

TEN TIPS FOR TURF MANAGEMENT

Mike Andresen, CSFM

Iowa State University

This presentation centers on my premise that we will keep our careers moving forward, not by our strength in agronomics but by our skills in communication and personnel management. Wanting to be treated like a professional simply because of your job title is not reason enough to earn respect. We need to manage people and project a valid professional image to earn the title, “professional”.

There are personal skills that we need to take responsibility for, such as equipment maintenance and thorough record keeping. Documenting our decisions and actions is one way to ensure we don’t overlook important details more than once! Each step we take and action we do projects an image to our peers and the public. Ensure that your image is that of a professional turf manager.

Do you keep safety checklists of your field areas? Are you able to quantify to your administrators why your budget is not keeping up with your field demands? With proper safety checklists and field audits you will have that ability! Are your communication skills keeping your coaches, administrators and user groups informed about, and engaged in, your maintenance challenges? We need as many allies and friends as we can muster up. Make efforts to sell ownership into your program and facilities so that all hands are pulling in the same direction. With our shrinking budgets, it is imperative to be an expert in communications and interpersonal relationships. Learn to package to your boss’s style!

This presentation will explain how the “supervisor is named by the boss, but the leader is elected by the crew.” Strive to be the leader of your crew. Learn to treat crewmembers as individuals, ensuring you get their best efforts and achieve success. Verbalize goals and priorities. Communicate expectations and give critiques and evaluations on a regular basis. Hopefully you learn the value of not being consumed with your job, and in doing so; you will maximize your value to your facility and your family.

We all need friends and colleagues. This presentation will encourage you to join professional organizations, both locally and nationally. Take the challenge of becoming a leader in this industry and be a hero in your community!