Missouri Turfgrass Industry

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Turfgrass Industry

- Turfgrass is ranked the 4th major crop in Missouri in terms of maintained and harvested acreage.
- Expenditures of $1.3 billion to establish, produce, and maintain turfgrass in Missouri.
- Home lawns cover 53% of the acreage and account for 66% of the expenditures.
- Pesticide Applicator Training from 1995 to 1999 trained approximately 1,900 to 2,200 annually with 30 to 33% of those being in Ornamental & Turf (Category 3).

Turfgrass Management Careers

- Golf Course Management
  - 315 courses in Missouri in 1995
  - Superintendent
  - Asst. Superintendent

- Athletic Field Management
  - 1,254 public facilities for baseball/softball in Missouri
  - 577 public facilities for football/soccer in Missouri
  - Head Groundskeeper
  - Asst. Groundskeeper

- Construction of Golf Courses and Athletic Fields
  - Soccer Fields/Sport Complexes
  - Missouri ranked 7th in golf course construction in 1995
- Sod Production
  o 4,000 acres producing 1.5 to 2.0 million square yards annually

- Lawn Care & Landscaping

- Grounds Maintenance

- Sales & Marketing
  o Support industry of pesticides, fertilizers, seed, equipment, etc.

- Education & Research
  o Requires post-graduate study

- Internships
  o Recommended during junior &/or senior year
    o Cleveland Browns
    o Baltimore Ravens
    o Kansas City Royals
    o Oklahoma City Redhawks (AAA Club for the Texas Rangers)

- What can you do now in high school?
  o Summer jobs at golf courses, athletic field complexes, sod farms, etc.
  o Vo-Ag or Vo-Tech schools taking horticultural and agricultural classes
  o Math and Sciences
  o Communication Skills

- Women in Turfgrass Management
  o Steady growth
    o Heather Nabozny, Head Groundskeeper for the Detroit Tigers
  o 25 women at the 2000 STMA Conference with head groundskeeper and management titles