

Green Section Record

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Finding And Retaining Assistant Superintendents

By S. Addison Barden

The ebb and flow of the economy sometimes leads to labor shortages in the golf industry. In recent years, it has been especially difficult to attract, hire and retain assistant superintendents. This issue comes at a time when superintendents depend on their assistants more than ever to help share the workload and supervise employees.

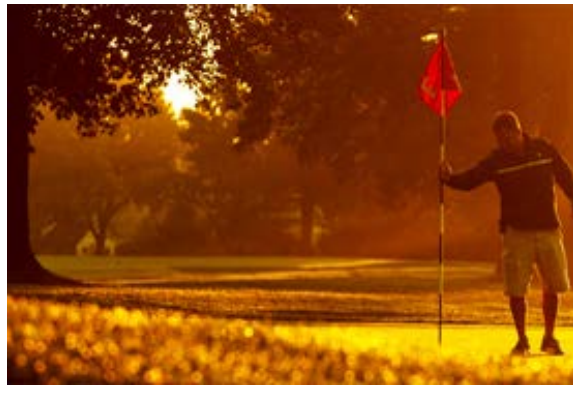
Traditionally, the position of assistant superintendent was an entry-level management job that was a steppingstone to eventually becoming a superintendent. However, changes in the golf industry have resulted in fewer available superintendent positions. These and other factors may be contributing to a decline in turfgrass management programs, causing some assistants to leave the golf course maintenance industry.

Facing a shortage of qualified assistants, superintendents and other golf facility decision-makers are more focused than ever on hiring and training assistant superintendents. This article explores how to identify the best assistant superintendent for your facility and includes suggestions for recruiting, training, retaining and mentoring assistant superintendents.

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Multimedia Content

Photo Gallery



Ten Tasks Of Golf Course Maintenance

Preparing a golf course for play takes a lot of time and effort. Well in advance of early morning tee times, staff at nearly every golf course are working hard to groom playing surfaces, change hole locations, move tee markers and so much more. This USGA photo gallery sheds light on many of the practices that take place before golfers set foot on the first tee.

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Infographic



The Impact Of Golf Course Labor

Golf courses are the most valuable asset of any golf facility and, as such, they require a significant amount of effort to maintain. It should then come as no surprise that, like any other business, labor plays a key role in the success of a golf facility. Explore this USGA infographic to learn more about the direct impact labor has on golf course playing conditions.

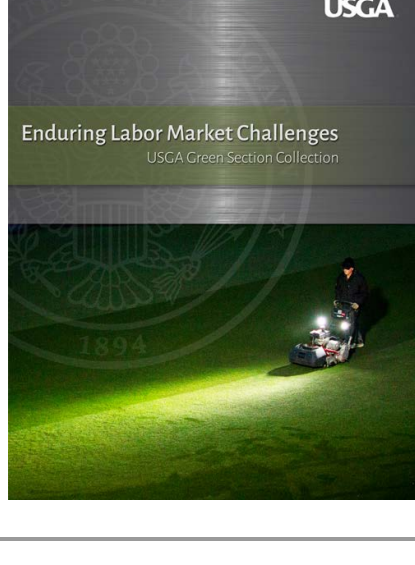
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Green Section Collection: Enduring Labor Market Challenges



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Research You Should Know



When To Cover Bermudagrass Greens For The Winter

Ultradwarf bermudagrass can provide excellent putting green conditions during summer, but it must be protected from cold temperatures during winter. Researchers at the University of Arkansas examined current covering recommendations and what they found could reduce the time spent under covers, saving time and money.

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Case Study



Maximizing Productivity With Robotic Mowers

Putting greens and bunkers are the most labor-intensive playing surfaces for any golf course to maintain. To enhance productivity, some facilities have explored the potential of robotic equipment. Observations from The Santaluz Club in San Diego, Calif., show the potential of technology to provide benefits beyond just reducing labor.

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Regional Updates



West Region

Having fun is critical to the survival of the game. While there are many ways to make golf fun, here are a few creative ideas that an eastern Oregon golf course uses to make golf more memorable and fun.

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Northeast Region

A golf course superintendent's checklist of things to do never ends. As the days get shorter, now is the time to make sure putting green turf is ready for winter. Here is a checklist of items to consider before snow begins to fall.

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Central Region

Did unfavorable weather delay your renovation project this fall? If so, turf establishment may be delayed. Consider this inexpensive strategy to help extend the growing season and protect immature turf from winter stress.

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Southeast Region

Explore recent golf course-maintenance trends observed in the Southeast, including native areas, utilizing mowers designed to improve efficiency and new spray boom improvements for turf-colorant programs.

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