



# STEM Careers

## Turf Scientist

**Job Description:** Maintains large areas of grass year-round, in spaces such as playing fields, parks, golf courses, and other public areas.

### What does a Turf Scientist do?

- Maintain irrigation systems to support large areas of grass
- Identify seed and grass species/classifications
- Implement environmentally safe methods to control or eliminate weeds, diseases, and insects, including chemical applications such as pesticides and herbicides
- Study and research soil content to either enhance or maintain soil health
- Seeds, fertilizes, mows, and weeds on a consistent schedule, even during unfavorable weather
- Educate the public about the relationship between environmental issues and turf fields
- Oversee the maintenance, servicing, and replacement of turfgrass and equipment

### Your Interests:

- Do you like working outdoors?
- Are you interested in caring for landscapes and plants?
- Are you good at math?

### Outlook:

Average Salary - \$32.09 hourly, \$66,750 annually  
Projected Job Openings - 2,300 in the next 10 years

### Education/Program of Study:

- Most entry level positions require a bachelors degree
- Degree paths include ecology, botany, horticulture, environmental science, turfgrass science, chemistry, and other related fields

Sources:

<https://www.environmentalscience.org/career/turf-scientist>

[https://www.cns.umass.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/now\\_what\\_turfgrass\\_science\\_and\\_management\\_aug\\_2021.pdf](https://www.cns.umass.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/now_what_turfgrass_science_and_management_aug_2021.pdf)

<https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/19-1013.00>

<https://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo/occupations-in-alberta/occupation-profiles/turfgrass-management-specialist/>