



## Turfgrass Excellence—Private Category

**Jason Goss** Sonoma Golf Club | Sonoma, CA

**Career Highlights:** Jason Goss is now in his seventh year at Sonoma Golf Club where he originally served as a 1st assistant, and in the summer of 2007 was promoted to head golf course superintendent. Prior, he was employed at Santa Rosa G&CC, and even had a stint helping construct a par-3 course in Sonoma County.

**Education:** Jason earned an AS degree in Turfgrass Management from Michigan State University.

**On Course:** The fairways and tees at Sonoma Golf club consist of poa annua/chewings fescue/rye, and poa annua greens. There haven't been any major on-course renovation projects in the past few years, however, there's been great success interseeding fairways with chewings fescue for five consecutive seasons, improving playability as well as reducing water and fertilizer/chemical usage.

**Special Projects:** Jason's turf care background also includes preparing the course for the Charles Schwab Cup Championships (Champions Tour event), three during his tenure as golf course superintendent.

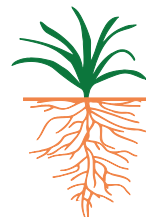
**Jason's Course Management Philosophy:** "We manage the soil not the grass. If the soil is right, the grass will be right," states Jason. The color green and managing for aesthetics is not necessarily number one on the priority list at SGC. It's about playability first, then aesthetics. To keep this championship-level course in good

shape it takes a staff of 21 full-time and two part-time employees.

**Jason's Management Style:** "I like to manage the way I like to learn, mostly through osmosis and also by example. I've worked on golf courses for more than 22 years and have done nearly every job imaginable. My staff members get a chance to see me jump in and do the work whenever necessary and that helps when I have to, on occasion, give corrective instruction. They know I've performed the tasks before and I am still willing to do it when needed."

**Dream Foursome:** If Jason could choose, he'd be teeing it up with his Dad, plus golf legends Fred Couples and Arnold Palmer.

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