








Sports Field Management Association Turfgrass Science Certification



The SFMA Turfgrass Science Certification verifies individuals have obtained foundational knowledge and skills in the areas of turfgrass science and management, as well as the ability to pursue a career in the turfgrass industry.

CERTIFICATION EXAM

The certification exam, hosted on the iCEV platform, consists of 100 questions and assesses knowledge and skills from the following weighted industry standards:

- 
5% Benefits of Turfgrass
- 
20% Turfgrass Anatomy, Identification & Adaptations
- 
25% Turfgrass Environment
- 
30% Turfgrass Cultural Practices
- 
20% Playing Surface Preparation

MEETING THE INDUSTRY NEED

- ✦ Assesses Competencies Based on Weighted Industry-Valued & Industry-Accepted Standards
- ✦ Validates Knowledge & Skills
- ✦ Allows Employers to Identify & Connect with Skilled Candidates
- ✦ Jump-Starts Individuals' Careers

INDUSTRY STANDARDS BREAKDOWN

Benefits of Turfgrass

- Environmental Benefits
- Community Benefits
- Economic Benefits

Turfgrass Anatomy, Identification & Adaptations

- Turfgrass Anatomy
- Turfgrass Identification
- Climatic Adaptations
- Criteria for Selecting Turfgrass Species

Turfgrass Environment

- Plant Growth Requirements
- Soil Types
- Soil Properties
- Choosing a Proper Growing Medium
- Drainage
- Compaction

Turfgrass Cultural Practices

- Mowing
- Nutrient Management
- Irrigation
- Aeration
- Topdressing
- Seeding/Sodding/Sprigging
- Integrated Pest Management
- Weeds, Insects & Diseases
- Equipment/Tools
- Establishment

Playing Surface Preparation

- Field Dimensions
- Surface Playability
- Sports Specific Preparation
- Field Marking & Logo Painting
- Quality, Evaluation & Safety of Surfaces & Facilities
- Seasonal/Annual Maintenance

EXAMPLE ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following warm-season grass can be identified by its rounded blunt shaped leaf tip?

- A** Bermudagrass
- B** Zoysiagrass
- C** St. Augustinegrass
- D** Bahiagrass

2. Select the correct answer from the choices provided in the underlined section.

If a turfgrass manager is attempting to enhance green color without additional foliar growth, they should apply nitrogen / iron fertilizer.

3. It is important to determine the appropriate _____, which represents the percentage of reference evapotranspiration, or ET, that should be replaced to support the growth and productivity of the turfgrass system.

- A** Rooting depth
- B** Infill material
- C** Crop coefficient
- D** Field width



TESTING PLATFORM

SFMA utilizes iCEV as the testing platform for this certification.

iCEV fulfills the following responsibilities:

1. Provides secure testing technology for certification exams
2. Regulates testing environments
3. Works with secondary and post-secondary academic institutions, workforce development associations and the public at large to offer certification options for career advancement
4. Provides certification verification to employers for potential job applicants
5. Offers optional certification exam preparation materials

HOW TO GET STARTED

See it in Action: Schedule a quick, one-on-one online demonstration at your convenience.



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About the Sports Field Management Association

The Sports Field Management Association is a non-profit, professional association for men and women who manage outdoor sports fields worldwide. Since 1981, SFMA has been providing education and practical knowledge in the art and science of sports field management. SFMA's mission is to advance professionalism in sports field management and safety through education, awareness programs and industry development.

"This certification will give those interested in the turfgrass industry an excellent resource to prove they possess the base education necessary to be successful."

Dr. Adam Thoms, Ph.D.

President-Elect
Sports Field Management Association