

James Gardner Earns Environmental Specialist Certificate

James D. Gardner, golf course superintendent of Rochester Golf & Country Club, Rochester, has earned an environmental specialist certificate in Integrated Plant Management (IPM).

The IPM specialization focuses on effective and safe alternatives to the regular use of chemicals in golf course management. The goal of IPM is to reduce reliance on pesticides and increase the use of biological, mechanical and cultural pest control techniques.

The IPM specialist recognition is part of the Environmental Management Program (EMP) offered through the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

GCSAA's EMP consists of six distinct specializations: IPM; Underground Storage Tanks; Golf Course Development; Employee Safety and Right-To-Know; Water Quality and Application; and Storage, Disposal and Recycling.

Golf course superintendents may choose to complete one or more of these specializations, each of which is composed of a series of relevant course work. Because environmental science and regulations evolve rapidly, the superintendent must renew the specialization certificate at the end of three years.

The superintendent who successfully completes the required course work in a specialization receives a certificate from GCSAA. In addition, the superintendent who earns this credential demonstrates his or her commitment to preserve and protect the environment and local resources.

GCSAA introduced the EMP in response to the complex training needs of today's superintendents. The program is open to all golf course management professionals seeking further environmental training and expertise.

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