

Get Involved

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Paying your dues as an assistant superintendent serves an important part in the management of golf course maintenance.

The job description of an Assistant Superintendent according to Turf Management, by James Beard, states: "Under the general supervision of the Golf Course Superintendent, directs and participates in the construction and maintenance of a golf course; supervises the operation, maintenance and repair of motorized and mechanical equipment; and performs related tasks as required."

Job descriptions are the same for each assistant superintendent but the responsibilities are what distinguishes us from each other. Take my responsibilities for example: Scheduling and supervising of employees; pricing and purchasing of maintenance supplies; record keeping of rainfall, air and soil temperatures, chemical and fertilizer applications; interviewing, hiring and firing of employees. Training of

employees in equipment operation, irrigation installation and repair, drainage installation, carpentry and painting. Also, chemical and fertilizer calibrating. Some people may say I have my hands full, but remember through proper management and co-operation of employees, the job can be accomplished.

The job of the assistant superintendent is very demanding -- afternoon syringing, night calls and weekend shifts are some of the expected. Even though every job is different, each assistant superintendent is required to perform specific duties in assisting the superintendent.

Some of the things that frustrate me as an assistant are the times you want to make major decisions and you need approval. Other times you think a job should be done one way and its done another. But these small problems come with the job.

I have been fortunate enough to find someone with whom I feel confident in talking to about problems. That's my boss! With his interest, I'm able to express my thoughts and ideas without

being shot down. If my ideas contribute to solving problems, they are used, but if I've missed the concept, I'm not turned away. Discussions on related topics are explained so that I do understand. To me that's an advantage because it's an education not everyone is willing to give.

To those of you who want to proceed as superintendents, let's not forget that your boss is an indirect teacher. Take notes, ask questions, suggest new ideas, and do not be afraid to be turned away because it will happen. If you do have an idea, support it with facts and believe in what you have to present. With all this in mind, be discreet in your presentation.

In conclusion, there is no substitute for education. In today's era, people are more and more open and willing to talk about new ideas related to their profession. So do not stand around, visit your neighborhood superintendent, attend local seminars, join organizations promoting your interests -- get involved! 🍏



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