



TURF TIMES

INDIAN RIVER GOLF CLUB

OCTOBER 5th, 1988

Volume 17 No. 8

4th ANNUAL "TUCK TATE" CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

The October meeting of the N.M.T.M.A. will be held Wednesday, October 5th, and will be the 4th Annual Tuck Tate Championship Golf Tournament, open to all members. Guests are also invited to attend however they will not participate in the actual championship itself. Guests will however be able to participate in other prizes. The tournament is an individual, stroke play, with handicap event, so bring your handicap with you. It will be a "shot gun" start at 11:00 A.M. "Pat" Whitman is the host superintendent and Gene Maybank is the General Manager of Indian River. Telephone numbers there are 616/238-7011 for the club and 616/238-8261 is Pat's phone number. Cost of the package will be \$24.00 for the day. The breakdown is, \$10.00 for cart, \$2.00 for golf prizes and \$12.00 for dinner. Lunch is available at the club house should anyone desire it and dinner will be served between 4:30 - 5:00 P.M.

Indian River is 30 miles north of Gaylord on I-75. When there take Straits highway, through town, cross I.R. bridge at the north end, then first left (Prospect changing to Chippewa), $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to golf course.

Indian River Golf Club is member owned, and open to the public. The course (originally Burt Lake Golf Club) was built in 1921, parts of which are still in play today. Many changes and renovations took place over the years, but fall of 1983, saw its greatest change with the clearing of timber for expansion to an 18 hole course. The new holes were designed and built by Golf Course Architect Warner Bowen and Pat Whitman. Some of the greens and tees on the old course have yet to be reconstructed to complete the project. Pat has been with the club since 1972 and became superintendent in 1977. Its a very interesting layout and something where your golfing skills are in demand. We are fortunate in being able to play this fine golf course.



Indian River Golf Club must know the number that will be there for dinner. We are enclosing our usual postcard for you to complete immediately so that we will have a count of hungry people. Please, get this off today.

This will be our last scheduled meeting for 1988 however "Turf Times" will be coming to you through the winter months to bring you up to date.



NORTHERN MICHIGAN TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

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BEHIND THE GREENS A Monthly Message From the Board by Tom Brogger, President

Hello again everyone and welcome to another report from "Behind the Greens". Sorry I missed you last month. It was a hectic time for me and not because I was playing on the greens, as my rising handicap will attest. This has been a very demanding season for all of us in the Turf Industry, and as I look back, I can't help but feel good about the high level of participation we have had at our monthly meetings. More and more of us are using this opportunity to get away, relax and talk turf. I know I can honestly say there hasn't been a meeting I haven't either seen or heard something that was very beneficial to me in my job.

Our next meeting at Indian River Golf Club is probably the most important date on the entire NMTMA schedule. Not only is it the Fourth Annual Tuck Tate Chapter Championship, but also is our meeting where we elect Board of Directors to the four positions available this year. The more members in attendance that day, the more representative the election will be. Remember, anyone else who might want to run for the Board can be nominated from the floor on the day of the election. All in all, it should make for a very exciting day, especially when you consider the golf course, which in my opinion is one of the all around best in Northern Michigan. Come and see what I mean.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize those Board members who's terms are expiring this October. Tom Courtemanche, Charlie Menefee CGCS, Bob Steinhurst CGCS, Class A and Dave Sapp. Class G, have spent these last two and three years working very hard to make our organization the successful one that it is today. Dedication to their work and creativity in new ideas is part of what has made these gentlemen so valuable to our group. As president this past year, I have had the opportunity to interact with each of these individuals on several occasions and it has truly been my pleasure. On behalf of the entire NMTMA, I would like to extend a heart-felt Thank You to these Board members, we have all certainly benefited through your efforts.

For your information on nominees for the Board, under Class "A" are:

Bob Aube, Alpena Golf Club, Brian Holmes, Alpena Country Club, Charles Menefee CGCS, Lost Lakes Wood Club, Mike Morris, Crystal Downs Country Club, Ray StAmour, Antrim Dells Golf Club and Bob Steinhurst, Jr. CGCS, West Branch Country Club. Vote for 3 only.

Class "G"

Jim Bogart of Turfgrass, Inc., Don Dupuis of John Deere and Ed Stegney of Ideal Mower. Vote for 1 only.

THE USGA TURFGRASS INFORMATION FILE GOES ON-LINE AUGUST 1, 1988

AND NOW it is a reality! The world of turfgrass professionals will never be quite the same. After four years of construction and development, TGIF (the USGA Green Section's Turfgrass Information File) computer at Michigan State University Library goes on-line on August 1, 1988. It will support remote searching and electronic message transmission. Turfgrass re-

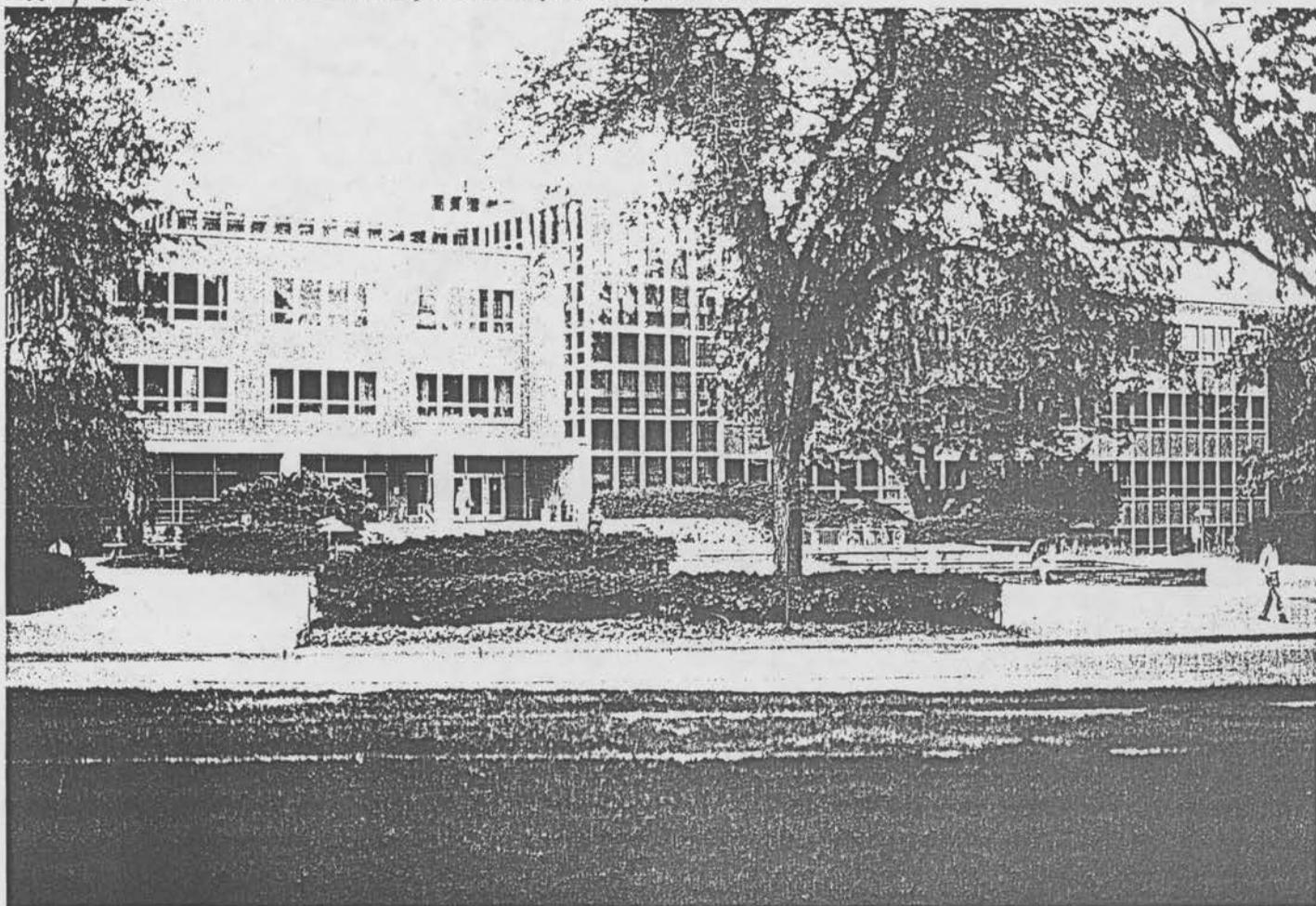
searchers and practitioners around the world now have access to over 13,000 research and informational entries stored in the TGIF computer. New entries are added each week.

TGIF can be of significant help in supporting the literature review process for researchers. It can be equally beneficial to the golf course superintendent, green committee chairman, or any pro-

fessional in the field of turfgrass management as a reference tool. It will become increasingly valuable as new categories are entered. Indeed, it is designed to replace and update all the informational filing cabinets now in turfgrass managers' offices. To the increasingly complex world of turfgrass information management, TGIF offers a practical and simple solution.

(Below) The Michigan State University Library housing the Turfgrass Information File.

(Opposite page) A data retriever — remote personal computer with phone modem.



USGA GREEN SECTION RECORD

Mr. Peter Cookingham was our recent speaker at our last meeting at "TREETOPS". Peter is the Director of this Information Library and he invites you to visit the library on your next trip to Michigan State University. His phone number is (517) 353-7209

Pruning Deciduous Trees

by
Nancy Pierce

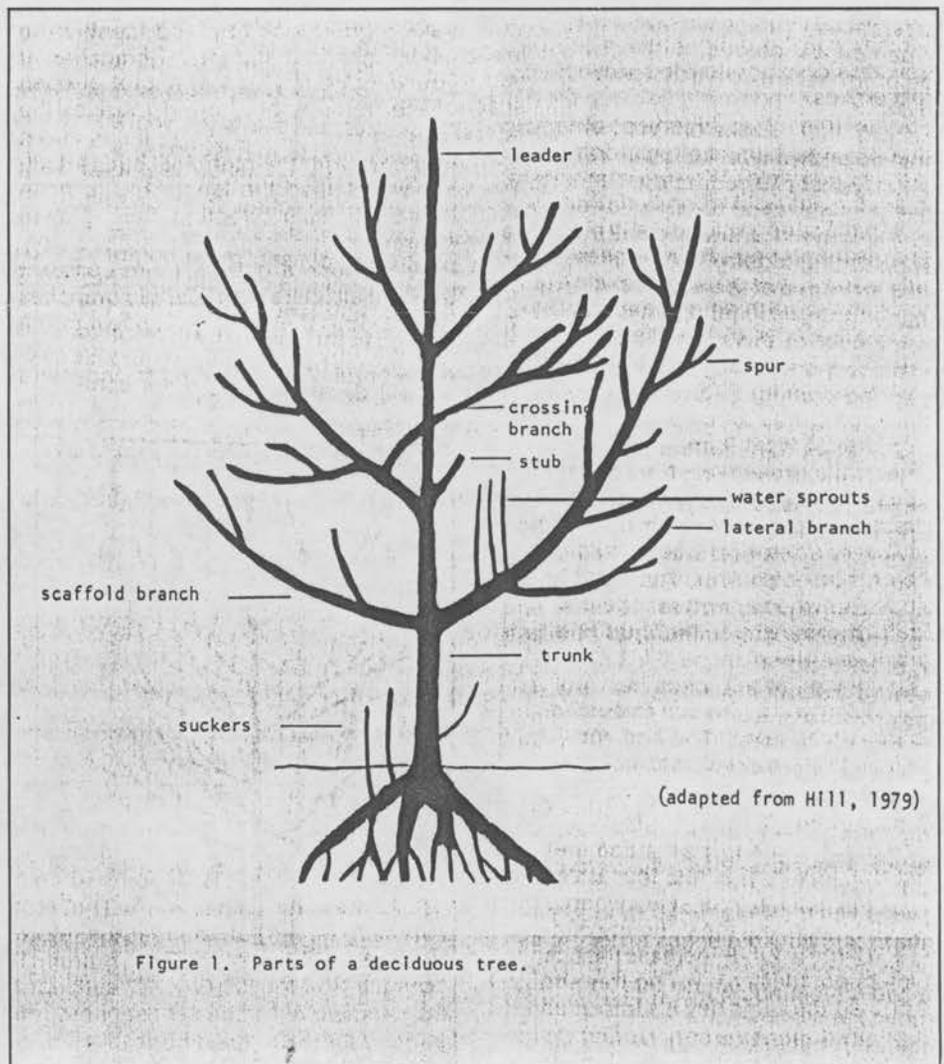
Pruning is a horticultural practice that is as old as the history of civilized man. Ancient Babylonian, Egyptian, Greek, Roman and Chinese civilizations developed their own unique pruning styles—ranging from the Greek and Roman art of trimming plants into unnatural, ornamental shapes (called topiary) to the Japanese art form of bonsai. Their pruning skills and creativity helped to capture and preserve the very essence of each civilization's culture.

Despite its antiquity, or perhaps because of its mysterious and fascinating history, the purpose and proper procedures of pruning are not well understood. Today, pruning is done for more practical and economical reasons. Trees, shrubs and vines are pruned to eliminate dead and diseased tissue, control and direct growth, promote structural strength and to increase the yield of flowers and fruits on crop bearing plants. A woody plant will not require pruning unless it fits into one of these groups. Once you've decided which group a particular plant belongs to, the 'whens' and 'hows' of pruning are simple.

A Little Plant Biology

Understanding the nature of plant parts and how they will respond to different treatments is the key to pruning with confidence. In figure 1 the basic parts of a deciduous tree are shown. The trunk is the main stem of the tree. The leader (or central branch) is a continuation of the trunk. Scaffold (or main) branches are those which are joined to the trunk. Lateral branches arise from scaffold branches. Spurs are short, compact twigs found on fruit trees on which flowers and fruit are produced. These five types of branches form the structure of a deciduous woody tree. The structure of a deciduous tree is much more apparent in its leafless state.

Buds are a critical component of pruning. A terminal bud is always found at the tip of a stem or branch and its direction of growth is upwards or outwards. Lateral buds are found along the length of stems and branches in a distinct pattern. Lateral buds develop into either leaves or branches depending on the size of the plant. Some lateral buds do not break



when the others do. These are called latent buds and they're often found on the lower portion of a branch. They are much smaller than other lateral buds and won't break unless the wood above them is damaged or removed. Flower buds appear on spurs and can be either in a lateral or terminal position. Adventitious buds are found in unusual locations on a stem or branch (i.e. they don't follow the regular pattern produced by the lateral buds) and their formation is often the result of some injury. Severe cutting will stimulate adventitious buds to break forming 'suckers' and 'water sprouts'.

When To Prune

The time of year is important in determining how the plant will respond to pruning.

The traditional time for pruning is late winter or early spring when the buds are still dormant and the temperature is not too cold. Pruning done during this time will elicit the most vigorous response in most species. Although most deciduous trees can be safely pruned anytime during the period between leaf-fall and spring growth, pruning should not be attempted if the temperature drops below -7°C (20°F) since dieback may result. Some deciduous trees (like birch and maples) should be pruned in late winter as they tend to 'bleed' profusely in the spring. Evergreens will be set back the least if they are pruned just before spring growth occurs.

Pruning after spring growth has occurred will have a general dwarfing effect

Pruning Deciduous Trees

(continued)

on the plant. This type of pruning is required when a plant has outgrown its allotted space—indicating that perhaps a more suitable plant could have been chosen for that area. Summer pruning usually encourages the plant to produce new growth to replace only that which has been removed. Pruning too late in the summer can be dangerous as the new growth seldom has time to harden before frost arrives.

Some trees that bloom on year-old wood must be pruned after spring bloom if a maximum yield of flowers is important. Removing year-old wood bearing flower buds in the spring will naturally result in a very disappointing bloom. The publications listed at the end of this article examines summer pruning in more detail.

The remainder of this discussion will focus on the response of deciduous trees to early spring pruning.

Response of Plant Parts to Pruning

Usually, the growth resulting from pruning trees properly is very easy to predict. Removing a segment of stem or branch that bears a terminal bud will stimulate one or more lateral buds on that branch to develop when spring arrives. The end result of removing a terminal bud is a denser, bushier plant.

Removing lateral branches will encourage growth at the terminal end of the mother branch or stem. The end result will be a taller, more open tree.

Pruning Young Trees

The earlier you can start to shape and train the growth of a tree, the less attention it will need in later years when large branches increase the difficulty of pruning and large wounds increase the chance of infection. Ideally, a young tree should be pruned the same day it's transplanted (normally done in the spring). During the transplanting operation, root injury is likely to occur leaving less roots to support the same amount of above ground tissue. Resist the temptation to preserve every branch—pruning about 1/3 of the top growth away will result in a tree that will quickly outgrow one that has not been pruned.

If you have a good idea of the future use of the tree, deciding where to trim off the excess third is easy. First, start with weak or broken branches and any branches that will eventually criss-cross. Never remove the leader as this will result in a stunted squatty tree not true to type. Any branches that angle up too closely to the trunk should also be removed. As the tree grows, sharp angled branches will produce a weak crotch which will probably split sometime during the life of the tree. Generally, the wider the angle,

the more sound the structure. Cut any branches you want to keep back if they are longer than the leader. This may have to be repeated for the first few years until the natural shape of the tree is established.

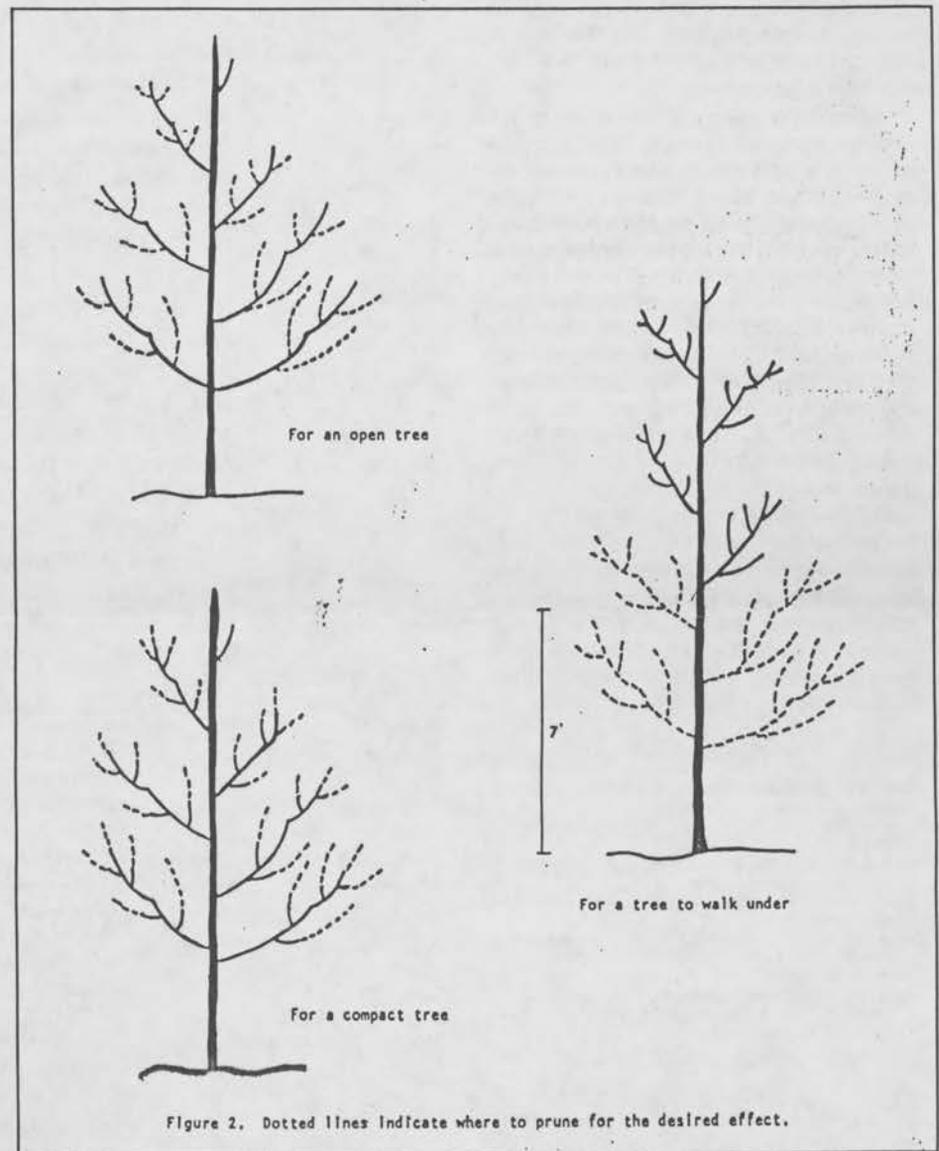
Once this 'necessary' cutting is done, you can start pruning to train the tree to meet its intended purpose (see figure 2). Take a good look at it and identify the leader, scaffold and lateral branches. If you want an airy tree with a lot of open space, remove or shorten most of the lateral branches and leave the scaffold branches with their terminal buds intact. You've retained the length of the main branches while directing their growth outward.

To produce a denser, more compact tree, cut all lateral and scaffold branches back to half their length. Removing the terminal bud in this manner will result in the cut branches becoming stronger and the tree will develop into a more compact shape.

For a tree with sufficient clearance to walk or drive a golf cart under, remove all branches that join the trunk at a height of about 7 feet or lower. This cannot be done until the tree is a little older and will still have 3 or 4 scaffold branches remaining after the lower branches are removed.

Pruning Mature Trees

Pruning mature trees is a difficult, potentially dangerous and time-consuming job. If at all possible, prune trees when they are young to avoid the problems encountered when working on large trees. However, many golf courses have trees on them that are older than the course itself. While most are probably just fine, some may have become lopsided, too dense, diseased or damaged over the years. Before attempting to correct these problems remember that large trees form strong architectural lines and it's well worth the investment in time to stand back and think before cutting branches off in a haphazard manner. Try to retain



by Joseph Charbonneau

Pruning Deciduous Trees (continued)

though suggest that a slanting cut should be made close to but beyond the branch collar (figure 3). If the branch collar is not visible, cut slightly beyond an imaginary line that would join the upper and lower points of the branch attachment.

Branches pruned in this manner leave a smaller wound to heal than if the branch were cut flush to the trunk and there is less chance of injury to the cambium. Do not leave a large stub however, as it will rot and be susceptible to diseases which can spread throughout the tree.

Pruning large branches may injure the tree if not done properly, since the weight of branch may cause it to break before the cut is complete, tearing away large pieces of bark with it or even splitting the tree. To prevent this, a 3-cut method is used as shown in figure 4. The first cut is made about 6-12 inches away from the trunk or mother branch, beginning at the bottom and cutting upwards about 1/3 of the way through. A second, downward cut is made about 1 inch above the first cut until the limb breaks off. The stub is then removed as described in the preceding paragraph.

Hopefully this article has at least encouraged you to examine your deciduous trees a little closer and decide if any of them could profit from some intelligent pruning. By no means have I completely covered the topic of pruning, and I've included a small list of publications dealing with the topic in more detail. Two of these books (All About Pruning and Pruning Handbook) give a general overview of pruning and then discuss trees and shrubs on an individual basis. Both of these can be found in any book store and all the books in the list can be found in your public library.

As a final point, pruning will not improve the growth or health of a tree if other cultural practices are missing. Just like turf, trees require proper irrigation and drainage and good nutrition. These, along with pruning when necessary, will contribute greatly to the overall health of your deciduous ornamentals.

- Clark, D.E. (ed). 1980. Pruning Handbook. Lane Publishing Co., Menlo Park, California. (A Sunset Publication).
- Harris, R.W. 1983. Arboriculture. Prentice-Hall Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.
- Hill, L. 1979. Pruning Simplified. Rodale Press, Emmaus, Pennsylvania.
- Knowles, R.H. 1977. The Pruning Manual—Publication 1505. Agriculture Canada, Ottawa.
- Pirone, P.P. 1972. Tree Maintenance. Oxford University Press, New York.
- Smith, S.W. (ed). 1978. All About Pruning. Chevron Chemical Company, San Francisco, California. (An Ortho Publication).
- Taylor, J.R. 1979. Pruning Ornamental Trees, Shrubs and Vines—Publication 483. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Toronto.

Nancy Pierce is a turf researcher, working with Dr. Jack Eggens, at the University of Guelph

How can one be in the golf course maintenance business and not play the game at all? To me it would be like growing a garden and not tasting the vegetables at harvest time.

The golf course maintenance person, be it superintendent or salesperson must understand this basic concept. To do the job completely, you must consider the maintenance aspect as well as the golfer's aspect. We all know the importance of the maintenance position but not everyone realizes the golfer's view of our courses. The only way to understand the golfer's view is to PLAY!

By driving around the maintenance roads, a superintendent sees only one view. A golf course certainly looks different from behind a Cushman steering wheel than behind a golf club. I think a good policy to establish would be to play your course once a week with your golf professional and greens chairman. Not only would you get another perspective of your course, but you would also be opening the channels of communication with them.

Another priority the superintendent must consider is playing other golf courses. One way this is made possible is by attending monthly superintendent meetings. By playing different courses, much can be learned from observing what your peers are doing. Strengths and weaknesses can be noted and applied to your home course. Unfortunately, in our association only about half of the membership take advantage of this important opportunity.

It is my recommendation that not only superintendents participate, but salespeople as well. By playing golf, salespeople would observe first hand, the effectiveness of their product lines.

Although time and ability may be factors contributing to the lack of play by superintendents and salespeople, I feel they are not good excuses. It is worthwhile to make the time and scoring is not the most important point of golf to be concerned with. As stated before, you must experience the game to be well-rounded professionally.

So I will leave you with your decision. To golf or not to golf...

If you have a wood burning stove or fireplace, this should interest you:
Beechwood fires are bright and clear
If the logs are kept a year.
Chestnut's only good, they say
If for long it's laid away.
Birch and Fir logs burn too fast.
Blaze up bright and do not last.
Elm wood burns like churchyard mold,
Even the very flames are cold!
Poplar gives a bitter smoke,
Fills your eyes and makes you choke.
Applewood will scent your room
With an incense like perfume.
Oak and Maple, if dry and old,
Will keep away from winter cold.
But ash wood wet and ash wood dry
A king can warm his slippers by!

Fall Planting and Transplanting of Trees

Howard Pidduck, Cornell University

Fall planting can extend the work season and offer the grounds manager the opportunity to improve the landscape during the time of reduced work loads. There are some basic rules of good plant care that must be observed before any planting program can be successful.

First, provide a soil media suitable for good plant growth, devoid of rubble and road salts, yet capable of anchoring the tree firmly.

Second, provide adequate water to encourage root growth during the fall, before winter freeze up. Watering should also aid in the setting of the soil and reduce the chance of large air pockets, which tend to dry out the roots, creating a barrier to the movement of soil moisture by capillary action. Overwatering or excessive repeated watering can lead to drowning, the suffocation of the roots by water completely filling the open porous spaces between the soil particles. The loss of soil oxygen is as much a detriment as the lack of water.

Third, choose species best suited to the landscape site most able to survive fall planting. These include Norway and sugar maples, sycamores, red and pin oaks, lindens, ginko (maiden hair), horsechestnuts and almost all of the conifers. Avoid exposure to open, severely windy sites. These are best left to a spring-time planting.

Root systems with a thick fleshy covering as a rule, are best planted in the spring. Example of these are dogwoods, tulip trees, magnolia, yellowwood, sweetgum, beech, birch and tupelo.

Fourth, nursery grown trees that have been root pruned the year before and have had the crown properly shaped offer the best hope of survival. Selecting forest grown trees requires an exceptionally large root ball, disproportionate with the crown in order to assure sufficient roots to support the top. Larger equipment is then required to complete the move, making it more expensive plus making it a riskier process.

Fifth, staking the tree securely is often overlooked or omitted. It is necessary to stop or reduce movement of the crown which flexes the tree, creating a cavity around the base of the tree at the soil line. Water can then collect in the cavity, freeze, and destroy the bark, thus interrupting the cambium flow at the soil line, resulting in death of the plant. Mechanical damage is also caused to the root system as the crown flexes, resulting in slower establishment, or may cause the tree to tip and expose the roots. Staking systems can vary but success is best accomplished when two or three hardwood stakes are utilized. Stakes are placed on more than one side and aligned to protect the tree from the force of the prevailing wind. Wires should never completely circle the trunk and should always be covered with a length of old garden hose, thus preventing any injury to the trunk of the tree. The larger trees need the added support of the three wire system placed equally about the trunk, fastened at least halfway up the main stem and far enough at the base to be beyond the rootball. A 45 degree angle for the supporting wires is best.

Sixth, enough cannot be said for the practice of mulching fall planted tree. Mulching aids in preserving the soil temperatures, giving a longer period of time for roots to establish themselves before winter freeze up. Moisture is retained and weeds are reduced during the following growing season, thus improving the appearance of the planting.

Seventh, wrapping the trunk with burlap or a special paper tree wrap protects the trunk from damage through freezing

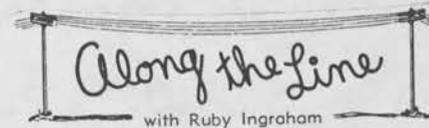
and thawing. This damage is characterized by vertical splits and or a loosening of the bark from the trunk. During periods of wet, rainy weather the practice of wrapping can be delayed, or substituted by a burlap screen placed a short distance from the tree. Under no circumstances should the first wrapping be left on indefinitely, but should also be removed within the first year. Failure to remove it can cause girdling as the trunk continues to expand.

Eighth, little or no fertilizer need be added if the soil used to backfill has reasonable nutrient levels as determined by a previous soil sample. Small amounts of phosphorus and potash can be added (1/4 cup per bushel of soil) if desired. Never place the fertilizer in the hole so that it can come in direct contact with the exposed roots. Nitrogen based fertilizers need not be used as they promote top growth. New growth in the crown is to be avoided.

Ninth, The success or failure of all plantings often can be attributed to the planting depth. Although some species may survive for short times with minor grade changes. NEVER change the depth at planting time. The rule here is "plant at the same depth to which it has been growing".

Care should be used when transplanting to firmly tamp the soil so that no large air pockets persist around or under the soil ball. These same pockets can exist when using the pointed tree spades to excavate the planting hole.

Credit: Hole Notes



"Friendship needs no symbol,
Or vow to make it whole;
It's just a sacred covenant
That's locked within the soul;
It knows no creed or station,
Or thought of gain or fame,
For what it does is sacred,
And is done in Friendship's name."

On Risk

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental
To reach out for another is to risk involvement
To expose feelings is to risk exposing your true self
To place your ideas, your dreams before the world is to risk loss
To live is to risk dying
To hope is to risk despair
To try at all is to risk failure
But to risk we must
Because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing
The man, the woman, who risks nothing does nothing
has nothing
is nothing.

Anonymous

The Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association operates on a fiscal year. The fiscal year begins November 1st and ends on October 31, therefore everyone will owe dues beginning with the new year. An invoice will be sent to you however you can make the job of your fellow associate a little easier by sending your check to our Executive Secretary Tom Reed. If you have any question as to the amount, please ask Tom or one of the members of the Board. We appreciate your cooperation.

TREETOPS FUND RAISER

The 9:30 A.M. shotgun start at Treetops on September 14th, was a great success in every way. A good crowd showed up and starting time was met without difficulty. The game was "2 better balls of foursome" and was played from the "BLUE" tees. This editor does not have the names of the members of the three teams that were the winners. Sorry, however the winner of "closest to the pin" was Jim Bogart and the "long drive" was won by Kimberly Olsen. Treetops is planning on starting another 18 holes which will be designed by Robert Trent Jones.

A bit of history by the Executive Secretary of the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Ass'n, retired University of Georgia Professor and friend to turfgrass.

TURF TALK FROM 'OLD KOZ'

The obituary reads — Dr. Everett Stanley Luttrell, 72, of 225 Terrell Drive, died Tuesday, July 5. A seemingly simple, routine, explanation of the departure from this earth of a person. Yet, this was no ordinary person.

All professions have their heroes. Golf course superintendents can look up to Colonel John Morley, O.J. Noer, Herb Graffis, Professors, H. Burton Musser and L.F. Dickinson, Joe Valentine, and others. As happens so many times some persons never get the recognition they deserve for their accomplishments. It is my intent that that will not happen to Luttrell.

Turfgrass management owes much to Lutt, as all of us affectionately called him. He was a peerless scientist. Actually, he was a mycologist (he studied fungi) who specialized in placing these organisms in their proper taxonomic niches. He further specialized in the group of fungi which can cause golf course superintendents immense headaches, the group for many years known as the Helminthosporiums. His work laid the foundation for the present division and arrangement of this group of turfgrass pathogens into Bipolaris, Dreschlera and Exserohilum.

However, as important as that work may have been, the contributions he made to me personally and to the turf field in general was his support and encouragement in my work on spring dead spot of bermuda grass and especially in supporting me in the promotion of two national seminars, both held in Athens, on this then very important turfgrass disease. Even though he was only an acting head of the Department of Plant Pathology and Plant Genetics, he was the only person of two in an administrative position at the University of Georgia at that time who recognized the importance of turfgrass. The other administrator was Robert S. Wheeler, but then, that's another story.

The turfgrass industry in Georgia, and elsewhere, owes much to Everett S. Luttrell not only for his pioneering work in identifying the idiosyncracies of turfgrass pathogens but also in his support of turf as a viable segment affecting society. So long, Lutt. We miss you!

George M. Kozelnicky, Exec. Sec.
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Athens, Ga. 30606

Please return your postcard on the 4th Annual Tuck Tate Golf Tournament and to vote for the new directors that will be a big part in the future of your Association. You cannot direct your future by staying at home.