

Two-Year Turfgrass Management Program Update
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The 1990's started where the 80's left off in terms of the popularity of golf. With this popularity seems to go an increase in individuals wanting to become associated with the game in some matter. At MSU this association is with the Turfgrass Management option in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. For the Fall 1990 term there were 155 students striving for an education in some sort of turfgrass management! This number includes all two- and four-year students as well as graduate students. The two-year Turfgrass Management program sent out program information to over 450 inquiries in 1990 alone!

In March 1990, 32 people graduated from the program. They were all employed by April 1. Half of the class took jobs in Michigan. The others went to golf courses in Wisconsin, Illinois, Alabama, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, California, and Arizona. Three of the students took jobs as a superintendent while 19 were at assistant superintendent levels. Four students went into construction while six took jobs as crew members (two of these students are returning for four-year degrees).

The class of 1991 had 41 students on placement training with 18 remaining in Michigan. The 23 other students dispersed to golf courses in 18 states. The class of 1992 is presently at 37 (44 accepted in Fall 90 out of 95 applicants) students. Fourteen students will conduct their placement training in Michigan.

During 1990 a Placement Training survey was conducted to evaluate the internship experience. The student, superintendent, and assistant superintendent(s) were all asked a variety of questions about the performance of the student, the student/supervisor relationship, and the opportunities afforded the student while on the internship. A few of the results are listed below.

Highlights of the 1990 Placement Training Survey

- 77% of students worked at private courses
- 87% of students said superintendent's supervisory skills were good or better
- 85% of students said assistant superintendents supervisory skills were good or better
- 65% of students said they would choose same course again for their internship
- 81% of students said they would advise another student to conduct their placement training at the course they were on that summer

-85% of students rated their relation of classroom experiences to the actual golf course at good or better
-Only 10% of students became licensed to spray pesticides while 46% said the state in which they worked required all pesticide applicators to be licensed.
-75% of superintendents having students had 2-year certificates in turfgrass management while 16% had 4-year degrees in turf management.

The plans to change to the semester system by Fall 1992 are on schedule as of this writing. We will still start our internship in late March. Because school starts in early September, the students will leave approximately two to three weeks earlier from their internships than is customary.

Changes made during 1990 went very well. The golf course budgeting class is successful and the computer science courses are adequate at this point. One change for 1991 is that no student will be allowed to go on their Placement Training without successfully completing the Pesticide Application Technology class. For those students interning in Michigan they must pass the State Commercial Pesticide Applicators Exam. For students going on an internship out of state they will be asked to pass that state's applicator's exam. It is the goal that each student be licensed to apply pesticides during their internship.

Table 1. Composite rating by superintendents of student's abilities. Michigan State University two-year Turfgrass Management placement training program - 1990.

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>
	-----%-----			
Punctuality	56	30	9	5
Cooperation	59	23	18	0
Appearance	41	38	12	9
Leadership	9	47	32	12
Loyalty	44	32	12	12
Maturity	29	27	29	15
Creativeness	15	41	38	6

Table 2. A composite comparison between superintendent and student responses to opportunities afforded the student during placement training.

<u>Opportunities</u>	<u>Replies</u>					
	<u>Yes</u>		<u>No</u>		<u>Limited</u>	
	<u>Student</u>	<u>Supt.</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Supt.</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Supt.</u>
1. Pesticide application	58	82	19	3	23	15
2. Pesticide calibration	52	76	29	6	19	18
3. Budget process	17	7	67	33	16	60
4. Training and management strategies	26	50	57	12	17	38
5. Lead a small crew	33	70	53	3	14	27
6. Sales people	7	21	68	56	25	23
7. Green Committee Meetings	7	18	83	79	10	3
8. Planning sessions with supt.	16	53	55	21	29	26
9. Attend monthly GCSAA meetings	7	15	83	70	10	15
10. Turf establishment	77	87	3	10	20	3
11. Minor construction projects	84	94	10	3	6	3
12. Drainage projects	65	64	23	21	13	15