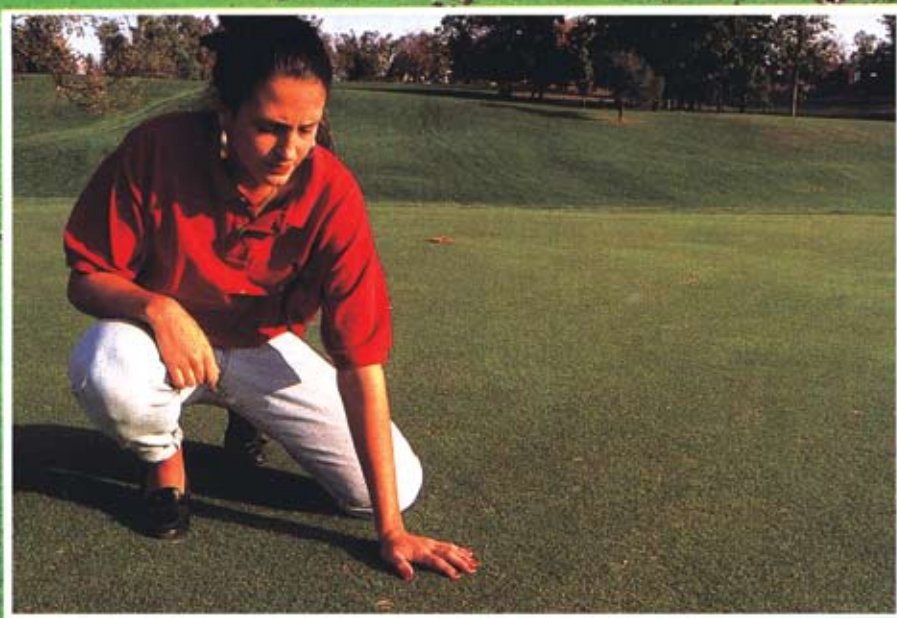


TURF SCIENTIST



Your championship course.

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Turf scientists must be skilled in science, business, and personnel management. In their first jobs, they often work outside caring for lawns, golf courses, park sites, athletic fields, or grounds around corporation headquarters. They use their scientific knowledge to maintain turf, as well as to operate computer-controlled irrigation equipment and highly technical machines. As turf scientists advance in their careers, they become coordinators, managers, or assistant or branch managers in corporations. In these positions, they still must rely on their scientific expertise to make good purchasing decisions and to explain tasks to their employees, but much of their time is spent creating and managing budgets, coordinating projects, and managing an organization with numerous employees.



Photos: Kathryn Elisser-Luba, David Umberger

Turf scientists can be golf course superintendents, turf managers for sports stadiums, park managers, grounds managers for corporate headquarters, sod producers, lawn care professionals, sales representatives for companies that produce turf care products, researchers, or teachers in colleges and universities.

To be a turf scientist, you need a college education. Take courses such as turf management, soil fertility, weed science, plant pathology, entomology, and horticulture. You should also take courses in chemistry, algebra and calculus, accounting, management, business and technical writing, and communications to improve your business and people skills.

In high school, take as much [biology](#), [chemistry](#), [English](#), [mathematics](#), and [physics](#) as possible. Other extremely helpful courses include [public speaking](#), [Spanish](#), and [computer science](#).