

UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION GREEN SECTION EASTERN REGION

NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT
PLANT INDUSTRY STATION
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EASTERN TURFLETTER

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It is with great regret that we announce the death of Tate Taylor, valued member of the Green Section Staff, who died on January 24, 1961. This issue of our Turfletter is dedicated to the memory of Tate and all his fine work accomplished for turf for golf.

GOLF COURSE LANDSCAPE

It takes a person with unusual ability to examine and expanse of acreage and carve in the mind's eye an image of a golf course. Sometimes the site is one that is heavily wooded...sometimes it is devoid of trees...but in any case the primary goal of golf land utilization is BEAUTY...beauty of turf, land, landscape, and the golf course...and so it is so important to preserve natural vegetation where possible and to blend this vegetation with the sought after esthetic quality of the golf course and the property over which it is laid out. If the site is heavily wooded to begin with, there is the dividend of immediate and priceless beauty...large trees, that only time can produce, available and placed for all to admire. If the site is sparsely settled then we may have to "borrow" on time by sacrificing to some degree on beauty of larger vegetation until time can compensate this loss. In either case, however, certain principles of landscape hold true if the course is to take esthetic shape whether new or old, wooded or barren, improved or in need of improvement.

A Plan Is Essential

It is important then to have a Master Plan, direction charted on paper, as one would require in any major undertaking... it is important to know where you are going, and what is going to be planted or removed when you get there. Once determined, it is a

relatively simple matter to cope with the landscape future, and a continuity of program is effected.

Employ the VISTA Principle of Architecture

Vistas can be used to great advantage to focus attention on some special feature of beauty...it could be a green or a tee or a beautiful group of colorful trees way off in the distance...or the clubhouse...always an imposing figure and something which members are proud of...not only do they wish to show it off to guests, but it is important that they themselves see it to best advantage...and this is done very effectively through the use of vistas. If the drive from entrance to clubhouse is a long one, you have unusual opportunity to employ the vista principle of landscape design by carving through at two or three points of vantage along the way.

Club Grounds Must Be Handsome

As you approach the clubhouse after a pleasant drive, it is important to keep the picture of beauty alive...the clubhouse grounds must be beautifully planted and well cared for to show to best advantage. Do not allow the picture to be shattered abruptly by exposure to unsightly service areas, an untidy caddie pen, or insect ridden trash cans. Such undesirable views can be effectively screened with inexpensive flowering shrubs of minimum maintenance requirements.

Around the clubhouse, the foundation planting is given first consideration...it must be neat and colorful, and must serve the purpose of tying the house into the ground landscape. If possible to do so, another extremely effective purpose of the foundation planting is to use it as a background for the 9th or 18th green. Another important consideration is the "framing" of the clubhouse with large trees...and the lack of good framing is often compared with the importance of a good frame for any art masterpiece...without it the best artwork shows to poor advantage.

Funnel Attention to the Entrance

Is another good rule of landscape effect...this may be done by placing plants of such sizes at maturity that will allow the smaller ones at the door entrance and the taller ones out at the clubhouse corners...if done properly and extended several (10 to 20) feet from the corners, then the illusion effected is a much LARGER clubhouse.

The Golf Course Beautiful

From the clubhouse to the first tee a first and lasting impression of what lies ahead is consciously or otherwise obtained at the

first tee...and here some good judgment must be used to make the tee serve the purpose of excessive utility (practice swings and milling around and traffic, etc.) and beauty. Some showy annual flowers arranged along the borders and paths or at some vantage point usually help give a good first impression. This area too is prone to be littered with paper...and considerable "policing up" is required if members are careless. However it is accomplished, a neat and trim first tee is an important psychological factor to golfers.

Looking down toward the green, the impact of tall trees lining each side of the fairway is awesome, majestic, and challenging. Though nature does an incomparable job of establishment, most agree that tree or shrub plantings in odd-numbered groups make for a better pattern than otherwise...planting in such a way so as to avoid straight lines also is desirable...pin oaks in an irregular triangle, spaced 20 or so feet apart make a nice pattern...and this applies to most other trees so long as the requirement for easy maintenance is fulfilled...at the Rutgers Conference the point was made that tree plantings on hilly fairway areas should appear into view "like marching soldiers" as one progresses along one fairway to higher elevations.

As we approach the green, there are few more striking landscapes than a good planting of evergreens to the rear of a putting green. However there are several factors that must strongly be considered...tree root problems, air drainage, shade, disease, insects, and general maintenance problems to name a few. This means that trees should be 70 to 100 feet behind the green if possible--if closer to the green, problems of putting green health and sanitation become more and more acute.

Pertinent Random Notes

Many trees can be planted in Spring--check with your County Agent and Agricultural College set up in your area for approved lists. Do the job right...plant a 50¢ tree in a \$5.00 hole...this axiom still applies...properly planted trees require less maintenance...if cost is a factor, look to the use or selection of smaller plants. If flower beds are not attended frequently, they become forlorn looking...if you want color mainly, select dwarf annuals such as petunia and ageratum rather than zinnias and marigolds...for then if neglected, diseased or insect ridden foliage will not be as conspicuous. If a cut flower nursery is desired, they best be grown in an inconspicuous place unless ample labor is available...with attractive plants such as dogwoods, flowering crabapples, etc...try to place them so that they can be seen from several viewpoints from within or from the outside of the clubhouse.

Pleasant surroundings add to pleasurable golf...also don't lose sight of the fact that attractive plants sometimes can be used to tighten up a golf course in place of a sandtrap, and more economically so.

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