



# If There's a Will, There's a Way!

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Many times we have heard about the importance of education, communication and good old experience. With all the variables in our world of golf course management, the continual execution of proper decisions is paramount. Sometimes the slightest deviation from solid practices can lead to dead grass, upset golfers or in some cases, loss of employment.

However, golf course management is not all that difficult! I say so, because there are many superintendents who have become successful using non-standard approaches. If our business was so complicated and difficult, successful programs would only be allowed by the following of strict guide lines. This thought in no way is meant to imply that there is only one correct method used for maintaining turfgrass on your course. Proper skills and education can promote faster advancement, greater potential and job security over time.

So if skills are a contributory, but not an ultimate determining factor in golf course management, what is the key to success that we desire? Dedication comes to mind!

Superintendents like Wayne Otto, Danny Quast, Carl Grassl and many more like them, have made deep sacrifices and dedicated themselves to something they wanted to do. I'm sure they gave up other activities and aspects of life to pursue their dreams. They should not be pitied because of what they gave up in order to follow their desires. The sacrifices that they make are voluntary. Today their hard work is paying off. Today we watch them reap the benefits of years of hard work and dedication. Their efforts are to be applauded! But this message is not about patting them on the back, rather there is a lesson to convey.

The above named superintendents and others like them wanted it more than anybody else did. Their years of dedication, work and present success attest to that. Their will was so strong that nothing stood in their way. Supers like Wayne, Danny, Carl and others started out just as the rest of us. Yes, maybe they were

blessed with a "green thumb." But their drive and desire, their will, carried them from the start, through the good and the bad, over many years to where they are today.

However, the benefits of dedication are not limited to those few who reach the top of the mountain respectively. Dedication can reward us at all levels. Just knowing that you put forth a genuine effort, and that effort produced the best playing conditions possible, no matter the level of your golf course, is rewarding.

Unfortunately, there is no blueprint to will and desire. Essentially, desire is up to you. You just have to look within yourself to find it. Will and desire can also influence our relationships and every aspect of our daily personal lives. Your return on investment in all areas of life is directly related to the amount of energy that you, and only you, put forth. We get back exactly what we put in! 

