

That Man Who Makes the Grass Grow

No mystery what the golf course superintendent is responsible for, right? Lush fairways, well-kept tees and greens, nice, cared-for bunkers, and perhaps some pleasant little flowers cheerfully surrounding the course. C'mon, what more could there be to the job?

Well, maybe 30 years ago the superintendent's life was nice and

surface into the best possible condition, and he knows how to budget carefully for all of it. He's a manger too, handling personnel, delegating responsibility.

It's no wonder he's not exactly thrilled at being considered a grasscutter, and it's this unfortunate gulf between what he is and what he is often perceived as that frequently sets

***Most course superintendents are victims of
mistaken identity. Guess who suffers?***

simple and filled with nothing more complicated than a couple of lawnmowers, but today that image is as antique as a hand scythe. Still, it holds onto our collective imaginations enough to cause some real problems at country clubs.

Today's superintendent is no rustic. He is, purely and simply a professional. Most likely, he graduated from college with a degree in landscape architecture or agronomy. He knows about the science of turf, the complex range of chemicals that must be used to care for the golf course, how to get the

superintendent-member relations on edge. Anyone who thinks the whole place is being taken care of by a mower-man is not going to realize, nor is he going to want to learn, that there are legitimate reasons for the course not always being in top shape. So explanations that have to do with bad weather, drainage problems, or a sudden and unexpected turf disease will fall on deaf ears. Nor will an impatient member want to hear that there was a legitimate horticultural reason for the water sprinkler going off in the middle of his backswing on the 12th during the noon hour on

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