

HOLE NOTES

A person is operating a green maintenance vehicle, possibly a roller or mower, on a golf course. The scene is set during sunset, with the sun low on the horizon behind a line of trees. A body of water is visible in the background, reflecting the sunset. The overall atmosphere is calm and scenic.

2025 Scholarship Recipients
Ische, Johnson, Jones

Roll it Forward:
Dan Ament

2024 Stewardship Grant
Luck Golf Course

Get to Know Em:
Tina Rosenow

Turfgrass Internships
Sully Schermerhorn

UMN-Ten Tips:
Gary Deters

august

HOLE NOTES

The Official Publication of the MGCSA
V. 60, #4 August 2025

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Above: Rainy day @ Madden's

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Maple Grove, MN 55311

Event Calendar:

Grand Rapids Exposure	8/25
MGCSA Championship	9/9
The Scramble	9/22
The Wee One	10/6
The MEGA	12/2-3

Hole Notes (ISSN 108-27994) is digitally published bi-monthly, 6 issues per year, by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association, PO Box 2028, Maple Grove, MN 55311. Chris Aumock Publisher. Please send any address changes, articles for submission, advertising and concerns to chris@mgcsa.



PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Nikk Dickerson
Faribault Golf Club

HEAT, HUMIDITY, AND HEADACHES:

Whether you've been on a mower seat, cutting cups or dragging a hose this summer, you didn't need a weather app to tell you June and July seemed relentless. After the first week of June which seemed pretty mild we've had heavy rainfall totals and a pretty consistent blanket of heat and humidity, it felt like Mother Nature was throwing the full playbook at us.

At Faribault Golf Club, June started off with saturated fairways, soggy

bunkers, and the sort of standing water that makes you question whether you're running a golf course or operating a peat bog. There were days we didn't dare send mowers out in fear of rutting up playing surfaces or burying equipment in low-lying areas. Then, just as things really started truly growing and filling up from the goofy spring we had, we got a week of 90+ degree heat with dew points that made me feel like I was in a sauna from dawn to dusk .

It's the kind of weather that tests your agronomy skills, your patience, and your irrigation system—all at the same time.

One of the biggest challenges I've seen has been disease pressure. Dollar spot showed up and because of the rain hasn't really left, while Pythium and brown patch loomed anytime leaf wetness lingered overnight. We've been forced to stay aggressive with fungicide intervals and scouting. It was a tough year for staff

too—no one likes coming in from their first job in the morning just dripping with sweat.

We also had to be creative with mowing schedules and adjust our maintenance expectations. Some days were just about surviving—fixing irrigation breaks in 90-degree heat or squeegeeing water off greens at 6 a.m. before golfers showed up. We learned quickly that flexibility was key. High-traffic areas got extra love, while some aesthetic

touches took a backseat to playability and turf health but this happens every year, it's just never clear when it will show up.

Despite all the setbacks, there were wins too. This spring helped push root growth early, which proved crucial once the heat arrived. Despite how long it seemed to be before things really started growing, sometimes it's about managing expectations as much as conditions. I'm proud of our team for staying adaptable and

keeping up with all the curveballs mother nature has thrown. Summers like this remind us that we're not just turf managers—we're meteorologists, mechanics, problem solvers, and the occasional motivational speaker. If June and July were the storm, here's hoping August brings a little respite.

Until then, keep the pumps running and the ice water stocked. The cooler temps are on their way.

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- 1 SAVE THE DATE!**
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- 2 SAME VENUE!**
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- 4 LUNCH IS PROVIDED!**



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TECH TIPS

Rotary Blades



*Austin Wright, CTEM
Hazeltine National Golf Club*

One of the easiest and cost-effective ways to improve your golf course's playing conditions and after-cut-appearance is to have a rotary sharpening system within your operation. Everyone is focused on reel maintenance throughout the season, as we should be, but the rotary blades need lovin' too. Look at your turfgrass, it will tell you what it needs. As we begin to think about the fall season, rotary machines become a key tool in leaf mulching or clean-up. Let's go over a few tips and tricks to help elevate your operation.



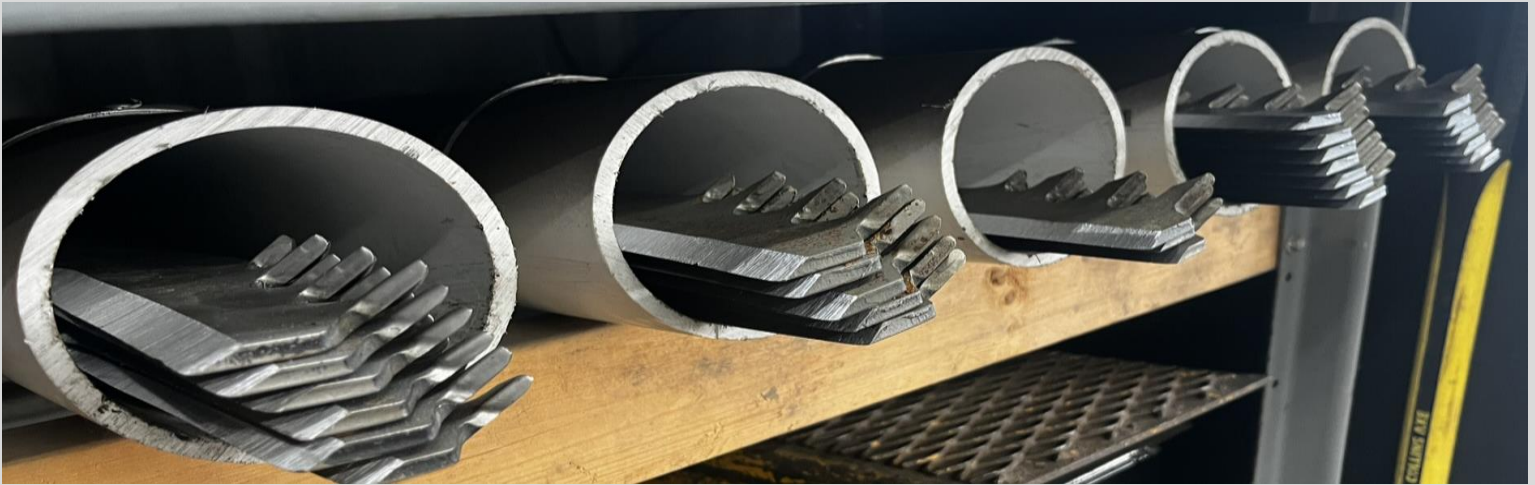
#1 – Inspection Timeline

It is important to set a goal for rotary machine inspections, just like we do with reel mowers. In our operation if a reel mower cuts any grass, it will get inspected and checked prior to mowing again. Think of this same idea for your rotary machines. Our goal is to get the mowers in the shop once a week, typically Thursday/Friday after they have completed the full course mow. Now let's be realistic, things happen, and the shop gets busy having to reprioritize tasks. Yes, a week will get skipped here and there. Think about it this way, a blade hit a drain grate and was damaged but continued mowing. When you have a consistent inspection schedule, the machines may only get around the course once or twice before your shop team was able to catch it. It is all about preventative maintenance and keeping those golfers from asking about what happened to the rough.



#2 – Maintenance “Back-Up” Blades

The key to efficiency when it comes to rotary blades is having maintenance “back-up” blades ready to rock n roll. During your weekly/bi-weekly inspection, you don’t need to spend the time sharpening at that moment. Do a quick swap to sharp blades and get those machines back out on the golf course cutting grass. As your shop time allows throughout the week, you can sharpen the blades that came off the unit and get those ready for the next swap. Its all about efficiency and quality of cut!



#3a – Consistent Sharpener/Grinder

There are many ways to sharpen your blades. In my opinion, there is no wrong way as long as you are sharpening the blades consistently. There are many tools for your team to utilize; automatic grinders, belt sander sharpener, bench grinder, even good ol angle grinder. The key is do keep it consistent and set the standard that you are trying to achieve within your operation. Also, proper PPE is extremely important so use it!



#3b – Balancing

As you think about sharpening, you MUST also be balancing your blades. Rotary blades spin at a high rate of speed and must be balanced to ensure safe and proper operation. Again, there are many ways to balance with various tools. It can be the magnetic mount balancer, cone balancer, or simply a nail on the wall. You want to keep those blades as evenly balanced as you can to keep them safe while protecting the spindle or engine they may be mounted to.



#4 – Blade Selection



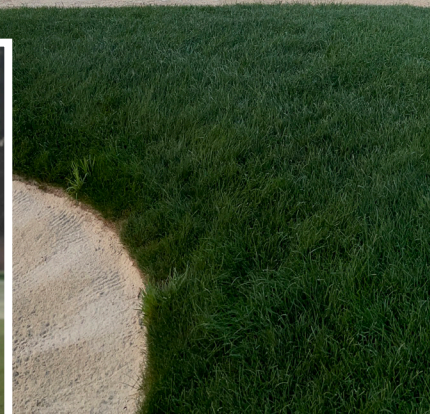
This is a fun part of the rotary operation. Blade style selection can be something that you change throughout your season based on turf or environmental conditions. Blades may also differ in various areas throughout your course. Example may be that you use a low/mid lift blade in your intermediates and a mulching blade in your rough. These are easy ways to achieve a better after-cut-appearance around your golf course.

Think about these few tips and tricks to consider within your rotary maintenance system. These can be simple, cost-effective, minor adjustments that could make a huge improvement in the large acreage of rough that is mowed around your course. Lastly, while your machines are in the shop receiving a blade swap, take this time to check your rollers, caster wheels, all fluids, tire pressures, lubricate grease fittings, etc. We know that these rotary machines tend to mow all day for the entire week. Take a moment to give them a once-over and they will help take care of you and your golf course.

Be Good! Keep Em Sharp!

3M OPEN - TPC TWIN CITIES

Congratulations to Superintendent Joe Rolstad and the team at the TPC for another successful 3M Open!! Thank you to all of our industry partners and local volunteers for the continued strong support!



MGCSA CHAMPIONSHIP

The MGCSA's annual singles stroke play and two-person team event!!

September 9th

9 AM Shotgun

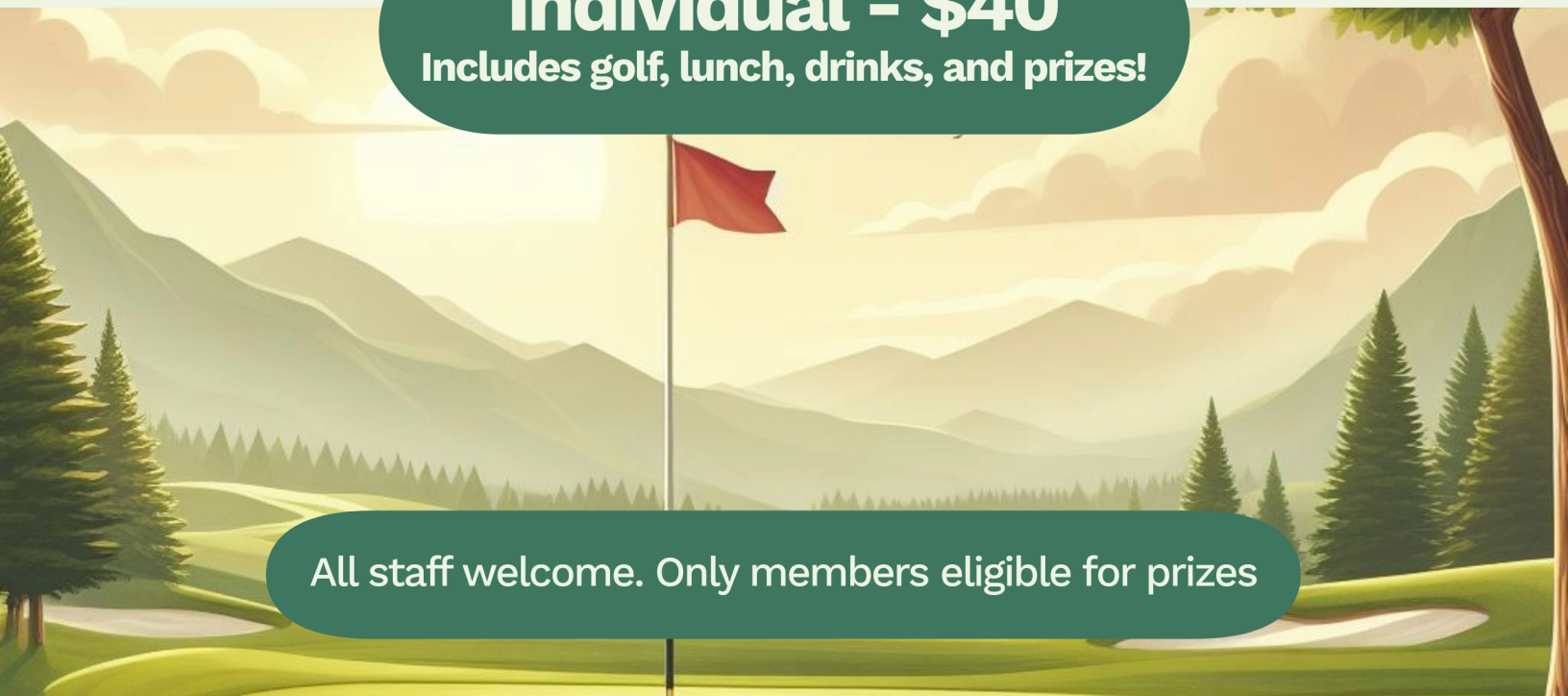
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MADDENS EXPOSURE GOLF

Thank you to host Superintendent, Tanner Schoenfelder, our sponsors, and all of the attendees who still showed up, knowing we would be getting wet! Most only played about 13 holes, but The Classic in the rain is still a great golf course!



2025 PAR AIDE
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Thank you Par Aide for your continued support of the
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JOSEPH S. GARSKE RECIPIENT:

Eddie Johnson

Parent: Jeff Johnson
Minikahda Club



Eddie graduated with Honors from Edina High School in 2025. This fall he will be attending the University of Kansas majoring in Finance.

While in high school he participated in Cross Country, Basketball and Ultimate Frisbee. During his time on Ultimate

Frisbee, the team won three state championships and in back-to-back years they were runner-up in the High School National Championship. Eddie was a team captain in his senior year and was voted to the Lake Conference All Conference Team and well as voted to the 2nd team National All-Tournament

Team. The past two summers he's worked on the grounds crew at The Minikahda Club and is looking forward to heading off to college.

Thank you to the MGCSA and Par Aide for sponsoring these scholarships.



MGCSA LEGACY RECIPIENT:

Meghan Ische

Parent: Jeff Ische
Toro



Meghan Ische of Cologne, MN is a 2023 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Minnetonka HS. While in high school she volunteered at youth church, horse and community theatre camps, she was a student board member for Many Hands Many Meals, did Adopt-a-Highway roadside cleanup and started a peer to peer emotional support group at her high school. She also com-

peted on the cross country running and Nordic ski teams.

Currently Meghan attends the University of Vermont where she will begin her third year in the Registered Nursing program. She also participates on the club Nordic Ski team. She was named to the Dean's List her first four semesters at UVM and is looking for-

ward to getting deeper into the nursing curriculum and starting her hospital clinicals this year. After graduation she hopes to spend a couple years utilizing her nursing skills in under-developed Spanish speaking countries.

Thank you to Par Aide and the MGCSA for generously sponsoring these scholarships!



MGCSA LEGACY RECIPIENT:

Molly Jones

Parent: Sally Jones
Syngenta



Molly is a recent graduate of Benson High School, in Benson, MN. While she was in high school, she was active in Tennis, Hockey, Golf, Band, Student Council, and Business Professionals of America.

Within these activities, she lead various roles such as Team Captain, Vice-President, Class

Representative, President, and Region Officer.

During her senior year, she enrolled full-time in virtual classes as a PSEO Student through Minnesota State Community and Technical College in their Digital Marketing program.

This fall, she will attend the University of North

Dakota and will Major in Marketing. Her long-term goal after graduating from college is to return to attain an MBA in business.





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2024

*STEWARDSHIP GRANT
RECIPIENT:
LUCK GOLF COURSE*

By: Kevin Clunis, CGCS

Drainage, drainage, and drainage. If you get that right, growing turf becomes much easier. Over the 13 years I spent at the Luck Golf Course, there was hardly a year that we didn't add on to the existing system or add on new. The rolling terrain was advantageous to move the water off site but in certain locations there were relatively flat areas that were hard to keep dry and firm. After trying several in house projects to produce acceptable playing conditions, we reached out to the Hartman Company to solve the issue.

A quick back story about the course. It is a municipal operation that 9 holes were built in the 1930's by the WPA. The second 9 was added in the 1980's and designed by Gordon Emerson. Let's just say that course was built on a shoestring budget. The locals have supported it well over the years and it continues to prosper for a small town operation.

About 10,000 years ago, the glaciers began to recede and left behind rocks. Not just rocks but ROCKS! There were several rocks that were so large that they

were left where they were found. On top of that, with the small construction budget left minimal proper grading techniques. The backfill material used was about anything that resembled soil and it contained high amounts of silt and clay. The topsoil was spread very thinly over the top and then seeded. The main issue we were trying to resolve was remove as much water from the surface as there was no internal infiltration. Water would stand on top of the turf for days after a rain event or a stuck irrigation head. We all



know what happens when wet soil is met by carts and mowers.

Hartman came out and recommended we go with 2 inch slit trenching on 6 foot centers to eliminate the water. The two fairways we selected to do we're #6 & #14. They came out and used a large wheel trencher behind a massive tractor to grind through the rocks. They actually went through a set of teeth. The noise was loud but they were able to get through the fairways. All laterals were connected to new or existing drain

tile. In addition, they had to also create shallow hollows in the real problem areas and install new drainage to remove the water. All this work took place in September. They cleaned up the area and we seeded/sodded the areas.

The rains came and everything was fine, so we thought. The drainage swales worked as plan and took the water. The slit trenching was another story. Part of the restoration to the trenches was to add a sandy soil mix on the top 2 inches

of the coarse sand that covered the tiles. That is how Hartman had finished all previous jobs with great success. I sent pictures of standing water on top of the trenches during the rain. When I pushed my probe through the sand mix and created a hole, water immediately was removed. The solution was to remove the mix and fill it to the top with the coarse sand. That made a large improvement.

Where do we go from here? I have since retired and left the course in



good hands to Tim Nelson. There are several areas that need drainage and in time will be taken care of. The saying I learned many years ago from a speaker at one of educational seminars that still is truth today, "The closer you get to perfection, more the imperfections show up."

I would like to thank the MGCSA on awarding a grant to accomplish this project. We also got financial help from a benefactor and the Village of Luck to ensure the success of the entire process.



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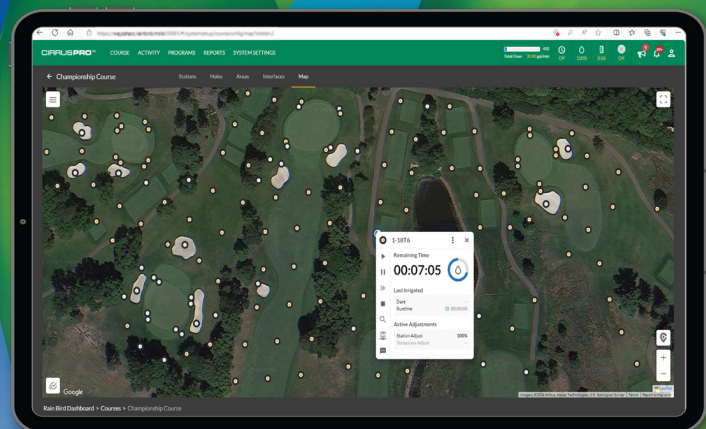
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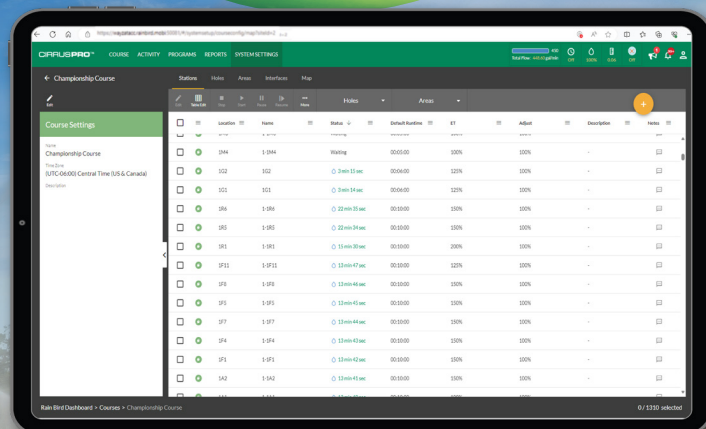
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Developing Well-Rounded Turf Managers

Sully Schermerhorm
Senior Asst Superintendent
Interlachen Country Club



Before I became an assistant, or even a summer seasonal, I began my professional journey in education. I graduated in 2018 with a degree focusing on strategies for behavioral and academic growth, and soon found myself working as a middle school special education teacher.

Over the next four and a half years, I learned that everyone has a desire to learn and that growth thrives with the right support system. I developed coaching strategies, celebrated the

accomplishments of those who had mastered new skills that they thought were impossible to obtain, and helped to build confidence in others, all skills that now resonate with me in my career today.

As burnout set in, I looked for a new path. That journey led me to the golf course—and I found a new passion for turf management. Now, in my fourth full season in the golf course industry, I've come to realize how closely this field parallels my time in education. Each day involves planning, adapting

and problem-solving. Above all though, we coach, teach, and support our staff who we often rely on and who have a wide range of skills.

This connection is especially evident in our internship program. Turfgrass internships are more than just a source of labor—they're an opportunity to shape the future of the industry. For the past two summers, I've had the opportunity to lead our internship program, supporting students from across the country with varied backgrounds in

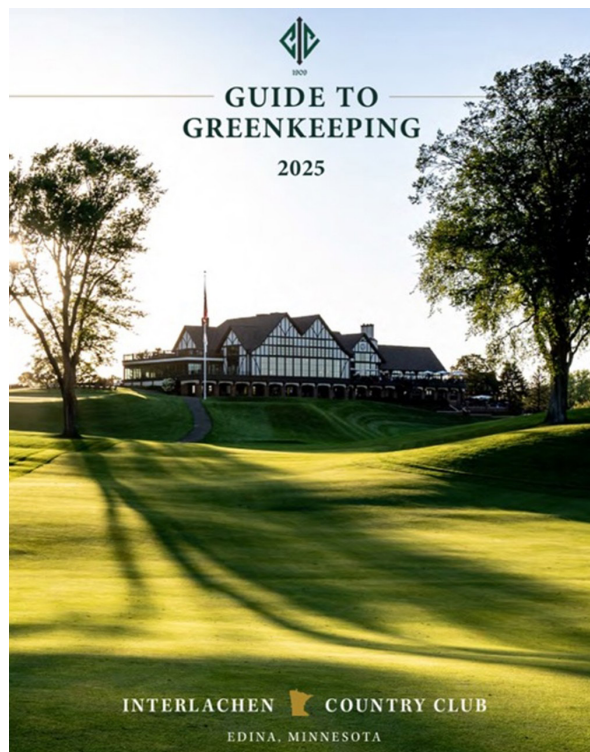


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turfgrass and horticulture. Guided by a general curriculum followed by our team members, our interns have gone on to achieve success in the golf course industry and beyond.

Why Internships Matter

Internships offer a dual benefit: interns gain practical, hands-on education in turf management and courses benefit from the enthusiasm and fresh perspectives of emerging professionals. But it takes thoughtful planning and intentional leadership to turn an internship from

a job into a well rounded experience.

The number of students entering turf programs has declined significantly since the early 2000s, with fewer than 1,000 students active in turf studies annually across the 58 institutions offering degrees or certificates. That means today's students can be selective—so our courses must offer more than just free housing and a summer job with competitive wages.

How to Build a Stand-Out Internship Program

Here are some strategies

we've implemented and that others can adopt to create a more meaningful and impactful internship experience:

1. Create a Roadmap

Develop a guidebook that outlines: Your course's history, membership or community culture, equipment and technologies used, cultural practices and agronomic philosophies, upcoming projects (both in-house and contracted).

This gives interns a clear picture of what they're stepping into and allows them to set goals.



2. Engage With Industry Partners

Invite vendors, suppliers, and local research institutions to host events or presentations. This broadens the intern's view of potential careers within the turf industry and fosters professional networking.

3. Support Professional Development

Share your own resume and portfolio. Offer help building theirs. Encourage them to use resources like GCSAA and MGCSA to foster high-quality documentation and reflection. This empowers them to take pride in their

work and prepare for future opportunities. Don't forget to remind them to take photos of their work!

4. Build Relationships Beyond the Course

Hold regular one-on-one or group check-ins. Ask questions like: "How are you feeling going into this week?" "What do you want to learn more about?" and "How can I best support you this week?"

Do more than work. Set aside time in the afternoons to schedule a tee time or attend a local game. These moments help interns develop as well-rounded professionals who can

thrive in and out of work environments.

5. Provide Meaningful Autonomy

Involve interns in both daily and long-term planning. Let them lead small projects such as: drainage installation, irrigation expansions and repairs, landscaping or detailed projects as well as projects your interns have identified interest in.

Give them ownership. Encourage documentation for their portfolios—and reinforce that their work matters. Rotate interns through different teams to build their confidence and give them a chance to develop their own working style. Invite them to sit in on meetings or share with them your findings after the fact.

6. Set Clear Goals

Work with interns to create short-, mid-, and long-term goals at the beginning of the season. These should be revisited from time to time to give interns

concrete examples of how they are meeting their goals. This helps you assign tasks that align with their interests and keeps both parties accountable for skill development.

It is also beneficial to send out a survey to your interns prior to arrival to identify those interests as well as the skills they are strong in and ones they would like to learn. This can be questions related to course set up, machines used, tools used and projects they've been involved with.

7. Always Explain the “Why”

Understanding the

reasoning behind tasks builds trust and enhances learning. Without the “why” there is no purpose. Explain your thought process clearly and fully. Share background context. Encourage questions. The “why” provides purpose and builds a deeper understanding of turf management.

In closing, a great internship is more than a summer job—it's a deliberately designed experience that builds competence, confidence, and clarity. It should balance agronomic knowledge with leadership, soft skills, and real-world

application. It will challenge interns both technically and interpersonally. It fosters growth for the intern, the mentor, and the course.

Not everything will go perfectly. Some ideas will fail, some will need adjusting year to year and some will need to be set aside. But that's part of the learning process, too. The goal is to prepare future leaders to succeed—whether they stay in golf or pursue a different path. We should always lead with intention and with the understanding that we are all learners and want to succeed in having the best experience possible.





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ROLL IT FORWARD

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Golf Course





Thank you, Scott Weik for Rolling It Forward. Also thank you for the very kind welcoming to Ramsey County, I have enjoyed my time so far with the awesome group we have!

Growing up my childhood was not filled with thoughts of GDD's, ET rates, and 8am shotguns. Golf was a very small part of my life growing up as I didn't start playing consistently until I was 15. I grew up playing

football, basketball, baseball, soccer etc., which left no time for golf. My family also farmed and other family friends did the same, so when the sports schedule allowed, I was helping bale hay and cleaning barns. Growing up I was very lucky that my parents lived on a larger parcel than everyone else in the neighborhood, so the backyard we were able to play baseball, race go carts and have three short golf holes. My

dad would mow some very small greens in the backyard with a Folgers coffee can as the cup and a handkerchief tied to a rake handle for a pin. After playing catch and hitting numerous homeruns off dad, he would always take me on in golf as he knew he would win!

Fast forward to freshman year in high school during baseball practice I had a moment where I just had enough of practice. Yes,

an Allen Iverson moment “talking about practice” where I knew it was time to be done. Sports just took up too much time with being on all the travel teams and workout commitments that I said enough. At this time, I still played golf casually and had no thoughts about playing more. Heck, I didn’t even know we had a golf team for high school. After some convincing from friends and finding out the greatest perk about playing high school golf I decided to try out for the team and made it. That perk was matches

were 18 holes so you got to leave school at 10 and practice started early so you could leave at 1. SIGN ME UP! I ended up playing all four years in high school and had some minor interest from colleges to take the next step. Frankly I didn’t think I was good enough and decided to focus on the elephant in the room, what do I want to do for a living?

I didn’t mind school, but I also wasn’t thrilled to sit in class for four more years. I settled on what I still consider my dream job

and went to school to be a firefighter/paramedic. I attended Hennepin Tech for one year and completed all the requirements. All that was left was to take the St. Paul tests to get hired on. After acing the tests, I was ranked third and there were seven spots being hired. I was PUMPED until I was told about the bonus points. What bonus points? Too many “interesting” categories to talk about, but after the final tally I ended up 9th. I was told thanks, and we will keep you on the list, and our next hiring class will be in seven years. SEVEN YEARS, NOW WHAT!? At 19 I was crushed as my only real dream I had was denied and needed to find something.

That summer I was working at Southern Hills under a young Superintendent named Adam Meilike, just



mowing, string trimming, and golfing. He talked to me about my passion for golf and the fact that you can make a career out of it without being on tour. I was fascinated with everything we did out on the course and having a ton of pride looking at my work I completed earlier that day when I was out golfing.

The more Adam let me do the further I fell in love with golf maintenance. I decided this is what I am going to do, and now was the time to figure out where I needed to learn. I looked at Iowa State, Michigan State, and Purdue as they were still in the Midwest as I would be paying my own way through. After seeing the financial obligation, I said “Community College it is!” I ended up



at Central Lakes College in Brainerd for a year playing college golf and living on a lake with three of my closest friends. Nothing wrong with coming home from class and hopping in the boat to catch a few walleyes before practice!

After focusing on generals and classes that would transfer, I applied and was accepted at the UofM to get into the Horticulture/Turf school.

I loved my time at the U learning from Eric Wat-

kins, Brian Horgan, and Sam Bauer. I could not recommend a better group to learn from! During that time, we had to do an internship, and I really did not know much about golf or turf besides my time at Southern. We had a roundtable discussion one day with a few local superintendents and I must have said something right as Jeff Johnson from Minikahda called me a few days later wondering if I would be interested in an internship position with him. It was

a resounding yes as I got to continue my education at one of the best clubs in the state.

At Minikahda I did not know much about the private golf side. I grew up blue collar at small public courses, so Minikahda was an entirely new world. I couldn't believe how many people were working each day and what we all did to make the golf course amazing. I was still super green and had no idea about walk mowing anything besides my yard. That summer I worked extremely hard, but the amount of information I took from that year has shaped my turf decision making to this day. 'Playboy Dan' was my nickname during my time there as our other intern, Tony from China, gave it to me for my time spent in Uptown living large and teaching him about American women. I want to say thanks to Jeff Johnson, Nick Folk, Johnny Jarosz, and Rick



Krause for the amount of knowledge you all supplied me during my season with you. Your information has helped me become a better superintendent!

After Minikahda it was time to take the next step. I was hired as 2nd Assistant at Burl Oaks and only spent a short 6 months there before I took an Assistant job at the Meadows of Mystic Lake. Here is where I really

grew as a person and a turf professional. Working with Pete Nolan, Andy Keyes, and Nate Maas we had a great time maintaining that amazing property. I loved going to work each day doing our best and making that golf course a dream to play. I spent 7.5 years honing my skills waiting for the right opportunity to come along to take the next step into a Superintendent role. I knew I wanted to stay in



was my job. A few days later I was offered the job and accepted to be the Superintendent of Hiawatha and Fort Snelling. My first day was 05/28/2019 and Hiawatha flooded. The flood was not as bad as 2014, but the back nine was closed for a week. 2019 continued to be very wet and when it was time for blowout, I realized I never watered fairways once that year.

Having two courses was a challenge, but the team and I pushed ahead thru wet years, drought, covid, and everything else thrown our way. Hiawatha and MPRB let me get creative to manage the turf with all the rules and regs thrown at us. I did a three-year organic only product trial that taught me more about soil and turf than I had throughout my career. Would I ever want to do that again, no, but what I learned changed the way I manage everything. I spent almost seven years at

the public side for golf as it was where I grew up and I wanted to give back everything I could. I applied for a few jobs I wanted and a few I didn't just to get interview experience. I was turned down twice before I applied for a Supt job within the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB).

Government golf was not my first choice, but it

was public golf and that's where I wanted to be. Going through the interview process was something I was not accustomed to as it was completely different. After the first interview I was mailed a rejection letter and decided to continue applying elsewhere. After three weeks MPRB called and asked for an in-person interview. After what I felt was a normal interview, I walked out knowing this

MPRB and after our strike last year I knew it was time to move on.

When I entered the turf industry and became a Superintendent there were two jobs that I always wanted, jobs I considered my dream job in golf. Chaska Town Course was one and Keller was the other. When the Superintendent job at either opened I would be applying and put everything into getting one of those spots. When Paul Diegnau decided to call it a career after 29 years at Keller I had my opportunity. I was shocked when I was offered the position and knew I finally had made it! I started in March and have loved every second of my time here at Keller. Even with how tough this season has been with sewer breaks, severe storm damage, power outages, and mother nature in general I would not trade it for the world! My staff makes me look good and I could not do it without them, especially Brett Wenzel, Greg Lindholm, Candace

Okeson, Matt Thorp, and now retired Scott Knutson. I love Keller and love our industry, and I know the next 20 years will fly by.

Lastly, I want to thank my soon-to-be fiancé Becca for putting up with me with all the long hours and time away from home. She makes me a better person each day! I also couldn't do it without my trusted companion Mickey who is my shadow 24/7. I cannot say enough great things about the turf industry and the MGCSA as a whole. I look forward to running for our Board and continuing to grow our organization and help guide what our

ever-changing future looks like. I also want to thank Chris Aumock and the MGCSA Board for all the work that is put into Hole Notes, Don White, and our events. You all rock and keep up the good work!

As part of the Roll it Forward series I would like to nominate Scott Thayer formerly of Legends, now slinging sand with Plaisted Companies. I knew Scott from my time at Mystic and valued his leadership when he was President of the MGCSA. Scott has a great story that will be a great read!

Thanks for reading!





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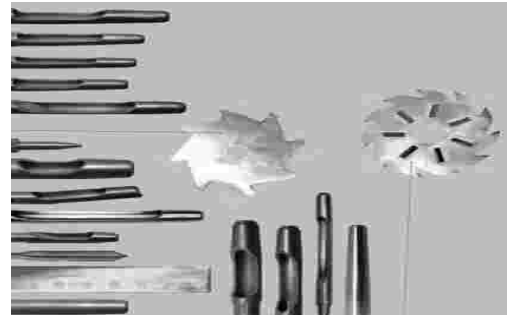
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GET TO KNOW 'EM

TINA ROSENOW
Second Assistant Superintendent
Midland Hills Country Club

PUBLIC/PRIVATE/#HOLES Private, 18 holes
FT EMPLOYEES: 9
SEASONALS: 13
ROUNDS/YEAR: ~32,000

YEARS IN THE POSITION: 5
YEARS IN TURF INDUSTRY: 10
CAREER/JOBS: Spring Hill Golf Club, Trinity Forest Golf Club
TURF SCHOOL: University of Minnesota - Plant Sciences

GREENS ACREAGE: ~4
TEE ACREAGE: 1.7
FWY ACREAGE: 30

TYPES OF GRASS: All sod was sodded in house, that was most of the green expansions. Fairways were only thing reseeded with Penn Trio Bent. It's our divot mix, so we tried to match turf types.

HOW DO WE GET MORE WOMEN INTO TURF: It goes back to High School, reach out to both genders and inform them that anybody can do this. If you're interested, tell them to try it out. Volunteering for an event is also a good way to get their hands dirty, and see if they like it.

MASTER PLAN WANT: Probably our 18th green, it's not a template hole, according to Seth Raynor plans. Midland Hills had a different layout, and most of our holes are template holes. Don't know what we do but know its not original. Another thing would be adjusting grass lines/edges, and sight lines.



**ANYTHING DIFFERENT OR
UNIQUE YOU DO THAT COULD
BENEFIT OTHERS?**

The biggest thing is just the culture. We create a culture where retention is high, so the team is very consistent, which gets us the same results. Making sure everyone feels appreciated and valued. Us assistants here do a gift card program every month, so we show our appreciation and recognize staff members work and value.

EQUIPMENT WANT:

We really want a Super 600 vacuum, its a Wiedenmann. Because we have 30 acres of fescue that we mow, its laborious to clean up after mowing, so having a 600 would cut that time significantly. We've been pretty fortunate to get most of our equipment requests from the club.



**WHAT IS A CLASSIC MOVIE YOU
RECOMMEND TO OTHERS?**

John Wick, love John Wick, all of them. I took a trip to New York in 2022 with my mom and sister, and I drug them to John Wick sites. They wanted to see Broadway and I took them to the film sites. I watch it on the plane everytime.

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT?

Last year we went to San Diego for the conference, and that was a cool spot. It was great and I hope it goes back their sometime. The weather was great. Otherwise, I love going to my cabin north of Brainerd.



FAVORITE TASKS: I do love spraying, I find something satisfying about it. My favorite job though is probably walk mowing greens. Putting down those straight lines, theres nothing better. Especially on 18 in front of the clubhouse. I get to listen to music, and try to beat some of the guys mowing.

LEAST FAVORITE TASK: I thoroughly enjoy everything, but if I had to pick, it would be push spreading fertilizer in the rough. I don't hate it, as I find it be to be good exercise, and I get to listen to some good music.

HAVE YOU PLAYED ANY FAMOUS GOLF COURSES?

I haven't. I have a hard enough time trying to play golf in Minnesota. I don't really want to play golf after work. We are playing in the Don White this year, so that's great.

WHO IS IN YOUR FOURSOME?

I love Jordan Spieth, I will fan girl over him all day long. He is actually a member at Trinity Forest, so I got to talk to him at Trinity Forest. James Franco, I'm always up for a good laugh, and 4th would be my Grandpa who passed away since I never got to play golf with him.

WHAT IS FAVORITE MEMORY OR FUNNY STORY OF STARTING IN TURF?

Really, just getting to do all the important jobs. During my 2nd year I was upgraded to mowing fairways, which I was beyond thrilled about. Lo and behold, I didn't weigh enough to turn the seat sensor off, so disappointingly I didn't get to mow fairways that year.

WHAT'S ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE RECEIVED IN YOUR CAREER THAT STILL RESONATES WITH YOU?

One of my mentors always said, don't be afraid of what others think. We've talked about being female in the industry, being young, or at a private club or wherever, never ever be afraid of what people think of you. If you get caught up on that, you can get drug down pretty easily. I try to share that advice with others, and think of that myself, not to judge others if they may need more help.

Listen to the full conversation with Tina on the HOLE NOTES PODCAST! Available on many of your favorite podcast sites!



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TOP TEN TAKEAWAYS FROM LIFE ON CAMPUS

Gary Deters
University of Minnesota



It has been over five years since I left my role as golf course superintendent to join the Turfgrass Science Group in the Department of Horticultural Science at the University of Minnesota. I have learned a lot during this time, both from my observations and being actively involved in turfgrass research.

I figured it might be helpful to share some of what I have learned.

With that in mind, I've put together a "Top Ten" list, in no particular order, of some key things I've picked up.

1. Data collection can be tedious and labor intensive

I quickly realized how tedious and time-consuming research can be, especially when it comes to data collection. In most

studies, whether it's about drought, mowing, or disease, winter injury, establishment, spring green-up, or cultivar trials there are hundreds of plots that need to be checked individually. This could involve ratings, counting plants, taking photos, recording moisture values, and a lot more. These moments really test your patience knowing you will be doing the same repeating thing for hours in some cases.

2. Research can be very expensive

All that tedious work is a big reason why turfgrass research can get expensive. When there are hundreds of research plots and tons of data to collect, it means a lot of labor hours and help from researchers, graduate students, and undergraduate student workers. Things like mowing, prepping plots, propagating plants,

counting tillers on individual grass plants, or analyzing data all take time, and time means money. The larger the plots or the more treatments, the higher the chance of a bigger expense. There are long-term studies that require several years of funds. Some research analysis needs specialized equipment or equipment that we don't have, so it gets contracted out at a high cost. I know

Superintendents are detail-oriented and they can appreciate how meticulous research has to be. It comes at a cost, but to reduce errors, minimize bias, allow for research to be reproduced, and overall credibility and trustworthiness research has to be as accurate as possible, not to mention ethical responsibilities.

National Turfgrass
Evaluation Program
(NTEP) creeping
bentgrass trial





Post-fungicide application view after rolling and dew whipping

3. Rolling after a contact fungicide application

I must include my first research co-lead study, and the idea for this study came from something I saw on X (formerly Twitter). Superintendents were debating whether rolling after applying fungicide would shorten how long the product would last or if it ruined the application altogether.

The superintendent didn't have time to wait

for the product to dry before rolling, while others worried it might reduce the fungicide's effectiveness. It is tough to know without proper, replicated research.

So, with the help of Dr. Dominic Petrella, we set up a research plot using the contact fungicide Secure Action. We performed the research for two summers at TROE and one season at Ohio State.

Our treatments were:

- Roll, no fungicide (rolling control)
- Fungicide applied - then roll
- Fungicide applied - no rolling
- No fungicide, no roll - plots dew whipped (ultimate control)

The results were clear that rolling after applying the fungicide did not affect residual or how effective the fungicide was. The plots that received fungicide and were not rolled were

pretty much the same as the plots that received fungicide and were rolled. Unfortunately for those wondering about rolling after a tank mix of different products, future research is needed to be conclusive. Each product would likely need to be tested individually just like we did with the contact fungicide. We are hoping to get this research published soon.

4. Tall fescue

Before I came to the university, I knew there were turf-type tall fescue cultivars, but I had not used, seen, or managed them myself. On campus we have quite a bit of research plots of tall fescue and had several years of drought. This gave me a chance to see how well the newer cultivars performed, especially in areas without irrigation. Tall fescue has gotten a bad rap,

mostly because of the old 'Kentucky-31' forage cultivar. People picture the wide leaf blades, light green color, bunch type that looks out of place and faster growth compared to other lawn species. The new turf-types have been bred to have a dark green color and finer textured leaf blades, closer to Kentucky bluegrass. This makes it a great partner to mix with Kentucky bluegrass. The idea of mixing them is to get the best of the grasses.

While Kentucky bluegrass greens up quicker in spring and better winter tolerance, tall fescue has better drought tolerance and faster seed germination.

Since I have a lot of interaction with the public, I realize how often tall fescue makes for the right choice for lawns, especially for those who don't have irrigation or don't want to water their

lawns much. While fine fescue is excellent for shade, out of play, and no-mow areas, tall fescue is a great candidate for rough areas with limited irrigation. A grass seed mixture of tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass might be the best option for your golf course, especially during years with less rain or if you have limited irrigation.

5. Not all mixtures are built the same

Being exposed to the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP), I have been able to observe a lot of high quality turfgrasses that perform well even when conditions are tough and extreme. On the other hand, I have seen poor quality cultivars that just don't perform well and I would not recommend using them in mixtures. It surprises me how often I see those poor quality

cultivars in bags of grass seed. I understand that it is related to keeping costs down or seed companies can get these types more easily. Depending on what you're using the seed for, it might be worth spending a little extra to create your own custom mix. That way you can be sure you are getting the highest quality cultivars. For example, 'Boreal' strong creeping red fescue and the old 'Kentucky-31' tall fescue are two types I would look to avoid.

6. Dormant seeding

I'd heard about dormant seeding before, but I didn't really know how it worked besides you put seeds down before it snows and they would germinate in the spring.

Basically, dormant seeding is planting grass in late fall or early winter and the goal is to get the seeds in the ground when

it's too cold for them to germinate, allowing for them to remain dormant until spring and favorable conditions allow them to germinate. We have done quite a bit of dormant seeding on campus, and I have seen it both succeed and fail, but mostly it has worked out.

Researcher Andrew Hollman has been working on a dormant seeding project seeding into a 100% crabgrass filled area trying to convert it into a lawn with minimal efforts. He's using tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, and fine fescue, and the initial results have been very promising, especially with tall fescue. The study also investigates the use of pre- and post- herbicides to help these grasses with establishment.

If you're interested in reducing crabgrass, check out Andrew's blog post on our website to gain

a better handle on the project

The more experience I gain with dormant seeding, the more I believe it could be a viable method for introducing creeping bentgrass into areas heavily populated with *Poa annua* or converting from older creeping bentgrass cultivars. Of course, more research is needed to determine its true effectiveness, and I think we all know how difficult *Poa annua* is to overcome in some situations.

Regardless, I believe dormant seeding also shows good potential for establishing tall fescue in rough areas with limited irrigation and might be worth a shot this fall.

7. Covers vs no covers

If you're dealing with winterkill in spring and you plan to reseed areas of greens, tee boxes, or fairways it might be helpful to use a cover if possible, to promote faster germination and establishment. I'll sum up the results from a cover study done at both the University of Minnesota and University

of Massachusetts. The project used Evergreen "Radiant" covers, which are permeable covers designed to allow for water and gas exchange. The company's website description of the cover says it can increase soil temperatures as much as 10-12 degrees fahrenheit and can promote earlier and faster germination.

In our studies these covers raised soil

temperature by 3-6°C In Minnesota, the plots were seeded on April 16th once soil temperatures reached a minimum of 50 degrees. At both locations, the covers led to an earlier establishment (days to 10% cover) in 2-5 days, and sped up reaching 50% turfgrass cover by 12-15 days compared to the plots that weren't covered. The covers remained on plots until a minimum of 50%



Overhead view shows germination of the "cover" plots before the "no cover" plots



Covers and no covers

turfgrass had grown in, which was April 29. Once the covers were removed, the time it took to reach 90% coverage was nearly three days shorter. By the end of the study, regardless if a cover was used or not, all plots ended up with pretty much the same amount of turfgrass coverage. Everyone's situation is different, but at least there is research to show that using covers can help speed up the process of recovery.

8. Photoinhibition

Spring seeding can be a slow and tough time to establish seed because of the unpredictable weather. Superintendents often seed when the weather seems ideal, but then a week or two later a cold snap might return right after the seed has germinated. The problem isn't only slow growth, it's also stressful conditions for the newly established seedlings. On cold sunny mornings when the sun is shining brightly, the

turfgrass is simply too cold to use the sunlight for photosynthesis, and the energy in the light actually damages the plants. We usually see this first as purpling leaves, but it can lead to chlorosis and stunted growth at the extreme.

Low-temperature photoinhibition is the combination of high intensity light and cold temperatures, which can lead to less growth and more stress, slowing grow-in or recovery

from winter injury. We have been doing studies led by Dr. Petrella to use shade cloth to block this potentially stressful situation.

While the study shows shade cloth does work to stop photoinhibition, it's not as simple as using tarps like Evergreen covers. It might work

if the covers were intertwined with shade cloth. Even though superintendents will continue to seed and reestablish winterkill areas no matter the weather, it's still good to be able to tell the membership that cold temperatures and photoinhibition might delay establishment.

Study links:

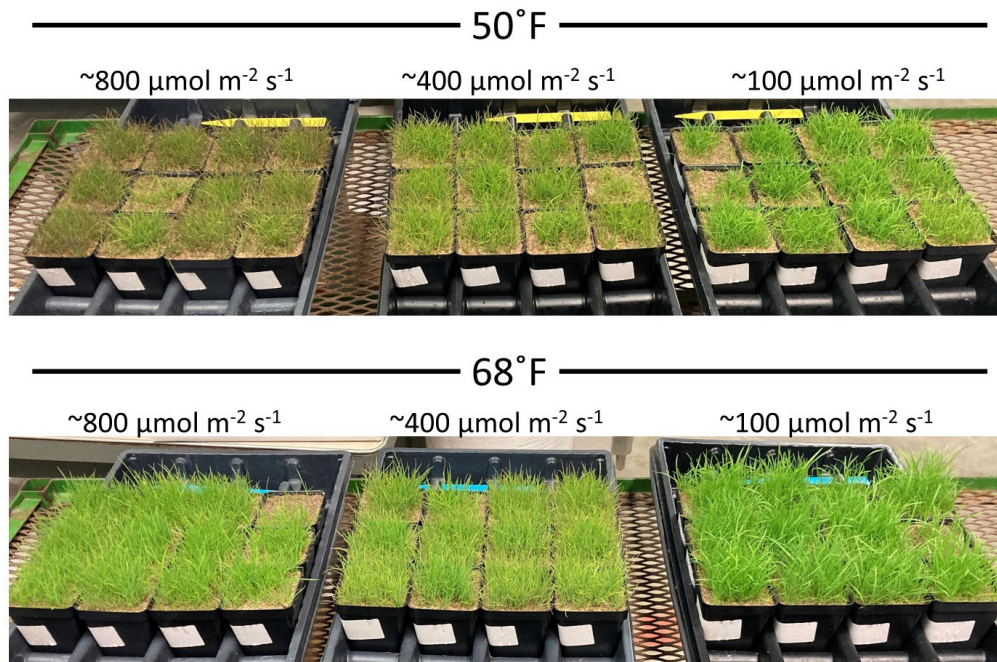
[Effects of cultivar, synthetic cover, and plant health products on creeping bentgrass establishment in early spring](#)

[False Spring, False Covers - Part 1](#)

[False Spring, False Covers - Part 2](#)

An up-close look at a purple spot on a research green





When bentgrass is grown in cold conditions (under 50°F) with intense light, it produces purplish pigments. If the light is reduced, even at 50°F, the pigments mostly disappear. At warmer temperatures like 68°F, bentgrass doesn't produce those pigments at all, no matter how bright the light is.

9. WinterTurf and winterkill

Thanks to financial support from the MGCSA, we were able to start our work with sensors to examine winter related injuries. This eventually led to the USDA-funded WinterTurf grant and expanding the research worldwide. Since it's hard to duplicate real-world scenarios in the

research setting, the best place to do this kind of research is right at a golf course. By monitoring golf courses throughout the world, we can capture data during rare winterkill events; if we only studied golf greens in Minnesota, there would be many winters when little damage occurred, which would limit what we could learn about the problem.

This global project has led us to record millions of data points, and hopefully, it will provide effective, data driven solutions for the turfgrass industry.

I know many superintendents have been a part of this research and we are very thankful for their help. One of the most interesting times during my years at the U of MN



Above: Turfgrass plots under ice cover, December 29, 2021.

Below: Turfgrass plots the following spring, May 6, 2022.



were those below-zero mornings in December and January when I was spraying water onto turf plots and making ice. It was the complete opposite of my golf course life, where we did everything we could to stop ice from forming on the greens during winter.

At TROE, we had several winters with more than ninety days of ice cover, including one where we hit one hundred and twenty days. This resulted in valuable winter injury observations, including complete winterkill on some species and significant damage in others. We know some turfgrasses die from prolonged ice cover, we also know that others show an amazing ability to survive.

10. We can't do it without help

To sum up what I've learned about turfgrass research here at the University of Minnesota, I know for a fact we couldn't do what we do without the help of so many people. A huge thanks goes out to the MGCSA, Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation, United States Department of Agriculture, United States Golf Association, all of our affiliates, donors, alumni, and everyone who supports our program in any way.

We appreciate the MGCSA Research Scramble and Rounds Fore Research because they are essential to our program and help us advance our research to

find answers or solutions. A lot of our research is guided by experiences or questions asked by people in the golf course industry, and the results that come from the research can help superintendents make better decisions. This reciprocal relationship ensures we share knowledge and that we all learn, benefit, and grow.

We are looking forward to continuing our relationships with everyone involved and building new ones as they come along.

If you have any questions about the topics discussed in this article, feel free to reach out to me at dete0040@umn.edu.

UMN TURF BLOG



Turfgrass Apprenticeship Program

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The University of Wisconsin Turfgrass Apprenticeship Program (TAP) consists of a 12-week, in-person educational bootcamp and a field-based apprenticeship at a golf course, athletic facility, or other turfgrass facility. The program provides participants with the hands-on, real-world experience needed to succeed in the turfgrass industry. Successful completion of both the bootcamp and the apprenticeship is required to earn the Turfgrass Apprenticeship Program Certificate.

Step 1: Educational Bootcamp

The bootcamp takes place over two 6-week terms during the late fall and winter. The fall term will begin the first week of November and end in mid-December. The winter term will begin the second week of January and end in late February. Each week will have class on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM until 3 PM CST with a 1-hour break for lunch.

Program cost is the same for in-state and out-of-state students. Check the website for current rates. Housing is not provided by UW-Madison, but we provide a number of affordable hotel options in the Madison area.

Significant scholarship funds will be available to support student tuition and housing costs from a variety of turfgrass associations. More information on scholarships and how to apply for them will be provided in the first week of class during the fall term.

Step 2: Field-based Apprenticeship

Students in the TAP are required to complete a field-based apprenticeship at a golf course, athletic complex, or other turf management facility of their choosing. A list of tasks to complete during the apprenticeship have been developed in cooperation with associations in the turfgrass industry and can be viewed on the program website.

How to Enroll

Please visit <https://turf.wisc.edu/academics/> and add your name to the enrollment form. Alternatively, contact Dr. Soldat or Dr. Koch via email (djsoldat@wisc.edu / plkoch@wisc.edu). The deadline for enrollment in the fall term is October 15th.



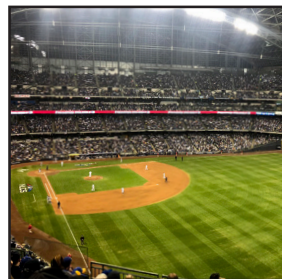
ACCESS TO TURF
RESEARCH CENTER



INTERNSHIPS ON WORLD
CLASS GOLF COURSES!



HANDS-ON LEARNING
EXPERIENCES



OPPORTUNITIES IN SPORTS
TURF & LAWN CARE



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

TURF.WISC.EDU/ACADEMICS

FROM THE HIGH GRASS



A few months ago, the UMN hosted the WinterTurf team from around the country. Other professors ventured to St. Paul for a multi-day meeting discussing their joint efforts for WinterTurf, led by the UMN turf team. They invited me to attend as an industry partner. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the first day of lectures and updates. However, I was able to attend on day 2 but was unaware of the expectations for me that day!

I was expecting another day of updates, and information, yet Dr. Brian Roark had bigger plans. He wanted the team to develop actual modeling

techniques and procedures. I was not prepared for the critical thinking portion of the morning! But after listening to everyone in the room discuss techniques and ideas, then splitting into small groups, it was amazing to see how these researchers analyze and critique their hypotheses and ideas. I was able to provide some real-world insights as a Superintendent, thankfully bringing some value to my attendance! I walked away with a much greater understanding of the research process, how ideas are assessed, and what additional value turf researchers can bring to our industry.

Over the years, MGCSA

has been a strong supporter of the turf program at the UMN and turf grass research. We continue to provide financial support for programs and research that will bring value to our profession. Those funds are typically generated through our annual Rounds Fore Research auction. The sales of those golf certificates are the core of our financial support, and those funds are raised from the general public, and not directly from MGCSA member revenue. It is important that we keep getting the golfer, the end user, to help support future turf research efforts.

As we get closer to our annual fundraising events, including The Scramble

MGCSA NEW MEMBERS - July/August 2025

Brady Petznick	Wildflower Golf Course	Student
Addison Bartlett	Stonebrooke Golf Course	Class C
Cody Dickhausen	Deacon's Lodge	Class C
Avery Boonie	Interlachen Country Club	Student
Josh Hagstrom	Island Pine Golf Club	Facility

event for research support, I just want to remind the membership that this is where our research dollars typically come from. If you are in the Scramble, or provide a donation during your dues renewal, then you are supporting turfgrass research directly at the UMN! Thank you for that continued support.

A few years ago, the BOD adopted a Reserve Fund Policy to manage our association investment account. The structure of this account has allowed MGCSA to try some new programs and provide new offerings. Programs like the Stewardship Grant Program, expanded Turf Education Scholarships, and the updated

Professional Development Program are funded by our investment account earnings. Even with the market turmoil this year, our account continued to see growth, and we remain in a strong position. As we assessed how to utilize some of those funds, the BOD offered to provide some additional, one-time, research funding to some of our partner institutions. We accepted RFP's from the turf teams at UMN-Twin Cities, UMN-Crookston, and UW- Madison. These projects were selected to provide the greatest benefits to Superintendents operations, as they provide deeper insights into more effective and efficient operations. We are excited

to learn more about the projects as the teams provide us with updates, which will be shared in future Hole Notes issues.

MGCSA has always been a strong supporter of their local turf research partners. Many other chapters do not provide our level, or even any, support to their institutions. We should be proud of the relationship we have established with the UMN, and we are excited to welcome Dominic Petrella back to the program, and to move forward into this new age with the whole team, pursuing opportunities that support both the UMN turf program, the MGCSA, and the Superintendent profession.