

## ↑ CAREER LAUNCHER

### Landscaping and Groundskeeping Worker



“If you’re a golfer, you appreciate my work keeping those huge fairways in top condition. I do many of the same things other groundskeepers do, except that my work is on the golf course.”



- **Education needed:** High school diploma
- **Salary range:** \$16,760 – \$37,070 annually
- **Related jobs:** Greenhouse manager, landscaper, nursery worker, pest control technician

## Landscaping and Groundskeeping Worker

### ➤ What I do every day

Unlike people's lawns, golf courses need extra care and attention to look flawless. This means I do more than just mow, water, and fertilize the grass. I make sure the underlying soil drains properly and contains the right nutrients to support the turf used on the course. To keep the game interesting and eliminate uneven wear of the turf, I periodically relocate the holes on the putting greens. Sometimes I harvest sod and replant it elsewhere to keep the course looking perfect. Repairing and painting canopies, benches, golf ball washers, and tee markers is also part of my job.

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### ➤ The best part of my job

Golf is a popular sport, and I work outdoors all day in the spring, summer, and fall to keep the course attractive and well maintained. Being outside agrees with me.

### ➤ The worst part of my job

The winter months aren't very busy on the golf course, especially in cold climates. That's when I remove snow, keep driveways and parking lots clear, and repair equipment to get ready for the spring. Time drags in the winter because I have less to do.

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### ➤ What I need to know and be able to do

Landscaping and groundskeeping workers must know how to safely operate and maintain landscaping equipment such as mowers, trimmers, leaf blowers, and small tractors. They should be able to follow directions and know the proper way to maintain turfgrass. Groundskeepers should be responsible, self-motivated individuals who can work with minimal supervision.

### ➤ How I prepared to be a landscaping and groundskeeping worker

When I was in middle school and high school, I operated my own lawn care business, mowing grass for neighbors and family friends. After graduating

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from high school, I started working for a local golf course. My employer gave me on-the-job training to learn the procedures. Before I could apply pesticides, I had to pass a state test on the safe use and disposal of these chemicals.

### ➤ How I could have prepared better

I should have taken some courses in agronomy and horticulture to learn more about caring for the soil and grass. The turf grass specialist who supervises me tells me which fertilizers to use and how often to apply them, but without his instructions, I wouldn't know what to do.

# NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, AND AGRICULTURE

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## Landscaping and Groundskeeping Worker

Math  
Skill Check

### ► Skill Check 1

USE  
AGAIN

As a landscaping and groundskeeping worker, you know that 120 pounds of fertilizer treats an average of one acre of turf grass. How many pounds of fertilizer will you need to treat a 17-acre golf course?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Landscaping and Groundskeeping Worker

Math  
Skill Check

### ► Skill Check 2

Using the information from Math Skill Check 1, how many acres of grass can you treat if you have 75, 30-pound bags of fertilizer?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

# NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, AND AGRICULTURE

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## Landscaping and Groundskeeping Worker

Science  
Skill Check

### ► Skill Check 1

As a landscaping and groundskeeping worker, you spread commercial fertilizers that usually contain a combination of nitrogen, phosphate, and potash, as well as other chemicals in smaller amounts. Each fertilizer is graded according to the chemicals it contains. A fertilizer that is labeled 15-5-10 contains 15% nitrogen, 5% phosphate, and 10% potash. These numbers always refer to these three main ingredients. A higher number means more of the chemical and a lower number means less.

If you need a fertilizer that contains a higher amount of phosphate than potash, which of the following fertilizers would you choose? Write the correct letter.

- a. 25-5-10
- b. 15-10-5
- c. 28-3-3
- d. 5-5-10

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Landscaping and Groundskeeping Worker

Science  
Skill Check

### ► Skill Check 2

As a groundskeeper in southern California, you maintain a turf of zoysia grass because you are in a warm climate and zoysia grass is a warm weather turf grass. Lawns that cover golf courses are made of specific grasses that are selected because of the temperature and rainfall in the geographic area.

Study the table below and list one turf grass that would grow well in each of the states named.

Cool-Weather Turf Grasses	Warm-Weather Turf Grasses
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Bent grass	Bahia grass
Crested wheatgrass	Bermuda grass
Kentucky bluegrass	Buffalo grass
Perennial ryegrass	St. Augustine grass
Tall fescue	Zoysia grass

- Florida \_\_\_\_\_
- Maine \_\_\_\_\_
- Southern Arizona \_\_\_\_\_
- North Dakota \_\_\_\_\_
- Alabama \_\_\_\_\_