

# BUYERS' GUIDE

## "THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS BAD WEATHER, JUST THE WRONG CLOTHES"

Whoever uttered those insightful words might well have been a greenkeeper. Cold, wet, windy or muddy conditions need not stop the well kitted-out greenkeeper from getting on with the job. Often, it is during extreme weather conditions when so much greenkeeping work can be carried out without the nuisance of golfers on the course. But having the right clothing and footwear is not just about getting the work done; just as importantly, it is about keeping the greenkeeper dry, warm, comfortable, healthy and safe.

For winter and wet weather work, probably the two most important pieces of greenkeeping kit are a good set of waterproofs and some sturdy waterproof work boots. The old adage that "you get what you pay for" applies here, just as it does in so many things. Purchasing the right standard of gear should be regarded as an investment; it will mean that your greenkeeping team will stay healthier, happier, be more effective in their work and lose less time to illness. For sure, this is one of those times when prevention is better than cure!

A suitable waterproof jacket should be long enough to sit on; this will mean that when bending or sitting, the wearer's lower back and waist will be well covered. The fabric must be tough enough (tough does not have to mean heavy) to withstand contact with gorse or brambles and it should be breathable so that the wearer remains comfortable even under the most energetic working conditions. The fit and construction of the garment must allow for ease of movement and the capacity to accommodate other layers underneath for colder weather. An integral hood is an important extra for extreme wet weather. Over-trousers should demonstrate the same waterproof and breathable characteristics as the jacket and should have an adjustable waist plus zipped leg cuffs to allow for easy putting on and removing over boots. Most over-trousers will slip down a little during work and for safety reasons it is wise to consider wearing braces to prevent trousers dragging on the ground.

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