

INTERVIEW BY DILLON STEWART



Gina Zirkle

**SCIENTIST, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO CO.
MARYSVILLE, OHIO**



Zirkle's 3-year-old daughter, Teagen, holding her brother, Layne, who was born at the end of July.

"Being a member of Future Farmers of America and working at the local golf course made me want to go to college for agriculture."



"My husband, Ashley, actually works at Scotts too. We met in college because we had some classes together."

"I worked for the turfgrass pathology lab, looking at diseases of turfgrasses, researching new products and their active ingredients and seeing what golf courses could use when they got diseases on their grasses."



**2015
President
Ohio Lawn Care Association**

On being the first female president of OLCA: "It can be challenging to be a female in the industry. I think it's important to be supportive of the other women in the industry and know that you can do the same thing as men are doing."

"Science is important but doesn't always influence people, especially in the political world. I had to learn to stop being so technical and get the main points across."

"The best part of my job is working across the U.S. on the different nationwide (environmental) priorities, which change depending on where you are. I'm always tackling something new."

EDUCATION

Canal Winchester High School
Canal Winchester, Ohio
Class of 2000

The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio
Class of 2004, B.S., Agriculture
2008-2010, M.S., Environment and
Natural Resources

WORK EXPERIENCE

1996-2000
Maintenance Department
Canal Winchester Golf Course
Canal Winchester, Ohio

2006-2008
Research Specialist, R&D
The Scotts Miracle-Gro Co.
Marysville, Ohio

2008-2010
Senior Research Specialist, R&D

2010-2012
Scientist,
Environmental Stewardship

2012-2013
Marketing,
Science & Technology Scientist

2013-Present
Scientist,
Environmental Affairs

WORDS OF WISDOM On a career in science: "It helps to boil it down to one thing you're interested in. I loved working at the golf course, but I knew that wasn't what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I was passionate about research." • "When it comes to regulations, legislation and some of the tougher issues going on, I think it's important that everyone sticks together. We're all part of this green industry, even though we all represent different segments, so everybody should support each other rather than point fingers at anybody."