculations. Calculate anything from mowing, irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides, topdressing, unit conversion and many other practices. The user inputs the numbers and the app gives the correspon-

ding calculation. I have only been using this app for about two months, but so far I am really liking it.

iPod (included) - iPod. I included this one because I use it all the time. I realize that not all managers and/or facilities allow the use of an iPod, but having both devices in one is one less thing to lose or break. One can simply listen to their favorite music while driving the course in the wee hours of the morning or while mowing. I often find myself using it in my office hooked to a speaker if I am sitting at the computer for an extended period of time.

As I write this, the iPhone OS (operating system) is due for an update in the next month or two. It is unclear if ALL iPhones will be getting the update. The update may only apply to iPhone 4 and not to the iPhone 3G or 3Gs. As a result, some apps may not work on the iPhone 3G/3Gs because the technology inside the older models cannot handle the newer software demands. All of my recommended apps should be fine, but future app purchases may not work on the older 3G/3Gs hardware.

Happy app hunting!

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

6 Brand new take off 8-blade reel stock for Toro DPA \$200 Each.
Contact: Josh Jacobson
Alexandria Golf Club
320-762-2004

FOR SALE

Used 5 Gang Ball Picker.
Make offer.
Contact: Carl Mielke
University of Minnesota
612-369-4488

FOR SALE

Toro 5200 with 2800 hours.
Sharpened and ready to mow. \$5,400
3 almost new 11 blade reels, John Deere part #AMT2885. Will fit most pre-2008 mowers.
\$300 for all three.
Contact: Scott Hoffmann
Maddens on Gull Lake
218-825-4953

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