



| NSW Department of Education

Greenkeeper

Few working environments can beat the view from the top of a fairway. With an office that spans hundreds of acres, greenkeepers plant and maintain the grass, fine turf and synthetic surfaces used in parks, gardens and sporting fields, ensuring it's safe and ready for use.

What greenkeepers do

Greenkeepers are responsible for the maintenance, care and appearance of sports grounds including football, cricket and rugby pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts, racecourses, and golf courses. They explore unique ways of manipulating vast landscapes through unpredictable weather patterns to create green oases.

Greenkeeping combines biological science, earth moving, surveying, and GPS technology to manage soil and grass and ensure turf is in top condition. Although they're part of a larger team, greenkeepers often work outdoors alone.

They cut and water greens, mow fairways, move holes and flags to reduce wear, rake bunkers, and maintain rough areas including planting trees, shrubs and flowerbeds. They also 'core' greens making holes in the soil to aerate it and achieve the right balance of solids, air and water.

Greenkeepers are increasingly required to measure the environmental impact of their work in terms of water conservation and the use of chemicals.

Will I get a job?

Strong growth is predicted for this occupation in the next four years, with 1,800 new jobs in Australia, bringing the total to 20,000.

What will I earn?

Up to \$950 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

You'll like this job if...

You like working alone. You enjoy focusing on one task at a time. You're physically fit. You like working outdoors. You focus on the facts and details. You come up with practical solutions to problems. You're sensitive and cooperative. You can read plans and follow instructions.

A day in the life...

Work as a greenkeeper may involve these tasks:

- prepare seedbeds for new turf
- establish and maintain turf by watering, over-sowing or over-seeding, and repair green damage
- mow, roll and level turf
- peg and mark out lines and logos
- install nets, posts and stumps, and place other sports equipment on playing areas
- operate and maintain hand and power driven equipment such as mowers, aerators, cultivators, corers, and line marking equipment
- construct cricket wickets, tennis courts and bowling, croquet and golf greens
- replant, repair, aerate, fertilise, and top-dress lawns
- install and maintain synthetic surfaces
- maintain buildings, fences and surrounding gardens.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate III in Sports Turf Management (AHC31316)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 91.6%*

Certificate IV in Sports Turf Management (AHC40816)

- Up to 2 years full-time

- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 92.7%*

Diploma of Sports Turf Management (AHC51016)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Graduates employed or in further study: 93.2%*

Roles to look for

- Greenkeeper
- Turf keeper

Main employing industries

- Education and training
- Accommodation and food services
- Arts and recreation services

Other jobs you may like...

- Nurseryperson
- Garden and nursery labourer
- Gardener



To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides.

Information sources

Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Career trend: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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