



Tim Adas

Assistant Superintendent
Lake Ripley Golf Course
B.S. – Soil Science, 2005; UW-Madison

“Golf course maintenance is challenging and requires knowledge in many fields. UW-Madison helped me gain a strong background in the plant and soil sciences to deal with agronomic issues, coupled with an internship to gain practical experience and skills.”

- Tim Adas

Tim Adas was undecided about his major when he started college at UW-Stevens Point, but a summer job in his hometown of Cambridge, WI, helped steer him toward his career path. He had always liked to golf, and the local course where he worked offered free golfing as a perk. At some point during that summer, he realized the potential of a career working for a golf course and transferred to UW-Madison before his junior year to complete his soil science coursework.

Now, thanks to his degree in soil science from UW-Madison, Tim is the assistant superintendent for the Lake Ripley Golf Course – the same course he worked for to finance his way through college. He likes his job even more than he expected.

“Now I actually enjoy some of the management aspects more than playing golf,” says Tim.

During the golf season, Tim works between 11 and 16 hours each weekday and between three and four hours on Saturdays and Sundays. Nearly all of the work is done outdoors. He applies fertilizer and pesticides, seeds and lays sod on the course, runs the irrigation system, trains seasonal employees to use the mowing equipment, and guides the work crew when the superintendent is gone.

The winter work is less demanding, so Tim works between 35 and 38 hours each week and spends most of his time indoors. He sharpens the blades on the mowing equipment, checks and tunes engines, and repaints the equipment so everything is in top condition for the start of the golf season.

Tim lists four things as keys to success in his job: reliability, observation, managerial skills and technical skills. Reliability is necessary because he works every single day during the busy season, including weekends and holidays. He must be observant in order to catch problems that others might not notice and before they get out of hand. The managerial skills are necessary to interact with golfers and other staff members. He shares that it’s good to build relationships with the golfers because some of them are there on a regular basis. Finally, Tim says he uses technical skills that he learned through his turf management classes on a daily basis.

Tim is a member of the Golf Course Superintendent’s Association of America, a group that he recommends to anyone who is or wants to be a superintendent at a golf course. The group hosts a Golf Industry Show each year, which is a great place to network with people in the industry and to inquire about job and internship opportunities.