

Job of The Week

Grounds Keeper

Key Skills

- the ability to work well with others
- ambition and a desire to succeed
- sensitivity and understanding
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- physical skills like movement, coordination and dexterity
- the ability to work well with your hands
- customer service skills
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

Salary

£13,500 - £30,500

Working hours

39 – 41

per week

Evenings / weekends/ flexib

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Grounds Keeper

Apprenticeship

You could do the Sports Turf Operative Level 2 Intermediate Apprenticeship to become a Groundsperson.

You could specialise in working on golf courses through an intermediate or advanced golf greenkeeping apprenticeship.

With experience, you could move on to do the Sports Turf Technician Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need some GCSEs, usually including English and Maths, for an intermediate apprenticeship and 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 or equivalent, including English and Maths, for an advanced apprenticeship.

Other Routes

You could do a qualification with the Grounds Management Association. They offer courses at different levels in turf surface maintenance and management.

University

You could do a foundation degree, higher national diploma or degree in:

- sports surface management
- sportsturf management
- horticulture

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 1 or 2 A Levels, or equivalent, for a foundation degree or higher national diploma and 2 to 3 A Levels, or equivalent, for a degree.

College

You might find it helpful to do a college course before looking for work. Course subjects include:

- Level 2 Certificate in Sports and Amenity Turf Maintenance
- Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticulture Skills
- Level 3 Diploma in Horticulture

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3, for a level 2 course and 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, for a level 3 course.

Career path and progression

Look at progression in this role and similar opportunities. With experience, you could progress to supervisor, team leader or head of section.

Day to Day tasks:

- prepare land for grass turf
- work as part of a team
- meet time deadlines
- work under pressure before games
- react to weather conditions and make sure the grounds meet any restrictions
- roll and mow grass and remove water
- control weeds, diseases and pests
- mark out precise lines on pitches, cut holes and move markers
- install, maintain and operate equipment like strimmer's and mower's

Working conditions

You could work at a school, in a park or on a sports field.
Your working environment may be outdoors in all weathers.

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.



Groundsmen and greenkeepers

Weekly Pay £440	Annual Pay £22,880
Hours/Week 60h	Hourly Pay £7

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 2.5%	Replacement 97.4%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 2.5% over the period to 2027, creating 700 jobs.
In the same period, 97.4% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 25,200 job openings.

You might find this job in
Agriculture, etc
Sport & recreation
Libraries, etc
Civil engineering

[More info](#)

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Gardeners and landscape gardeners

Weekly Pay £440	Annual Pay £22,880
Hours/Week 79h	Hourly Pay £6

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 3.2%	Replacement 98.1%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 3.2% over the period to 2027, creating 4,700 jobs.
In the same period, 98.1% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 143,000 job openings.

You might find this job in
Agriculture, etc
Sport & recreation
Computer programming, etc
Other personal service
Specialised construction

[More info](#)

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Horticultural trades

Weekly Pay £470	Annual Pay £24,440
Hours/Week 75h	Hourly Pay £6

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 2.5%	Replacement 97.4%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 2.5% over the period to 2027, creating 400 jobs.
In the same period, 97.4% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 15,100 job openings.

You might find this job in
Agriculture, etc
Retail trade

[More info](#)

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Labour Market Information

Groundsmen and greenkeepers

Groundsmen and greenkeepers cut and lay turf and maintain areas for golf courses and other sports grounds.

Common tasks in this job:

- levels ground and installs drainage system as required;
- cuts and lays turf using hand and machine tools and repairs damaged turf;
- moves soil to alter surface contour of land using mechanical equipment and constructs appropriate landscaping features and maintains such features;
- monitors and maintains the quality and condition of turf;

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Gardeners and landscape gardeners

Gardeners and landscape gardeners cultivate flowers, trees, shrubs and other plants in public and private gardens, construct features to improve the appearance of existing terrain, and cut and lay turf.

Common tasks in this job:

- levels ground and installs drainage system as required;
- prepares soil and plants and transplants, prunes, weeds and otherwise tends plant life;
- protects plants from pests and diseases;
- cuts and lays turf using hand and machine tools and repairs damaged turf;

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Horticultural trades

Horticultural trades workers intensively cultivate vegetables, plants, fruit, shrubs, trees and flowers in greenhouses, market gardens, nurseries and orchards.

Common tasks in this job:

- prepares soil in field, bed or pot by hand or machine;
- mixes soil, composts, fertilisers and/or organic matter and spreads fertiliser and manure;
- sows seeds and bulbs and transplants seedlings;
- propagates plants by taking cuttings and by grafting and budding, applies weed-killer, fungicide and insecticide to control pests and diseases;

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

Useful Websites

[Membership \(thegma.org.uk\)](http://thegma.org.uk)

[Jobs - The Championships, Wimbledon - Official Site by IBM](#)

[Groundsmen and Greenkeepers | Career profile | UCAS](#)

[Explore | UCAS](#)

[Groundsperson | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

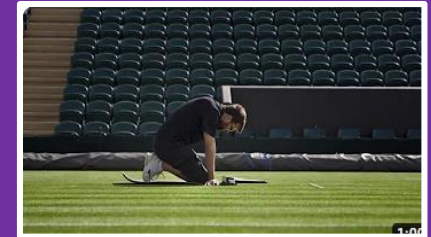
[Career advice | Grounds Management Association \(thegma.org.uk\)](#)

Groundstaff at Wimbledon



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IE3-F5IKZvU>

PGA Groundskeeper for a day



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdT9g_QtFnk&p=ygUWdGhllGdyYXNzIGF0IHdpbWJlbGRvbG%3D%3D

The Groundskeeper



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzLkdzq3VF4&pp=ygUcYSBkYXkgYXNzIGF0IHdpbWJlbGRvbG%3D%3D>

Head Groundskeeper



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7BBhdZDXT8&pp=ygUcYSBkYXkgYXNzIGF0IHdpbWJlbGRvbG%3D%3D>

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