



Prospective Turfgrass Professionals...

Are you unsure if turf is for you?  
Are you thinking of a career change?

Use the following self-assessment to get an idea of how a career in the industry may align with your interests as a viable career option. This is meant to get a feeling of how motivated you may be to get started in our turf world, but can may also be used to find that it may not actually be for you.

**Rank each statement using the following grading system:**

1 - Strongly Disagree    2 - Disagree    3 - Not Sure    4 - Agree    5 - Strongly Agree

1. I enjoy working outdoors, observing and transforming sustainable natural settings. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I enjoy using science, math, and problem-solving skills to evaluate and make positive impacts on my surroundings. \_\_\_\_\_
3. I can handle manual labor. I am not afraid to get dirty and work hard. \_\_\_\_\_
4. I can effectively communicate both verbally and through written communication. \_\_\_\_\_
5. I can work both as a cooperative team member, and as a self-motivated leader. \_\_\_\_\_

6. I am open to trying new things and learning about how other people succeed in their jobs. \_\_\_\_\_
7. I am committed to systematically building my career in formal education and staying current with continuing education opportunities through classes or seminars. \_\_\_\_\_
8. I am willing to put in the time and attention needed to plan and execute a job done right the first time. \_\_\_\_\_
9. I enjoy learning, understanding, and innovating amidst complex situations and challenges. \_\_\_\_\_
10. I have at least a basic understanding regarding accounting and budgeting, with an awareness of fixed and variable costs. \_\_\_\_\_
11. I get satisfaction from a complete final product after an honest day's work. \_\_\_\_\_
12. I am willing to work in a fast-paced and competitive atmosphere. \_\_\_\_\_
13. I enjoy sports with an interest in any of the following- golf, baseball, softball, football, rugby, soccer, cricket, lacrosse, field hockey, or tennis. \_\_\_\_\_
14. I understand a career in turfgrass maintenance will include being around loud machinery, moving parts, equipment fluids, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and paints. \_\_\_\_\_
15. I have some previous experience in landscaping, lawn care, or fine turf management. \_\_\_\_\_
16. I enjoy the prospect of being able to travel through my country and into the world through my career. \_\_\_\_\_
17. I understand that there may be seasons or periods of time where I may have to sacrifice some family gatherings, parties, beach days, birthdays, reunions, or road trips for the sake of my career and long-term success. \_\_\_\_\_
18. I have an interest in how machinery and management systems (irrigation, chemical programming, accounting, etc.) work. \_\_\_\_\_

19. I understand that there is more than one way to do things, and I have an open mind when it comes to success at work as well as within my career path. \_\_\_\_\_

20. I enjoy networking and sharing information across multiple facilities, universities and consultants. I believe in the power of teamwork and group thinking. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Scoring Review:**

**90 - 100 :** Your initial answers to this brief questionnaire positively point to turfgrass management being an absolutely viable career option for you. We encourage you to learn more about our services and advising programs to get started in the right direction in developing a firm foundation for what could be a perfect fit as a career path.

**70 - 90 :** Your score points to a high likelihood that you would be a great candidate for this industry. We would encourage you to utilize our services to help get started and carry on your career in the years ahead. We provide insights and opportunities to learn the correct way to get started, and opportunities to network around the globe. Learn more within our programming to visualize where this career can take you.

**50 - 70 :** We would encourage you to take part in an internship season or two to nail down whether the turf industry would be a solid career choice for you. If you are on the fence, don't miss the opportunity to give it a try, learning more with hands-on, real-life experience to evaluate if you can see yourself in this line of work over the next 5 - 10 - 15+ years of your life. We offer a comprehensive internship plan to help get you fully involved, allowing the opportunity to dissect and evaluate if you wish to continue into turf as a career.

**50 - Below :** If you are half-hearted about getting started in the turfgrass management industry but do have enough of an interest to go through this questionnaire, we advise you to look at the various career paths offered within the turf industry described later in this introductory course. The Green Ocean of Opportunity is at your doorstep, allowing you to investigate ways that you can be involved in turf, with career paths that can avoid aspects of some of the lower scoring answers in the questions above. If your overall score was driven down by not wanting to be outside and getting dirty around

heavy machinery, there may be career options available to work on turfgrass research or within the sales department side of turf. If you have concerns regarding working in sports, there may be career paths in the lawn and landscape design arena, or within parks and open-space management. Don't lose interest entirely just yet, as you did take the time to go through this exercise. There may be paths available to you that you just may not yet realize!